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Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee

Charlottenlund, 3-7 February 1975

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| $M r$ D. de G. Griffith, | ICES Statistician, also took part in the |
|  |  |

2. Terms of Reference

The Working Group was asked "to assess potential catches for 1975 and if possible total allowable catches for 1976; and to consider the effect of introducing a minimum landing size".

## 3. Landings

A summary of landings by fishing areas since 1960 is given in Table 1 . In the last three years landings have shown only small fluctuations with the average total catch being just under 600000 tons. The increase since 1970 in landings from the West of Scotland is due to an increase in catches reported by France in 1973 and revised estimates of French catches in 1971 and 1972. Preliminary estimates of landings in 1974 by country and fishing area are given in Table 2 . Tables $3-7$ give similar data (taken from "Bulletin Statistique") for the main fishing areas for the period 1960-73.
4. Virtual Population Analysis

Since the last (1974) meeting of the Working Group (Doc. C.M.1974/F:2) additional data have become available of age compositions of catches for 1973 and in most cases provisional data for 1974 were provided. In some cases amendments have been made to the data used in previous assessments where additional data have become available. The assessments for the North Sea include catches in Division IIIa, and West of Scotland includes both VIa and VIb. No age composition data of the USSR catches in 1973 or 1974 were made available to the Working Group nor were preliminary estimates of the USSR landings for 1974.

[^0]In the North Sea in recent years USSR landings have constituted about $50 \%$ of the total catches of saithe, and the absence of USSR data for the two most recent years limits the possibilities for updating the assessments for this area. In addition the Working Group considered that USSR age composition data for the North Sea for earlier years were inconsistent with the weights of fish landed. The Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) for the North Sea included in this Report is an alternative assessment to that given in the previous Report in that new age compositions have been prepared for USSR landings up to 1972 and estimates of age compositions for USSR landings, based on combined age composition of landings by England, Netherlands and Scotland have been included for 1973 and 1974. The USSR age compositions for the earlier years have been adjusted on the assumption that the landed weights were correct but that the numbers at each age were overestimated. The age distributions in each year were adjusted by a factor:

## Recorded weight of landings Calculated weight of landings

The calculated weight of landings was derived from the sum of products of numbers at age $x$ mean weight at age.

For the other areas the earlier assessments were updated by the addition of data for 1973 and 1974. The estimates of fishing mortality rates from the VPA are given in Tables 8-12. In the North-East Arctic fishery mortality rates appear to have remained relatively steady ( $\mathrm{F}=0.3-0.4$ ) although age groups 3 to 5 tend to suffer higher mortality rates than the older age groups.

The present alternative assessment for the North Sea (Table 9) gives lower values of fishing mortality in the recent years than in last year's analysis (about 0.2 - 0.3 compared with $0.4-0.5$ ), and there is no marked trend of increasing fishing mortality. However, estimates of stock sizes at 2 years old (Table l3) are of a similar order of magnitude to those in the earlier analysis. A possible interpretation of these results is that in the earlier years only part of the North Sea saithe stock was being exploited, and as the landings have been increasing the fishery has been expanding to exploit a greater proportion of the total stock. Alternatively, there may have been a real increase in recruitment to the stock in recent years.

At Iceland the updated assessment shows little change from the previous one and the fishery has remained stabilized over the last few years with a fishing mortality of about 0.5 - 0.6 on the fully exploited age groups.

At Faroe the fishing mortality estimates varied very little from 1964-1971 when the average value was $0.2-0.3$. From 1972 the increase in saithe landings from this area have been accompanied by an increase in the estimated fishing mortality to $0.5-0.6$.

