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### REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE STOCKS OF HAKE

Charlottenlund Slot, 8-10 February 1973

## Contents

## Page

| Participants                                     | 1  |
|--|----|
| 1. Terms of Reference                            | l  |
| 2. Landings, Effort and Landings per Unit Effort | 1  |
| 3. Length Compositions                           | 2  |
| 4. Discards                                      | 2  |
| 5. Cod-End Mesh Sizes                            | 3  |
| 6. Assessments                                   | 3  |
| 7. The Closed Areas in the Bay of Biscay         | 6  |
| 8. Joint Programme of Research                   | 7  |
| 9. Recommendations                               | 8  |
| APPENDIX I                                       | 9  |
| TABLES 1 - 14                                    | 10 |
| FIGURE 1   | 19 |

-0-0-0-

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Charlottenlund Slot, 8 - 10 February 1973

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|                     |           |

#### 1. Terms of Reference

At the 60th Statutory Meeting of ICES in 1972 it was decided (C.Res.1972/2:18) that the Hake Working Group, which met in 1969 be reconvened to:

- (a) bring up to date its previous assessments,
- (b) study the effects of the closed areas in the Bay of Biscay,
- (c) formulate a joint programme of research on the hake.

#### 2. Landings, Effort and Landings per Unit Effort

### 2.1 Landings (Table 1)

No breakdown of total landings into ICES divisions has been possible, and so the landings from Subareas VI, VII, VIII and IX have been treated as a single entity as in the previous Report.

Table 1 shows revised landings from these Subareas for the period 1953-71. During recent years the nominal total landings have fluctuated around 70 000 tons.

### 2.2 Fishing Effort (Tables 2 and 3)

Estimates of fishing effort have been revised and brought up to date for French and English vessels, and they are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

During the period 1955-64 the total effort by French vessels increased by 128%. After 1964 total French effort has continued to increase due to a further increase of 70% in the effort of "artisans", but during this period the effort by "hauturiers" has fluctuated without any tendency to increase. Although the total French effort has increased, the amount directed primarily at hake has probably not increased in proportion.

The English effort in Regions VIIa, VIIf-k and VIa has remained low and is not directed primarily at hake.

## 2.3 Landings per Unit Effort (Table 4)

Estimates of landings per unit effort by French and English vessels have been revised and updated, and these are given in Table 4.

- 2 -

Landings per unit effort by English trawlers have continued to decline in Division VIa, but since 1964 the catch per unit effort of English trawlers in Regions VIIf-k has fluctuated around the 1964 level.

Landings per unit effort by French vessels declined from 1955 to 1966 but since then they have fluctuated around a constant level.

## 3. Length Compositions (Tables 5-7)

Length compositions of hake landed at Milford Haven have been updated and are tabulated for the period 1968-71 in Table 5 (data for the period 1951-67 were given in the previous Report).

Length compositions per mille for French, Scottish and Spanish landings are given in Table 6. For France these figures refer to landings at La Rochelle in 1969 and 1970. For Scotland the figures only refer to landings by seiners and light trawlers in the Clyde port of Ayr in 1971 and 1972. These vessels are likely to land a larger proportion of small hake than trawlers fishing grounds further offshore in Division VIa. For this reason, the total numbers landed as given in Table 7 will be overestimated.

Spanish length data refer to landings at the ports of Santander, Pasajes and Ondarroa.

These data, together with Portuguese data from the previous Report, were used for the estimates of total numbers landed in each length group which are given in Table 7.

### 4. Discards (Table 8)

No further data on discards at sea are available, except for French vessels. In 1971 and 1972 measurements were made at sea on board "artisans" from the ports of southern Brittany (Table 8). The results suggest that the percentage of hake discarded by these vessels might have been more than 90% by numbers. However, it is thought that the percentage discarded in other parts of the Bay of Biscay and in the Celtic Sea might not have been so great. 5.

Cod-End Mesh Sizes (Table 9)

Further mesh size data collected at sea by French inspectors on board Spanish trawlers and French "artisans" from southern Brittany are shown in Table 9.

For Spanish trawlers the mesh sizes in use appear to have increased since 1967 and during the years 1970-72 have been around 55 mm. Measurements from French "artisans" from southern Brittany during the years 1969-72 averaged 37.7.mm.

#### 6. Assessments

Assessments of the effect of various increases in mesh size have been made in a similar way to those in the previous Report. The data required are:

- Length compositions 1.
- Selectivity data 2.
- Growth data 3.
- Mortality data 4.
- 5. Discards
- Recruitment.

