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French Research Report for 1997

by

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1. The fishery

a - Greenland Halibut in Divisions 2+3

A trawl fishery directed to Greenland halibut took place in 1997. Tables 1 and two give the detailed catches and effort concerning that fishery. The fishery was carried by two stern trawlers in the division 2J, 3L and 3M. Detailed effort data were not made available yet for division 2J. Most of the effort (50 % in days of fishing) took place in division 3L. The total catches for the Subareas 2+3 was of 443 t, half of it was taken in the spring and in division 2J, the other half in the fall and mostly in division 3L. The fishery took place in depth ranging from 800 to 1300 m for the division 3.

b - Cod in subdivision 3Ps

Following a moratorium from 1994 to 1996, the fishery for cod in Subdivision 3Ps was reopened in 1997 with a TAC of 10 000 t. In view of the 1994 Canada-France agreement, France has been allocated a share of 15.6 % of the TAC corresponding to 1560 t. 70 % of this quota would be allocated to Canadian fishing companies to be landed in St-Pierre and Miquelon. The directed fishery started in April 1997 for the hand line and the gillnet fishery and in August for the trawlers. The fishery was conducted in French waters before the 19th of May when the agreement was signed for the delivery of Canadian fishing licences to French fishermen. Some by catches in the redfish fishery were reported by the trawlers in March and April.

Table 3 gives the total reported French cod catches (provisional) per month and gear. The structure of the French cod fishery in Subdivision 3Ps has changed since the pre-moratorium period as a gillnet fishery has developed involving 7 boats of sizes of 10 to 11 meters. 18 boats of less than 10 m fished with handline. The part of the quota (30 %) devoted to those gears was estimated all caught by September but as some errors in the computation of the catches were found, this fishery was reopened in December. This explains the gap in October and November catches. The trawlers catches was made by 2 Canadian boats and landed in Saint-Pierre as part of the Canada-France agreement.

c - Iceland scallop in Subdivision 3Ps

The French fishery for Iceland scallop in 1997 started only in July and an estimated 118 t of live scallop were landed by one vessel.

2. Biological sampling data

a - Greenland Halibut in Subdivision 2+3

Length samples have been collected by French observer on board the vessels in Divisions 3K and 3L. The level of sampling is given in table 1. The length composition of catches per month and division are given in tables 4 and 5 and figures 1 and 2. The bulk of the catch in division 3M is made mostly of individuals of sizes between 36 and 50 cm. Larger individuals were caught in division 3M as the fishery took place in deeper waters (average of 1140 m against 980 m).

b - Cod in subdivision 3Ps

All the different components of the fishery has been sampled for length monthly except where the low level of catches could not provide sufficient sampling. Ageing material was collected for the handline and the trawlers fishery. The level of sampling is given in tables 4 and 5.

c - Iceland scallop in Subdivision 3Ps

Length sampling of the landings was conducted at the plant in Miquelon. A team of French and Canadian scientist also embarked on the French fishing vessel for one trip to conduct biological sampling.

Catches (t)	Greenland Halibut			Witch Flounder			Redfish			Roundnose Grenadier			Catfish			Total			
	2J	3L	3M	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL
Jan.																			
Feb.																			
Mar.																			
Apr.	47						0				0								
May	182						0				1					1			50
June							0				0					2			185
July																			
Aug.																			
Sept.																			
Oct.		2	9				0				0								2
Nov.		61	10				0				0								63
Dec.		97	24				1				2								100
TOTAL	229	160	43				3				3					3			235

Table 1 - French Greenland halibut trawl catches by species and division for 1997.

Catches (t)	Effort (days)			Effort (Hrs)			GHL c.p.u.e. (t/hr)				
	2J	3L	3M	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL
Jan.											
Feb.											
Mar.											
Apr.											
May	6										
June	29										
July											
Aug.											
Sept.											
Oct.		2	6				41	62.83	103.83		0.0488
Nov.		32	7				417.16	78.66	495.82		0.1462
Dec.		24	11				298.75	47.5	346.25		0.3247
TOTAL	35	58	24				756.91	188.99	945.9		0.2114

Table 2 - French Greenland halibut trawl effort and catch rates in 1997.

Catches (t)	Cod			3Ps				
	GN	HL	OTBS	TOTAL	GN	HL	OTBS	TOTAL
Jan.								
Feb.								
Mar.								
Apr.								
May								
June								
July								
Aug.								
Sept.								
Oct.								
Nov.								
Dec.								
TOTAL	284	171	1038	1494				

Table 3 - French cod catches in Subdivision 3Ps in 1997.