The assessment for the West of Scotland is influenced in the last three years (1972-74) by the inclusion of age composition data for the Scottish fishery in the Clyde. This fishery takes a greater proportion of young (2 and 3 year old) fish than the fisheries further off the coast. The Clyde fishery has been increasing in importance in recent years. This fishery exploits the younger fish which have an inshore distribution and it seems likely that the survivors migrate into the offshore fishery as they grow. The fishing mortality rates on the older age groups have mainly been in the range $F=0.15-0.30$ but on the younger age groups the mortality rates are higher having been about 0.3 and probably increasing in the last two years with the growth of the Clyde fishery.
5. The State of the Stocks

Table 14 gives estimates of the present levels of fishing mortality and average age at first capture for each area. Also shown are the values of ages at first capture which would give maximum yield per recruit at current levels of fishing mortality, and the optimum levels of fishing mortality for the present ages at first capture. The indications are that in none of the stocks is the fishing cortality excessive. In many areas, however, the yield could be improved by reducing the amount of fishing on the younger age groups.
6. Estimates of Total Allowable Catches (T.A.C's)

None of the saithe stocks appears to be seriously overexploited at present. However, as catch quota regulations have been introduced, or are being considered, for most of the other major demersal fish resources in the North Atlantic, there are obvious advantages in introducing catch quotas for the saithe stocks to prevent surplus fishing effort being diverted onto saithe and increasing exploitation above the optimum level.

The Working Group considers that, as exploitation levels are generally close to those giving the maximum sustainable yield for the present selection pattern, the present aim should be to set T.A.C's to stabilize the saithe fisheries at the exploitation levels of recent years, and at the same time to prevent any increase in, or preferably to reduce, the mortality on the younger fish. In considering Total Allowable Catches (T.A.C's) the Group based its calculations on the following area groupings:

North-East Arctic (Sub-areas I and II)<br>North Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak (Sub-area IV, Division IIIa)<br>Iceland (Division. Va)

Faroe Islands (Division Vb)
West of Scotland and Rockall (Sub-area VI).
Landings of saithe from other ICES fishing areas are relatively insignificant.
Estimates of catches which are expected to be taken in 1975 and 1976, if fishing effort is maintained at its present level, have been prepared. Estimates of stock size and catch in numbers were calculated for 1974-76 from the 1973 catch data and estimates of fishing mortality. Catch in numbers at each age were converted into weight using mean weight-at-age data and summed to give an estimate of total catch for each year. Some difficulties were experienced in obtaining good agreement between declared landings in 1973 and landed weight calculated as the sum of products of numbers at each age times average weight at age. There are potential errors in weight-at-age data because of the different selection characteristics of the various national fisheries and even a weighted average of national weight-at-age data is subject to some error since the proportions of the total catch taken by the different countries are variable, and also because there is variation in the age structure of the stock. It is also possible that there are significant errors in the various national estimates of numbers of fish at each age in their landings. No information was available on the size of the year-classes which will be recruiting over the next few years and so average year-class strengths (year-classes 1958-68) of 2-yearold fish have been used in the calculations of predicted catches.

For the North Sea there is some doubt about the quality of some of the catch data and also no data for landings in 1973 and 1974 by the USSR (expected to be about $50 \%$ of the total landings) have been provided. As a result it has not been possible to prepare reliable catch predictions. The Working Group recommends that for the North Sea the TAC should be set at about the average of the catches in recent years, i.e. 200000 tons. For the other areas the predicted catches
for 1975 and 1976 are tabulated below together with recommendations for T.A.C"s.


For the West of Scotland the average year-class strength used in the calculation of predicted catches is probably too low as estimates for recent year-classes have been tending to increase with the expansion of the fishery, and allowance has been made for this in the recommended T.A.C's.

At Iceland the predicted catches are appreciably below catch levels in recent years (average catch 1969-74 = 113000 tons) and this is due to poorer recruitment in the last few years.

For Faroe there is less certainty about the recent levels of fishing mortality and accordingly a relatively conservative $T$. A. $G^{1}$ s has been recommended until more reliable estimates are available.