#### 6.1 Length compositions

The length composition data in Table 7 were used for the assessments.

#### 6.2 Selectivity data

On the basis of the information available to the Working Group the following values were adopted for the mesh sizes in use:

| French "artisans"                           | 40 mm |
|---|-------|
| French "hauturiers"<br>and semi-industrials | 63 mm |
| Portugal                                    | 43 mm |
| Spain                                       | 55 mm |
| <b>U.K.</b>                                 | 80 mm |

In the previous assessments, selection factors of 3.6 - 4.6 were adopted. For this Report a value of 3.6 was taken as being more likely to represent the value for the nets in use.

Assessments were made for increase of mesh size to 50 mm for "artisans" (the legal mesh size for Nephrops fishery) and 65 mm for other vessels (the legal mesh size in Region III).

6.3 Growth data (Table 10)

Values for mean length and weight at each age are given in Table 10.

## 6.4 Mortality estimates (Table 11)

Some estimates of the instantaneous mortality rate, based on French market sampling data, are given in Table 11.

For "hauturiers" values of Z were around 0.5 - 0.8 and were calculated for age groups 6-9. For "artisans" values of Z averaged 0.8 - 1.3, and were calculated for age groups 3-6, but these values are likely to be overestimates because of emigration of hake from the grounds fished by the "artisans".

For assessment purposes it was decided to adopt values of E = 0.6and M = 0.3. It was thought that this combination of values ought to underestimate any benefits expected from an increase in mesh size.

Pope and knights (in preparation) have made assessments of total mortality rates in Division VIa. In the absence of any age determinations a growth rate of 10 cm per year was assumed for these calculations. The values of the coefficient of total mortality which were obtained (Z = 1.0 - 1.4) suggest that the fishing mortality is high. French data based on market sampling suggest a lower value of about 0.8.

## 6.5 Discards

Calculations were made assuming French "artisans" discarded 30% by numbers. Since this is regarded as an underestimate of the rate of discarding, the effect would be for the assessments to underestimate the potential benefits.

## 6.6 <u>Recruitment</u>

There was evidence from the length compositions per unit fishing effort for the English fishery in Division VIa which suggests that recruitment of fish in the length range 45-65 cm since 1963 had been much poorer than in the previous four years. In the Bay of Biscay French data suggest that the 1967 year class is strong. Also there are indications that the 1970 year class is good.

- 4 -

## 6.7 <u>Results</u>

## 6.7.1 Immediate losses

The results of the updated assessments are set out in Tables 12 and 13. Table 12 shows the immediate losses that would be expected, if mesh sizes were increased to 50 mm for French "artisans" and to 65 mm for all other vessels in Region 3.

With a 50 mm mesh French "artisans" would lose 6% of their landings. With a 65 mm mesh in Region 3 there would be no losses for French "hauturiers" or U.K. vessels.

Portuguese vessels would lose 23% of their landings on the basis of their more recent length compositions compared with an 8% loss calculated in the previous Report on the basis of length composition data collected over a longer period. Spanish vessels would lose 8%.

## 6.7.2 Long-term effect

Long-term effects have been calculated on the assumption that French "artisans" increased their mesh size to 50 mm while all other vessels in Region 3 increased theirs to 65 mm. U.K. vessels have been assumed to retain their existing mesh sizes. The results are shown in Table 13.

The calculations have been based on two alternative assumptions: A) that fish are stationary. Here it has been assumed that any benefit from a release of fish would accrue to the vessels that had spared them; B) that fish disperse uniformly over Subareas VI, VII, VIII and IX. Here it has been assumed that fish released by any gear are potentially available to benefit all other gears.

According to both assumptions, the overall effect for all gears would be to increase the landings by 7%. According to assumption A) any benefit would be most likely to accrue to Portuguese and Spanish vessels. According to assumption B) Portuguese vessels might lose up to 11% of their landings due to emigration of fish from Subarea IX. French "artisans" would gain up to 10% under assumption A), and for these vessels, the potential gains might be lost due to emigration of fish. Spanish vessels might be expected to gain 7%. U.K. vessels and French "hauturiers" would do best under this assumption and might gain up to 16% from fish released by other classes of vessels.

Whilst these benefits have been assessed at a minimal level, the Group wishes to emphasize their approximate nature.