Quarter	GHL			COD		
	2J	3L	3M	3Ps	TOTAL	TOTAL
I						
II						
III						
IV						
TOTAL	0	6225	586	586	7649	14460

Table 4 - Length sampling by France (SPM) in 1997 (Number of fishes measured).

Quarter	GHL			COD		
	2J	3L	3M	3Ps	TOTAL	TOTAL
I						
II						
III						
IV						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	761	761

Table 5 - Age sampling by France (SPM) in 1997 (Number of fishes aged).

3L Month	Greenland Halibut Numbers caught ('000s)													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL	
Lt (cm)														
30											0.10	0.29	0.38	
32											0.24	2.85	3.10	
34											1.85	9.27	11.12	
36										0.02	3.67	15.89	19.57	
38										0.04	4.38	20.96	25.38	
40										0.09	10.40	26.25	36.74	
42										0.26	10.50	22.32	33.08	
44										0.25	10.30	16.47	27.01	
46										0.40	8.50	13.50	22.39	
48										0.20	7.59	9.91	17.71	
50										0.16	5.71	6.69	12.56	
52										0.24	4.10	3.52	7.86	
54										0.22	2.28	2.65	5.15	
56										0.16	1.83	1.62	3.60	
58										0.01	1.28	1.11	2.40	
60										0.00	0.62	0.56	1.18	
62											0.42	0.21	0.63	
64										0.00	0.47	0.10	0.57	
66											0.13	0.12	0.25	
68											0.184	0.12	0.31	
70										0.00	0.16	0.11	0.27	
72														
74												0.08	0.08	
76											0.05	0.02	0.07	
78											0.03		0.03	
80											0.03		0.03	
82														
84														
86														
88														
90														
92														
94											0.02		0.02	
96														
98														
100														
Total											2.05	74.82	154.62	231.50
N meas.											213	2841	3171	6225
Catch (t)											2	61	97	160

Table 6 - Length composition of French Greenland Halibut catches in Division 3L in 1997.

3M Month	Greenland Halibut Numbers caught ('000s)												TOTAL	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.		
Lt (cm)														
30														0.00
32														0.00
34												0.08		0.08
36												0.01		0.01
38										0.09	0.09	0.06		0.24
40										0.16	0.36	0.14		0.66
42										0.60	0.34	0.17		1.10
44										0.78	0.60	0.53		1.92
46										0.69	0.81	0.82		2.31
48										0.96	0.55	0.96		2.47
50										0.45	0.78	1.42		2.65
52										0.58	0.65	1.79		3.02
54										0.63	0.40	1.45		2.49
56										0.25	0.35	0.85		1.46
58										0.39	0.27	1.67		2.34
60										0.29	0.42	0.79		1.50
62										0.24	0.38	0.65		1.27
64										0.17	0.12	0.62		0.90
66										0.22	0.07	0.50		0.79
68											0.14	0.17		0.31
70										0.03	0.03	0.37		0.43
72										0.06	0.03	0.14		0.23
74										0.02	0.09	0.20		0.30
76										0.07	0.02	0.25		0.35
78											0.08			0.08
80											0.03	0.28		0.31
82										0.03	0.09	0.14		0.26
84										0.01	0.03			0.04
86														0.00
88											0.02			0.02
90										0.01				0.01
92														0.00
94														0.00
96														0.00
98														0.00
100														0.00
Total										6.72	6.84	13.96		27.52
N meas.										179	245	162		586
Catch (t)										9	10	24		43

Table 7 - Length composition of French Greenland Halibut catches in Division 3M in 1997.