In all areas the stock of saithe is liable to vary as a result of migration of fish between the different fishing regions. It is known that, at times at least, very substantial migrations take place but, as no adequate quantitative data are available and as variations in migration from year to year cannot be predicted, no allowance has been made for migration in the present calculations.
7. Effects of a Minimum Landing Size for Saithe

If minimum landing sizes were to be introduced for saithe in the NEAFC region this species would have to be included with those listed in NEAFC Recommendation (4), and it would also become subject to Recommendation (5) which limits the amount of by-catch of Recommendation (4) species which may be taken in industrial landings from Mixed Fisheries (Recommendation 2).

This subject was considered by the Working Group at its 1973 meeting (Doc. C.M. 1973/F:10) and the general conclusions reached then still stand. At present the rate of exploitation on small fish is not excessive and there are now no important industrial fisheries based on saithe. Saithe is, however, taken as a by-catch in some industrial fisheries for other species such as the industrial fisheries for Norway pout in the North Sea. The inclusion of saithe in Recommendation (4) might help to reduce the by catch in these fisheries not only of saithe but also of other protected species, if the by-catch of total protected species became increased above the proposed $25 \%$ maximum by including saithe as a protected species.

As has been mentioned in an earlier section some of the saithe fisheries would benefit from a reduction in fishing on the younger age groups. The development of any fisheries for very small saithe would have undesirable consequences for the established fisheries. The introduction of a suitable minimum landing size would help to prevent such fisheries developing and could help to reduce the fishing mortality on the youngest age groups in the established fisheries. Table 15 gives updated estimates of the percentages by weight in the various national landings of fish less than 30,35 and 40 cm in length. Lengths of saithe corresponding to various retention percentages for different mesh sizes are given in Table 16.

From a biological point of view little benefit can be expected from a minimum landing size less than 40 cm . For the majority of fisheries a minimum landing size up to 40 cm would involve very little immediate loss. The fisheries which would suffer the greatest losses would be in the Norwegian coastal fisheries in the North Sea ( $44 \%$ of catch $<40 \mathrm{~cm}$ ), and in fishing areas I + IIa ( $18 \%<40 \mathrm{~cm}$ ). In the latter area it is the Norwegian fisheries in the southern part of the area (NEAFC Region 2, 80 mm minimum trawl cod end mesh size) that are affected to the greatest extent. The Scottish fisheries West of Scotland, especially the Clyde fishery, also have high proportions of fish below 40 cm ( $16 \%$ and $21 \%$ respectively).

Table 1. Summary of total landings of saithe from the main fishing areas (metric tons, whole weight). This table is based on biological data supplied to the Working Group and used in the assessments. These figures differ to some extent from the official "Bulletin Statistique" data, which are used for Tables 3-7.

| Year | Fishing Area |  |  |  |  | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | NE Arctic | IV+IIIa | Va | Vb | VI |  |
| 1960 | 136006 | 31515 | 48.120 | 11845 | 8345 | 235835 |
| 1961 | 109821 | 35489 | 50826 | 9 552 | 6723 | 212451 |
| 1562 | 122841 | 24559 | 50514 | 10454 | 7159 | 215527 |
| 1963 | 148036 | 30300 | 48011 | 12693 | 6609 | 245649 |
| 1564 | 158110 | 58669 | 60257 | 20550 | 13556 | 351182 |
| 1965 | 184548 | 73274 | 60177 | 22071 | 18395 | 358465 |
| 1966 | 201860 | 55940 | 52003 | 24557 | 18534 | 392934 |
| 1967 | 151151 | 76759 | 75712 | 23 215 | 16034 | 382915 |
| 1968 | 107181 | S8179 | 77549 | 19704 | 12787 | 315400 |
| 1969 | 140375 | 115564 | 115853 | 27536 | 17214 | 416546 |
| 1570 | 260404 | 179296 | 116601 | 29148 | 14538 | 595987 |
| 1571 | 244732 | 219731 | 134127 | 30867 | 19246 | 648703 |
| 1572 | 214386 | 219264 | 111301 | 46702 | 24003 | 615656 |
| 1973 | 210833 | 191200 | 110888 | 56606 | 35834 | 605361 |
| $1974{ }^{\text {x }}$ | 192526 | 201874 | 90077 | 44913 | 29180 | 558570 |

x) Preliminary estimate.