## 7. The Closed Areas in the Bay of Biscay

Since January 1, 1970, two areas in the Bay of Biscay have been closed to fishing as a measure for protecting hake nursery grounds (Figure 1). The Working Group has taken account of the following data in considering the effect on the fisheries of this closure:-

- 7.1 Commercial landings per unit effort
- 7.2 Changes in mesh size

- 6 -

- 7.3 Data from French research vessel surveys
- 7.4 Estimates of total numbers of young hake
  - determined in the course of the assessments.

#### 7.1 Commercial landings per unit effort

It was noted that landings per unit effort of several classes of fishing vessels had stopped declining in recent years. However, it was felt that this could not necessarily be attributed to the closure of these areas because: (a) the landings per unit effort stopped declining three years before the closures came into force, and (b) there were good year classes in 1967 and 1970, which could have benefitted the fishery.

#### 7.2 Changes in mesh size

The increase in mesh size used by Spanish vessels since 1968 was noted. It was not possible to say precisely what effect this might have had on the landings. Any effect, however, should have been beneficial.

#### 7.3 French research vessel surveys

The French research vessel "Thalassa" made observations both inside and outside the northern closed area in February, May and August 1972. The mean catches per hour of I, II and III groupshake combined are shown in Table 14. (A further survey was made in November 1972, but the data were not available for the meeting).

The following inferences were made:

- (i) the greatest concentrations of young hake were found in a depth of 100 m. These grounds were situated some distance to the east of the closed area,
- (ii) the mean catches of hake per hour inside the closed area were greater than those otuside the area in the same depths. However, this cannot necessarily be ascribed to the closure

(ii) as the difference may be attributable to differences
 ctd. in the nature of the bottom. (It should be noted that young hake are found mostly on muddy bottom).

#### 7.4 Estimates of total number of young hake

Estimates made during the course of assessments indicated that to account for the total landings of hake by all countries the recruitment of I-group hake must be at least 500 million fish annually. On the basis of the catches obtained by "Thalassa", it was estimated that not more than 3% of the total stock of I-group hake could be located within this particular closed area (See Appendix I for further details).

#### 7.5 Conclusions

It was concluded that:

- (a) the closed areas are too small to be effective.
- (b) the northern area at least is situated some distance to the west of the area of the greatest concentration of young hake, and for this reason it is likely to be even less effective than it might have been.
- (c) any benefits that might accrue from the adoption of closed areas could be more effectively achieved by an increase in mesh size.

## 8. Joint Programme of Research

The Working Group discussed the benefits which might come from a programme of cooperative research. It was agreed that further information was needed on:

- 8.1 the <u>degree of interchange</u>, if any, between the hake in the various fisheries. In other words, are there separate stocks within the area from VIa to IX? This information is needed so that the benefits from increases in mesh size can be correctly allocated to the various fisheries. For example, will an increase in the mesh size used in the Portuguese fisheries in Division IX benefit the fisheries in Division VIII, and will conservation measures taken in the Bay of Biscay affect the fisheries elsewhere?
- 8.2 <u>nursery grounds and spawning grounds</u> in all areas, but especially those outside the Bay of Biscay.

- 7 -

## 9. Recommendations

- 1. The Working Group repeats its previous recommendation that more countries should collect catch and effort data in a more detailed form than at present.
- 2. The Group recommends that all institutes should give high priority to the collection of length and, if possible, age composition data of hake caught or landed by each kind of commercial vessel.
- The Group recommends that a cooperative research programme be initiated to answer the questions posed in Sections 8.1 and 8.2.
- 4. The Group recommends that when sufficient data have been collected, it should meet again to make further assessments. The Group wishes to emphasize that it sees no prospect of providing more reliable advice until significantly better data are available.

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## within the Closed Area

Total hake landings by all countries amount to  $381 \times 10^6$  fish of 2 or more years in age.

To account for this value an annual recruitment of at least 500 x 10<sup>6</sup> of I-group fish is needed. This value can be compared with an estimate of the number of one-year-old hake taken in the more northerly part of the closed areas, based on cruises by "Thalassa". For example, if "Thalassa" trawl is towed at 7 km per hour and sweeps out an area 20 m wide, the area swept per hour is equivalent to

$$\frac{7 \times 20}{1000} = 0.14 \, \mathrm{km}^2/\mathrm{hr}.$$

From research vessel surveys the mean catch per hour of I-group hake is 114, the total stock of I-group hake in the closed area is, therefore, equivalent to

$$\frac{114 \times 5000}{.14} = 4.6 \times 10^6.$$

If the gear is 30% efficient, this can be increased to  $15 \ge 10^6$  fish as an overestimate. - The area of the closed region is 5 650 km<sup>2</sup>. This is only  $\frac{15}{500} \ge 100 = 3\%$  of the total stock of I-group fish and this is probably an overestimate, since the value of  $15 \ge 10^6$  is likely to be overestimated while the value of  $500 \ge 10^6$  fish is likely to be an underestimate.