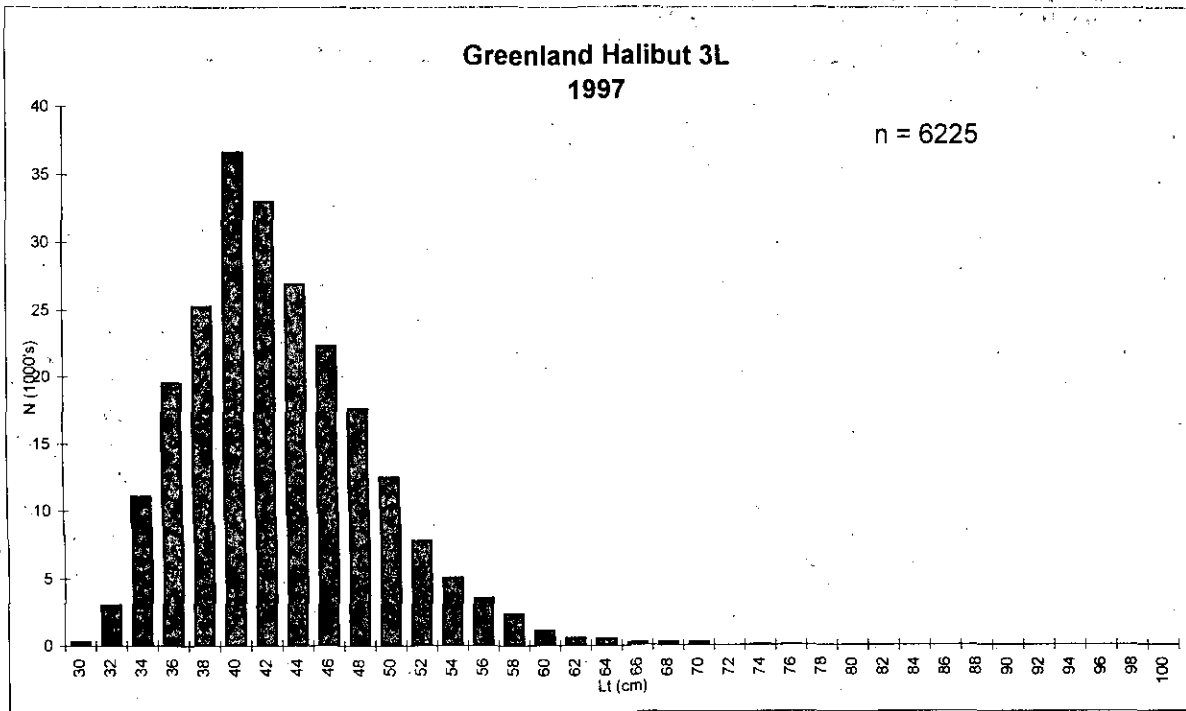


Fig. 1 - Length distribution of Greenland Halibut catches by the French trawl fishery in division 3L for 1997.

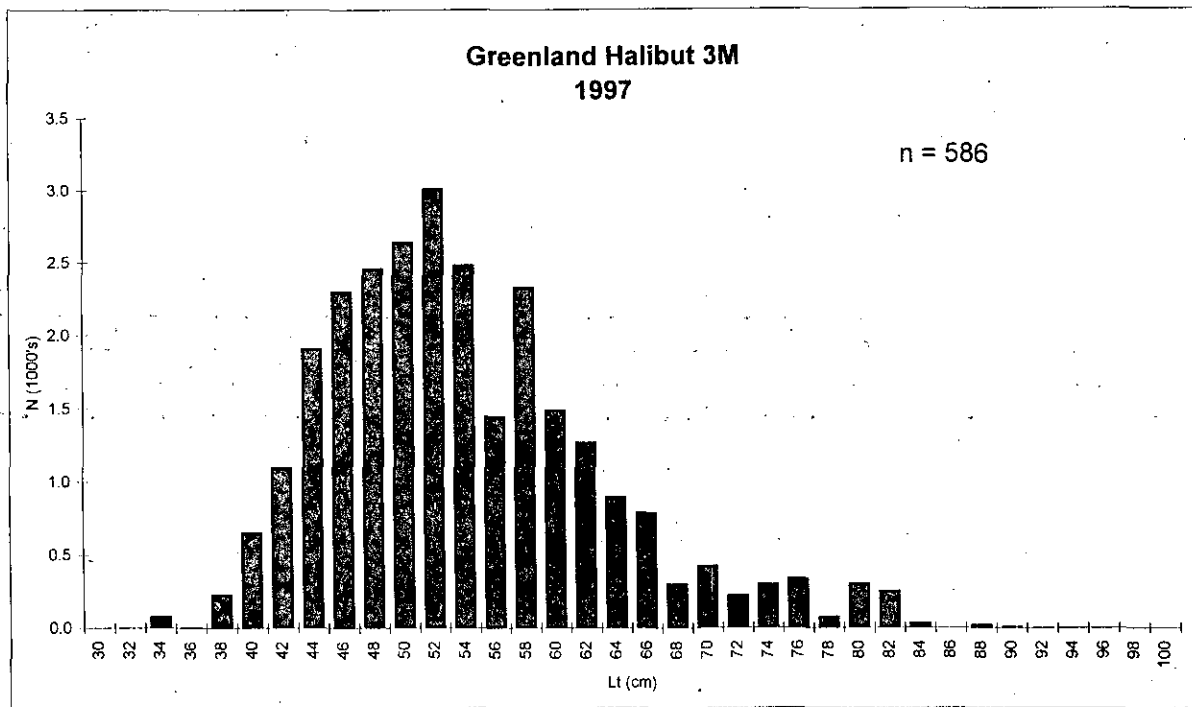


Fig.2 - Length distribution of Greenland Halibut catches by the French trawl fishery in division 3M for 1997.