Table 2. Preliminary Estimates of Saithe Landings in 1974 (Metric tons, whole weight)

|  | I | IIa | IIb | IIIa | IV | Va | Vb | VI | VII | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Belgium |  |  |  |  | 26 | 2008 |  | 177 | 44 | 2255 |
| Denmark |  |  |  | 5124 | 3149 |  |  |  |  | 8273 |
| Faroe Islands |  |  |  |  | 359 | 2227 | 3776 | 6 |  | 6368 |
| France |  | 20 | 114 |  | 25566 |  | 20924 | 16239 | 153 | 63016 |
| German Dem.Rep. ${ }^{\text {\% }}$ ) |  | (12000) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12000 |
| Germany, Fed.Rep. | 267 | 35269 | (732) | 9 | 19875 | 17895 | 5919 | 19 |  | 79985 |
| Iceland |  |  |  |  |  | 56000 |  |  |  | 56000 |
| Netherlands |  |  |  |  | 12839 |  |  | 211 | 47 | 13097 |
| Norway | 12513 | 123580 | 10 | 1100 | 13150 |  | 1606 |  |  | 151959 |
| Poland | 199 | 2322 |  |  | 22203 |  | 1925 | 125 | 1 | 26775 |
| $\text { Spain }{ }^{\#)}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { UK (England \& } \\ \text { Wales) } \end{gathered}$ | 849 | 2068 | 30 |  | 4148 | 8839 | 3821 | 1354 |  | 21109 |
| UK (N. Ireland) ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| UK (Scotland | 57 | 96 |  |  | 14326 | 3108 | 6942 | 11049 | 10 | 35588 |
| Sub-Total | 13885 | 175355 | 886 | 6233 | 115641 | 90077 | 44913 | 29180 | 255 | 476425 |
| USSR ${ }^{\text {T }}$ |  | (2 400) |  |  | (80000) |  |  |  |  | 82400 |
| - total |  | 192526 |  | 6233 | 195641 | 90077 | 44913 | 29180 | 255 | 558825 |

${ }^{\text {F) }}$ No data available for 1974. German Democratic Republic catches in the North-East Arctic assumed to be 12000 tons. USSR catches assumed to be similar to 1973.
Estimated catches in brackets.

Table 3. Landings of Saithe from the liortn-East Arctic (I + IIa + IIb), by country, for the years 1960-1573. Metric tons, whole weignt. (Data from Bulletin Statistique).

|  | 1560 | 1561 | 1562 | 1963 | 1564 | 1565 | 1566 | 1567 | 1568 | 1965 | 1570 | 1571 | 1572 | 1573 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Belgium | 14 | 18 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Faroe Is. | 23 | 61 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 | 1057 | 215 | 105 | 7 |
| France | 1700 | 3625 | 544 | 1110 | 1525 | i 618 | 2587 | S 472 | - | 153 | - | 14536 | 14519 | 11320 |
| German Dem. Rep. ${ }^{\text {\# }}$ |  |  | - | - | - | - | 813 | 304 | 70 | $\bigcirc 744$ | 25362 | 16840 | 7474 | 12015 |
| Germany, Fed. Rep. | 25548 | 15757 | 12651 | 8108 | is 420 | 12387 | 11265 | 11822 | 4753 | 4355 | 23466 | 22 204 | 24558 | 30331 |
| Netherlands |  |  |  | - | 186 | 181 | 41 | 48 | - | 23 | - | - | - | - |
| Norway | 96050 | 77875 | 101855 | 135257 | 184: 700 | 165531 | 175037 | 150860 | 56641 | 115140 | 151759 | 125455 | 143775 | 148789 |
| Poland |  | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6017 | 1111 | 23 |
| Spain | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 13057 | 13125 | 603 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { UK (England and } \\ & \text { Wales) } \end{aligned}$ | 9780 | 4595 | 4655 | 4112 | $65 \% 1$ | 6741 | 13078 | 8375 | 8780 | 13585 | 15465 | 10361 | 8223 | 6503 |
| UK (Scotland) | - | 20 | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | 2 | - | 221 | 106 | 125 | 2.4 |
| USSR | - | - | 912 | - | 84. | 137 | 563 | 4.41 | - | - | 43550 | 35357 | 1278 | 2411 |
| Total | 133515 | 105951 | 120707 | 148627 | 157506 | 185600 | 203788 | 181326 | 110246 | 140033 | 264524 | 241272 | 214334 | 212263 |