Alternatively, it can be noted that not all of the 500 x  $10^6$  I-group fish will be located within the Bay of Biscay. The 15 x  $10^6$  fish in the closed area will therefore be equivalent to more than 3% of the Bay of Biscay stock. An exact calculation cannot be made, however, since the proportions of the total stock within the Bay of Biscay is unknown.

| Year | Portugal | Spain <sup>x)</sup> | France <sup>+)</sup> | England | Scotland | Other<br>Countries | Total      |
|------|----------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|--------------------|------------|
| 1953 | 2.9      | 41.1                | 27.5                 | 18.4    | 2.2      | 0.3                | 92.4       |
| 1954 | 3.0      | 41.5                | 26.5                 | 14.9    | 1.9      | 0.2                | 88.0       |
| 1955 | 2.7      | 51.9                | 31.9                 | 12.4    | 2.3      | 0.5                | 101.7      |
| 1956 | 1.9      | 38.5                | 32.1                 | 12.1    | 1.7      | 0.3                | 86.1       |
| 1957 | 2.8      | 42.8                | 31.9                 | 10.2    | 1.5      | 0.3                | 89.5       |
| 1958 | 3.8      | 40.3                | 35.5                 | 9.7     | 1.2      | 0.3                | 90.8       |
| 1959 | 3.6      | 42.8                | 37.0                 | 7.0     | 1.1      | 0.3                | 91.8       |
| 1960 | 3.8      | 46.1                | 40•4                 | 6.9     | 1.4      | 0.4                | 99.0       |
| 1961 | 4.7      | 47.5                | 39.3                 | 5.5     | 1.7      | 0.5                | 99.2       |
| 1962 | 5.1      | 37.5                | 36.9                 | 6.3     | 3.1      | 0.5                | 89.5       |
| 1963 | 5.8      | 46.0                | 31.1                 | 5.5     | 2.3      | 0.3                | 91.0       |
| 1964 | 6.4      | 39.8                | 31.2                 | 4.2     | 1.6      | 0.3                | 83.5       |
| 1965 | 7.9      | 32.9                | 27.5                 | 3.5     | 1.7      | 0.4                | 73.9       |
| 1966 | 6.0      | 30.3                | 22.4                 | 2.3     | 2.0      | 0.4                | 63.4       |
| 1967 | 7.6      | 33.9                | 26.7                 | 2.1     | 1.5      | 0.5                | 72.3       |
| 1968 | 7.2      | 37.6                | 21.5                 | 2.2     | 1.5      | 0.4                | 70.4       |
| 1969 | 6.6      | 31.7                | 20.7                 | 1.3     | 1.2      | 0.5                | 62.0       |
| 1970 | 9.3      | 40.2                | 24.9                 | 0.9     | 1.2      | 0.5                | 77.0       |
| 1971 | 8.0      | na                  | 22.8                 | 0.6     | 1.1      | 0•7                | · <b>-</b> |

Table 1. Total Landings of Hake from Subareas VI, VII, VIII and IX. (Thousands of tons, round fresh)

x) Spanish data raised from landed weights for Subarea VIII given in "Bulletin Statistique". (Raising factor 1.17).

+) French data 1955-67 revised since 1969 Working Group Report.

na = not available.

## Table 2.

Estimates of total fishing effort by French vessels registered in the ports of the Atlantic coast (10<sup>5</sup> HP days). Revised values.

|      | 1     |   |
|------|-------|---|
| lear |       |   |
|      |       | 1 |
| 1955 | 225.3 |   |
| 1956 | 261.7 |   |
| 1957 | 300.4 |   |
| 1958 | 331.5 |   |
| 1959 | 359•7 |   |
| 1960 | 393.0 |   |
| 1961 | 395.9 |   |
| 1962 | 428.5 |   |
| 1963 | 450.7 |   |
| 1964 | 514.8 |   |
| 1965 | 564.5 |   |
| 1966 | 565.6 |   |
| 1967 | 548.8 |   |
| 1968 | 507•7 |   |
| 1969 | 550.9 |   |
| 1970 | 649.8 |   |
| 1971 | 604.8 |   |

## Table 3.

Estimates of fishing effort by English trawlers in various subregions. (Millions of ton-hours, motor trawler units).

