

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969The United States Report on the Operation of the 10 Percent  
Annual Exemption to the Subarea 5 Mesh Regulation, 1968

The 10 percent annual exemption to the mesh regulation has now been in effect for fishing vessels of the United States fishing in Subarea 5 for 11 years. Since 1962, the statistics contained in the annual report have been based on the calendar year; prior to then, they covered the 12-month period between October 1 and September 30. Annual exemption regulations for Subareas 3 and 4 entered into force for the United States on February 4, 1969. A report for those Subareas will be submitted at the 1970 Annual Meeting.

During calendar year 1968, exemption certificates were issued to 52 U. S. trawlers. At the year's end, 23 certificates were active (Table 1), 25 were temporarily suspended and 8 were canceled. Trawlers of the U. S. are required to suspend their exemption certificates when engaged in fisheries requiring the use of trawl nets having a mesh size prescribed by ICNAF recommendations or are fishing outside the Convention Area.

The trend for vessels in the 51 to 100 ton class to hold the greater number of exemption certificates continued as in the past (Table 1). The majority of these vessels fish for haddock and associated groundfish from October to April, and from May to September they fish for silver hake. It is during the period from May to September that nearly all certificates issued are in force. Under U. S. regulations a vessel holding an exemption certificate is required to report all landings immediately after each trip regardless of whether the certificate is suspended or not. Landings of haddock and cod made with trawl nets having mesh size required by regulation are not used when computing that vessel's catch for the Annual Exemption Report.

The number of trips and the amount of haddock and cod landed by exempted vessels took a decided drop in 1968 (Table 2). Conversely, the amount of silver hake landed by those vessels increased. In Table 3, it is noted that a similar but less dramatic reduction in number of combined trips and catches of Subarea 4 and 5 haddock and cod occurred. The amount of redfish landed also showed a continued downward trend.

Under a trip exemption, a vessel may land 2.27 metric tons of drawn haddock or cod, or 10 percent by weight of each of all fish landed that trip. Table 4 lists by month the number of exempted trips for Subarea 5, which would have been in violation if the vessel had not been in possession of an annual exemption certificate. The number of excess trips for 1968 dropped to 34 from 106 in 1967. Cod landings, which would have been in excess and therefore in violation, dropped from 89.0 metric tons in 1967 to 26.2 metric tons in 1968; and haddock landings dropped from 261.0 metric tons in 1967 to 20.3 metric tons in 1968.

TABLE 1  
Number of 10 Percent Annual Exemption Certificates  
by Tonnage Class in Effect at End of Year

<u>Gross Tons</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
0-25	OTS	0	1	1	1	3
26-50	OTS	11	7	10	5	3
51-100	OTM	20	16	24	16	10
101-150	OTM	4	1	0	1	1
151-200	OTL	7	5	6	5	4
Over 200	OTL	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>

TABLE 2

Analysis of Landings Under 10 Percent Annual Exemption,  
Subarea 5 (Metric Tons, Live Weight)

	1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
Fishing Trips	1,778		2,000		2,140		1,347		996	
	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>
All Species	27,608	100.0	29,320	100.0	24,076	100.0	16,264	100.0	14,167	100.
Haddock	1,569	5.7	1,510	5.2	1,569	6.5	922	5.7	307	2.
Cod	663	2.4	780	2.7	795	3.3	647	4.0	465	3.
Redfish	4,863	17.6	4,914	16.8	6,137	25.5	4,408	27.0	2,104	14.
Silver Hake	17,265	62.5	13,241	45.1	12,589	52.3	8,141	50.1	10,360	73.
Other <sup>1</sup>	3,348	11.8	8,875	30.2	2,986	12.4	2,146	13.2	931	6.

1. Includes cusk, flounder, pollock, white hake, etc.

TABLE 3. Analysis of Landings Under 10 Percent Annual Exemption  
Subareas 4 and 5 (Metric Tons, Live Weight)

	1964		1965		1966		1967		1968	
Fishing Trips	1,938		2,110		2,241		1,381		1,040	
	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>M. Tons</u>	<u>%</u>
All Species	37,220	100.0	37,091	100.0	30,915	100.0	19,010	100.0	17,904	100.
Haddock	1,708	4.6	1,518	4.1	1,574	5.1	926	4.9	311	1.
Cod	726	2.0	787	2.1	805	2.6	651	3.4	469	2.
Redfish	14,130	38.0	13,083	35.3	12,940	41.9	7,048	37.1	5,798	32.
Silver Hake	17,265	46.4	12,815	34.6	12,589	40.7	8,141	42.8	10,360	57.
Other <sup>1</sup>	3,391	9.1	8,888	24.0	3,007	9.7	2,244	11.8	966	5.4

1. Includes cusk, flounder, pollock, white hake, etc.

TABLE 4  
Number of "Excess Trips"<sup>1</sup> by Exempted Vessels  
Subarea 5, 1968

Month	No. of Excess Trips	Percent	Quantity Excess (Metric Tons, Live)		Total Subarea 5 Landings (Metric Tons, Live)	
			Cod	Haddock	Cod	Haddock
Jan.	-	-	-	-	1,151	1,862
Feb.	1	2.9	.0 <sup>2</sup>	3.08	1,172	1,951
Mar.	2	6.0	1.21	.62	1,374	3,153
Apr.	-	-	-	-	2,091	2,909
May	6	17.7	.27	.32	2,455	3,315
Jun.	3	8.8	9.39	1.29	2,312	2,941
Jul.	3	8.8	1.70	2.00	2,120	3,021
Aug.	7	20.6	.23	6.39	1,556	2,513
Sep.	3	8.8	.29	3.15	1,812	2,551
Oct.	1	2.9	.0	.28	1,863	2,215
Nov.	1	2.9	12.79	2.64	1,457	1,576
Dec.	<u>7</u>	<u>20.6</u>	<u>1.06</u>	<u>.57</u>	<u>1,202</u>	<u>856</u>
TOTAL	<u>34</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>26.94</u>	<u>20.34</u>	<u>20,595</u>	<u>28,863</u>

1. When drawn cod or haddock exceed 2.27 metric tons or 10 percent of landings.

2. 0 represents less than half of a metric ton.