

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Proposal on 3M cod from the delegation
of Denmark (in respect of the Faroes and Greenland)

The moratorium in the directed cod fishery in 3M in 1988 and 1989 was, and is, a very drastic measure which however was considered absolutely necessary at the time.

It has however also a very adverse impact on the data series on which the scientists base their advice and assessments of the effect of the moratorium on the stock.

The report of the Scientific Council leaves the clear impression that the scientists, although having survey data, badly need time series of catch data, and this impression is strengthened by the STACFIS Report. This was also indicated by the Chairman of the Scientific Council in a reply to the delegate of the USSR.

Ways and means to be sure that the scientists can measure the improvement in the stock to an extent where the draconian measure of a total stop of the fishery can be lifted is of the utmost importance.

Two time series of catch data on the Flemish Cap cod fishery should be mentioned although not all parts of it have yet been made available to the Scientific Council.

A Faroese series of detailed longline catch rate data was made available to the Scientific Council up to 1981. These data were accompanied by age distributions based on Canadian age-length data and commercial size-categories. An evaluation of this data series to 1987 is on record in the Faroes and can be made available to the Scientific Council.

There exists a similar data series for Norwegian longliners up to 1985, which has been reported to NAFO under the STATLANT system.

PROPOSAL

The TAC for directed fishery of 3M cod in 1990 shall be zero. With a view to ensure the continuity in the catch series data, which will make available to the Scientific Council time series of data from catches, an exploratory cod fishery with longlines will be allowed for 4 longliners in 1990 in 3M.

The exploratory fishery will be performed with the same vessels and gear and seasonal pattern as in the years before the moratorium to ensure comparability.

The number of fishing days employed will be limited to 800.

The catches will be sampled by scientific observers for length and age.

The results will be made available as soon as possible to the Scientific Council.