| Year | VIa  | VII f-k | VII a |
|------|------|---------|-------|
| 1955 | 29   | 21.4    | 2.4   |
| 1956 | 30   | 8.6     | 4.1   |
| 1957 | 30   | 8.2     | 5•4   |
| 1958 | 37   | 17.4    | 6.3   |
| 1959 | 35   | 9.3     | 6.9   |
| 1960 | 37   | 4.8     | 5.1   |
| 1961 | 32   | 4.5     | 5.2   |
| 1962 | 30   | 3.7     | 5.9   |
| 1963 | 29   | 3.4     | 5.9   |
| 1964 | 30   | 4.2     | 5•7   |
| 1965 | 30   | 3.4     | 6.2   |
| 1966 | 25   | 3.7     | 5.1   |
| 1967 | 23   | 3.9     | 6.0   |
| 1968 | 24.5 | 4.1     | 4.4   |
| 1969 | 20.6 | 4.1     | 6.4   |
| 1970 | 12.4 | 3.4     | 5.0   |
|      |      |         |       |

- 11 -

| Table 4. | Estimates of the landings of   |
|----------|--------------------------------|
|          | Hake per unit effort expressed |
|          | as percentages of the 1961     |
|          | value.                         |

| Year | ar England <sup>1</sup> ) Portugal <sup>2</sup> )<br>VIa VIIf-k IXa |     | France <sup>3</sup> ) |                        |
|------|---|-----|-----------------------|------------------------|
|      |   |     | IXa                   | VIa, VII,<br>VIII, IXa |
|      |   |     |                       |                        |
| 1955 | 208   | 197 |                       | 142.8                  |
| 1956 | 224   | 127 |                       | 123.4                  |
| 1957 | 212   | 132 |                       | 106.9                  |
| 1958 | 165   | 65  |                       | 107.9                  |
| 1959 | 119   | 118 |                       | 103.7                  |
| 1960 | 115   | 112 | 94                    | 103.5                  |
| 1961 | 100   | 100 | 100                   | 100                    |
| 1962 | 125   | 115 | 97                    | 86.6                   |
| 1963 | 112   | 109 | 115                   | 69.5                   |
| 1964 | 91  | 56  | 140                   | 61.0                   |
| 1965 | 78  | 62  | 176                   | 49.0                   |
| 1966 | 53  | 44  |                       | 39.9                   |
| 1967 | 46  | 41  |                       | 49.0                   |
| 1968 | 43  | 54  |                       | 42.6                   |
| 1969 | 31  | 41  |                       | 37.8                   |
| 1970 | 37  | 57  |                       | 32.4                   |
| 1971 | 25  |     |                       | 38.0                   |

| Table 5. | Length composition of Hake     |
|----------|--------------------------------|
|          | landed at Milford Haven (U.K.) |
|          | from Divisions VIIf-k          |
|          | (numbers) too mts traiting !.  |

| Length         | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| 25-29          | +    | +    | 16   | 4    |
| 30-34          | 39   | 35   | 232  | 45   |
| 35-39          | 112  | 72   | 157  | 100  |
| 40-44          | 98   | 75   | 60   | 109  |
| 45-49          | 50   | 54   | 24   | 53   |
| 50 <b>-</b> 54 | 33   | 36   | 19   | 24   |
| 55 <b>-</b> 59 | 25   | 19   | 12   | 9    |
| 60-64          | 18   | 13   | 9    | 5    |
| 65-69          | 11   | 7    | 5    | 3    |
| 70-74          | 8    | 6    | 3    | 2    |
| 75-79          | 4    | 4    | 2    | 2    |
| 80-84          | 2    | 3    | 1    | 1    |
| 85-89          | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| 90-94          | 1    | + '  | +    | 1    |
| 95-99          | +    | +    | +    | +    |
| 100-104        | +    | +    | +    | +    |
| 105+           | -    | +    | +    | +    |
| Tọtal          | 404  | 325  | 542  | 358  |

1) Tons/million ton hours (motor trawl units)

2) Kg/hours fishing.

