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Cuban Research Report, 1979

by

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A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

During 1979 the Cuban fishing activities were conducted in Subareas 2, 3 and 4. The total nominal catch obtained by the Cuban Fishing Fleet amounted to 12481.7 M.T., a decrease of 641.9 ton in relation to the figure of 1978. (Tabla 1).

The results obtained are due, among other factors, to the low silver hake catch (1632.2 M.T.) which represented a 22.7 % of the quota.

1. SUBAREA 2

Cod and capelin were the directed species in this subarea. Cod fisheries were carried out in Division 2J, showing the catches an increase as compared to 1978 (Table 2). On the other hand, capelin catch in Division 2J was only 227 M.T. from a quota of 2 240 M.T.

2. SUBAREA 3

Catches in Subarea 3 were taken in Divisions 3K, 3M, 3-0 and 3N amounting to a total figure of 5792.4 M.T. (Tabla 3).

Redfish made up the highest per cent (89 %) of the total catch, following in order the cod (7.08 %) and the rest of the species (5 %). The main difference existing (Table 3) between the 1978 and 1979 catch is due to the fact that no catches of capelin were taken and only very little of squid was obtained.

3. SUBAREA 4

Directed fisheries on squid and silver hake were conducted in this subarea. Squid made up 67 % of the total catch of the Subarea while silver hake represented a 30.9 % (Table 4). The remainder species -with exception of argentine- had, in general, a lower incidence in the by-catch of this directed silver hake-squid fishery.

It should be pointed out that argentine quota could not be taken. Some problems were faced at the time of conducting the directed fishing on this species as most of the commercial concentrations were within the litigation zone between USA and Canada.

Finally it should be noted that in many oportunities the small mesh gear line obstructed the directed fishing on silver hake when limiting the movements of the commercial vessels to areas north of the regulation line.

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Environmental studies

Temperature data collected in the Grand Bank area on board the R/V "Isla de la Juventud" were sent to MEDS in the proper forms.

2. Biological studies by species

Sistematic biological sampling on board commercial vessels were conducted mainly on squid and silver hake from Divisions 4VWX.

248 pairs of silver hake otoliths were taken for determining the age-length key and further laboratory studies.

A sample of 2 803 short-finned-squids were taken (1 475 males and 1 328 females) to update the length-weight relationship of this species.

Table 1.- Nominal catches by Subareas during 1978 and 1979.

SUBAREA	1978		1979	
	M.T.	%	M.T.	%
2	27.6	0.2	882.3	7.1
3	6620.2	50.4	5792.4	46.4
4	6475.8	49.4	5807.0	46.5
Total	13123.6	100	12481.7	100

Table 2.- Catches in Subarea 2, 1978 and 1979.

SPECIES	CATCHES (M.T.)		%	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Cod	27.6	653.2	100	74.0
Capelin	-	227.0	-	25.7
Others	-	2.1	-	0.3
Total	27.6	882.3	100	100.0

Table 3.- Catches in Subarea 3, 1978 and 1979.

S P E C I E S	CATCHES (M.T.)		%	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Atlantic cod	587.3	410.0	9.1	7.0
Atlantic redfish	2380.1	5147.7	36.7	88.8
Flatfishes n.e.i.	320.9	14.9	5.0	0.5
Groundfishes n.e.i.	235.9	23.3	3.6	0.4
Silver hake	150.6	34.0	2.3	0.5
Red hake	17.0	3.2	0.3	0.1
Pollock	-	2.6	-	-
Atlantic mackerel	-	27.4	-	0.5
Squid	1320.7	129.3	20.4	2.2
Capelin	1413.9	-	21.8	-
Haddock	49.4	-	0.8	-
T o t a l	6475.8	5792.4	100.0	100.0

Table 4.- Catches in Subarea 4, 1978 and 1979.

S P E C I E S	CATCHES (M.T.)		%	
	1978	1979	1978	1979
Silver hake	3436.5	1798.2	51.9	30.9
Atlantic Redfish	50.9	9.8	0.8	0.2
Argentine	21.4	1.1	0.3	-
Red hake	59.8	0.9	0.9	-
Groundfish n.e.i.	1.6	1.1	-	-
Atlantic cod	20.7	12.9	0.3	0.2
Haddock	92.6	20.5	1.4	0.4
Mackerel	18.5	23.3	0.3	0.4
Squid	2784.5	3887.3	42.1	66.9
Flatfish n.e.i.	4.0	1.1	0.1	-
Pollock	129.9	51.1	1.9	1.0
T o t a l	6620.2	5807.0	100.0	100.0