3) Kg/days absence/100 H.P.

| Length Groups   | France<br>"Artisans"   | 1969 and 1970<br>"Hauturiers"<br>and<br>Semi-industrials  | Portugal<br>1967x)                                      | Scotland<br>1971 and<br>1972  | Spain<br>North coast<br>Port, 1972   | Mean Weight<br>(kg)   |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 10-14<br>15-19<br>20-24<br>25-29<br>30-34<br>35-39<br>40-44<br>45-49<br>50-54<br>55-59<br>60-64<br>65-69<br>70-74<br>75-79<br>80-84<br>85-89<br>90-94<br>95-99<br>100-104<br>105+ | -<br>121<br>446<br>288<br>96<br>28<br>10<br>3<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>2<br>1<br>1<br>1 | -<br>1<br>24<br>78<br>132<br>164<br>164<br>147<br>116<br>80<br>44<br>21<br>10<br>5<br>5<br>3<br>3<br>2<br>1 | 9<br>235<br>375<br>204<br>85<br>55<br>21<br>8<br>6<br>2 | -<br>-<br>51<br>569<br>196<br>76<br>30<br>18<br>36<br>17<br>3<br>2<br>1 | 9<br>180<br>475<br>143<br>54<br>38<br>30<br>15<br>17<br>16<br>11<br>6<br>3<br>1<br>0.2 | $\begin{array}{c} .01\\ .03\\ .07\\ .14\\ .23\\ .35\\ .52\\ .73\\ 1.00\\ 1.32\\ 1.70\\ 2.16\\ 2.69\\ 3.30\\ 4.00\\ 4.79\\ 5.68\\ 6.68\\ 7.79\\ 9.02\end{array}$ |
| Total   | 1.000  | 1 000   | 1 000   | 999   | 1000   |   |
| $\Sigma n \overline{w}$ (kg)  | 211.96   | 998.85  | 126.15  | 377.61  | 187.18   |   |
| RF to total<br>Landings   | 24.702 x 10 <sup>6</sup>   | 18.585 x 10 <sup>6</sup>  | 68.966 x 10 <sup>6</sup>                                | 3.178 x 10 <sup>6</sup>   | 214.8 x 10 <sup>6</sup>  |   |
| Total Tons<br>(1970-71)   | 5 236  | 18 564  | 8 700   | 1 200   | 40 200   |   |

.

Table 6. Hake length compositions per mille.

1

x) From previous report (Anon., 1969).

- 21

t

| ,  |                        | France     |                                      |         |                       |          |             |         |
|--|------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|---------|
| Length<br>Group                                  | Mean<br>Weight<br>(kg) | "Artisans" | "Hauturiers"<br>and<br>Semi-industr. | Spain   | England <sup>x)</sup> | Scotland | Portugal    | Total   |
| 10-14  | .01                    |            |                                      | 1.900   |                       |          | 621         |         |
| 15-19  | •03                    |            |                                      | 38 700  |                       |          | 16 207      |         |
| 20-24  | .07                    | 2 989      | 19                                   | 102 000 |                       |          | 25 862      |         |
| 25-29  | .14                    | 11 017     | 446                                  | 30 700  | 2                     | 162      | 14 069      |         |
| 30-34  | •23                    | 7 114      | 1 450                                | 11 600  | 37                    | 1 808    | 5 862       |         |
| 35 <del>-</del> 39                               | •35                    | 2 371      | 2 453                                | 8 200   | 43                    | 623      | 3 793       |         |
| 40-44  | •52                    | 692        | 3 048                                | 6 400   | 36                    | 242      | 1 448       |         |
| 45-49  | •73                    | 247        | 3 048                                | 3 200   | 38                    | 95       | 552         |         |
| 50-54  | 1.00                   | 74         | 2 732                                | 2 600   | 53                    | 57       | 414         |         |
| 55 <b>-</b> 59                                   | 1.32                   | 49         | 2 156                                | 3 400   | 66                    | 114      | <b>1</b> 38 |         |
| 60-64  | 1.70                   | 49         | 1 487                                | 2 400   | 74                    | 54       |             |         |
| 65-69  | 2.16                   | 49         | 818                                  | 1 300   | 79                    | 10       |             |         |
| 70-74  | 2.69                   | 25         | 390                                  | 600     | 68                    | 6        |             |         |
| 75-79  | 3.30                   | 25         | 186                                  | 200     | 43                    | 3        |             |         |
| 80-84  | 4.00                   |            | 93                                   |         | 25                    |          |             |         |
| 85-89  | 4.79                   |            | 93                                   |         | 16                    |          | -           |         |
| 90-94  | 5.68                   |            | 56                                   |         | 11                    | -        |             |         |
| 95-99  | 6.68                   |            | 56                                   |         | 6                     |          |             |         |
| 100-104  | 7.79                   |            | 37                                   |         | 5                     |          |             | -       |
| 105+   | 9.02                   |            | 19                                   |         | 4                     |          |             |         |
| Total  | L                      | 24 702     | 18 585                               | 213 200 | 605                   | 3 178    | 68 966      | 329 000 |
| Correspon<br>Weight la<br>(1 000 to<br>1970-1973 | nding<br>unded<br>ons) | 5.2        | 18.6                                 | 40.2    | 1.2                   | 1.2      | 8.7         |         |

Table 7. Hake. Total numbers landed (in thousands).

x) Includes IVa.

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## Table 8. French "artisans" from South Brittany.

| Length  | Year 1971  | Year 1972   |  |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Groups  | (average Apr + Jul + Nov)  | (4th quarter)   |  |  |
| 5 - 9 $10 - 14$ $15 - 19$ $20 - 24$ $25 - 29$ $30 - 34$ $35 - 39$ $40 - 44$ $45 - 49$ $50 - 54$ $55 - 59$ $60 - 64$ $65 - 69$ $70 - 74$ $75 - 79$ $80 - 84$ $85 - 89$ | 8<br>238<br>1 054<br>270<br>45<br>22<br>7<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1<br>1 | 3<br>423<br>1 520<br>497<br>132<br>199<br>218<br>144<br>30<br>31<br>41<br>37<br>12<br>12<br>12<br>5<br>2<br>2 |  |  |

Hake length composition No./10 hrs fishing (measured at sea, before discarding).

Table 9. Mesh measurements at sea by French inspectors.

| Mesh Size<br>(mm)                                    | •                           | Span                       | ish Trawl                                     | .ers                                     |                               | •.                                     | French "artisans"                |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | 1967                        | 1968                       | 1969  | 1970                                     | 1971                          | 1972                                   | from South Brittany<br>1969–1972 |
| $\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$ | 1<br>3<br>14<br>6<br>1<br>2 | 1<br>6<br>4<br>7<br>1<br>1 | 2<br>39<br>4<br>8<br>16<br>32<br>45<br>8<br>1 | 1<br>9<br>2<br>1<br>14<br>21<br>12<br>17 | 2<br>5<br>29<br>88<br>16<br>1 | 2<br>2<br>4<br>2<br>2<br>8<br>26<br>13 | 4<br>1<br>12<br>32<br>21<br>4    |
| Average<br>Mesh Size                                 | 44•5                        | 40.4                       | 53.1  | 51.4                                     | 56.0                          | 53•9                                   | 37•7                             |

- 15 -

| Table 10. | Mean length and weight | at age of Hake from the Bay |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|           | of Biscay (1965 - 67). | Weight data were calculated |
|           | from the relationship: | $W = 0.00513 L_{3.074}$     |

|              | Ma                     | les                    | Fem                    | ales                   | Sexes Combined         |                        |  |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Age<br>Group | Mean<br>Length<br>(cm) | Mean<br>Weight<br>(kg) | Mean<br>Length<br>(cm) | Mean<br>Weight<br>(kg) | Mean<br>Length<br>(cm) | Mean<br>Weight<br>(kg) |  |
| l            | 11.0                   | 0.01                   | 11.0                   | 0.01                   | 11.0                   | 0.01                   |  |
| 2            | 19.6                   | 0.05                   | 19.6                   | 0.05                   | 19.6                   | 0.05                   |  |
| 3            | 28.1                   | 0.15                   | 28.0                   | 0.14                   | 28.0                   | 0.14                   |  |
| 4            | 36.5                   | 0.33                   | 36.7                   | 0.33                   | 36.6                   | 0.33                   |  |
| 5            | 43•4                   | 0.55                   | 43.6                   | 0.56                   | 43.5                   | 0.56                   |  |
| 6            | 50.9                   | 0.90                   | 51.4                   | 0.93                   | 51.2                   | 0.92                   |  |
| 7            | 57.0                   | 1.28                   | 60.2                   | 1.52                   | 58.7                   | 1.40                   |  |
| 8            | 62.3                   | 1.68                   | 66.7                   | 2.08                   | 65.1                   | 1.93                   |  |
| 9            | 65.6                   | 1.97                   | 72.7                   | 2.71                   | 69.6                   | 2.37                   |  |
| 10           | 70.7                   | 2.48                   | 82.0                   | 3.92                   | 80.1                   | 3.65                   |  |
| 11           | 69.0                   | 2.31                   | 84.3                   | 4.27                   | 79.6                   | 3.58                   |  |
| 12           |                        |                        | 88.3                   | 4.93                   | 88.3                   | 4.93                   |  |

- 16 -

# Table 11. French total mortality estimates (Z) from market sample data from La Rochelle.

|  |            | "Artisans" |        | "Hauturiers" |       |   |      |          |
|--|------------|------------|--------|--------------|-------|---|------|----------|
|  | Age Groups |            | 4/5    | 5/6          | 6/7   | 7/8   | 8/9  | Weighted |
| Divisions                                | Years      |            |        |              |       |   |      | Mean     |
| VIa, VIIb,<br>c and k                    | 1968-69    |            |        | .85          | .82   | •73   | .80  | .81      |
|  | 1968-69    |            |        |              | .61   | .84   | 1.18 | •76      |
| VIIe, f,h,                               | 1969-70    |            |        |              | •50   | •71   | •98  | •64      |
| and j                                    | Average    |            |        |              | •55   | •77   | 1.08 | •70      |
|  | 1968-69    |            |        |              | .71   | •93   | 1.07 | •82 ·    |
| VIIIa, b                                 | 1969-70    |            |        | ·            | •72   | .83   | 1.22 | • 80     |
|  | Average    |            |        |              | •71   | .88   | 1.14 | •82      |
|  | 1968-69    |            |        |              | •31   | • 52  | 80   | •46      |
| VIIIc - IXa                              | 1969-70    |            |        |              | •53   | •53   | .91  | .60      |
|  | Average    |            | 1.12 V |              | •42   | •53   | .85  | •53      |
|  | 1968-69    | 1.99       | 1.37   | 1.58         |       | ·.  |      | 1.86     |
| VIIIa, b                                 | 1969-70    | .61        | • 55   | 1.70-        | • • • | <b>.</b>  |      | .65      |
| 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1 | Average    | 1.30       | •96    | 1.64         |       |   |      | 1.26     |
|  | 1968-69    | •75        | 1.21   | 1.09         |       | 1. A.   |      | .90      |
| VIIg                                     | 1969-70    | •45        | • 52   | 2.47         |       | •   |      | .64      |
|  | Average    | • 60       | .86    | 1.78         |       | in and a second s |      | •77      |

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- 17 -

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<u>Table 12.</u> Immediate losses in % (by weight) for increases in mesh size to 50 mm by French "artisans" and to 65 mm for other vessels in Region 3.

| France - "Hauturiers" | negligible   |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| France - "Artisans"   | 6            |
| Portugal              | 23           |
| Spain                 | 8            |
| England               | <b>0</b> · · |
| Scotland              | 0            |
| All Gears             | 8            |

- Table 13. Long-term gains in % (by weight) for increases in mesh size to 50 mm by French "artisans" and to 65 mm for other vessels in Regions 3.
  - A = assuming that fish are stationary and that fish released only benefit the gear that releases them.
  - B = assuming that fish released spread uniformly over Sub-areas VI, VII, VIII and IX do benefit all gears.

| Country and Gear      | A   | В   |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| France - "Hauturiers" | 0   | +16 |
| France - "Artisans"   | -1. | +10 |
| Portugal              | +1  | -11 |
| Spain                 | +7  | +7  |
| England               | 0   | +16 |
| Scotland              | 0   | +16 |
| All Gears             | +7  | +7  |

Table 14. Bay of Biscay - Hake survey 1972.

Mean catch per hour: February, May and August samples (I, II and III Groups combined).

| Depth (m)                 | 70    | 85    | 100    | 110    | 120    | 130   | 140   | 150  | All Depths |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|------------|
| 47°25'N                   | 630.5 | 452.0 | 615.5  | 824.5  | 415.0  | 72.0  | 10.5  | 2.5  | 377.8      |
| 47°05'N                   | 18.0  | 85.0  | 1702.0 | 1176.5 | 586.0  | 361.5 | 32.0  | 54.0 | 501.9      |
| 46°45'N                   | 159.3 | 638.7 | 934.3  | 707.7  | 1161.0 | 520.7 | 438.3 | 3.0  | 595.0      |
| 46°20'N                   | 98.7  | 571.0 | 1083.0 | 979.3  | 632.7  | 440.3 | 141.3 | 0.5  | 514.8      |
| All lines                 | 207.1 | 470.3 | 1068.7 | 906.3  | 738.3  | 375.0 | 182.4 | 12.0 | 507.7      |
| Within<br>Closed<br>Arca  |       |       |        |        | 931.0  | 457.0 | 438.3 |      |            |
| Outside<br>Closed<br>Area |       |       |        |        | 545.6  | 293.0 | 72.7  |      |            |

- 19 -



fig.1: Closed areas in the Bay of Biscay