[^1]Table 4. Landings of Saitine from the North Sea, Kattegat and Skagerak (IV + IIIa), by country, for the years 1560-1973. Metric tons, whole weight. (Data from Bulletin Statistique).

|  | 1560 | 1561 | 1962 | 1563 | 1564 | 1565 | 1566 | 1967 | 1568 | 1569 | 1570 | 1571 | 1572 | 1573 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Belgium | 108 | 51 | 154 | 132 | 140 | 126 | 161 | 74 | 94 | 135 | 36 | 44 | 55 | 55 |
| Denmark | 2412 | 1589 | 2679 | 3559 | 3755 | 4534 | 4310 | 5495 | 7756 | 5566 | 17555 | 14200 | 19323 | 10195 |
| Faroe Is. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 18 | 182 | 552 |
| France | - | 12728 | - | - | 26082 | 23678 | 19282 | 13559 | 34139 | 24631 | 38873 | 37442 | 26060 | 30555 |
| German Dem. Rep. ${ }^{\text {F }}$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4085 | - | - | 5984 | 3554 | 6398 | 10674 | 7668 |
| Germany, Fed. Rep | 8381 | 3138 | 2560 | 2773 | 3351 | 7736 | 7462 | 7036 | 6066 | 7242 | 6022 | 4217 | 8665 | 12003 |
| Iceland | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 18 | 57 | 4 | 24 |
| Netherlands | 3637 | 2527 | 2656 | 4455 | 4552 | 5000 | 8177 | 13355 | 16482 | 18214 | 20460 | 18136 | 12532 | 9232 |
| Norway | $\checkmark 007$ | 5336 | 8358 | 今 582' | 于 602 | 12330 | 14183 | 10842 | 8683 | 8155 | 11201 | 15184 | 23256 | 13548 |
| Poland | 12 | 28 | 112 | 3 | - | - | 655 | 104 | 43 | - | - | 4 | 186 | 7512 |
| Sweden | 2135 | 2262 | 2670 | 3206 | 3356 | 6574 | 3643 | 631.8 | 8212 | 4322 | 1521 | 4523 | 3855 | 1876 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { UK (England } \\ & \text { and Wales) } \end{aligned}$ | 4215 | 4153 | 3407 | 3821 | 4143 | 5573 | 6172 | 5408 | 3525 | 3815 | 2664 | 3162 | 3744 | 3378 |
| UK (Scotland) | 1589 | 1033 | 1520 | 2207 | 3059 | 3159 | 3254 | 3911 | 6001 | 3838 | 5293 | 6106 | 10757 | 10834 |
| USSR |  | - | - | - | - | 10 | 22388 | 11527 | 11405 | 32830 | 68062 | 110200 | 99883 | 83333 |
| Total | 31500 | 33325 | 24414 | 30178 | 58159 | 73160 | 93772 | 77669 | 103171 | 114744 | 176139 | 219731 | 215264 | 151200 |

*) German Democratic Republic catch data taken from "Atlantic Fish Catches of the Socialist Countries, 1961-72" (Moscow, 1974).

Table 5. Landings of Saithe from Iceland (Va), by country
for the years 1960-1973. Metric tons, whole weight. (Data from Bulletin Statistique).

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Delgium | 2771 | 3354 | 2505 | 2830 | 2144 | 1999 | 2282 | 2739 | 3155 | 3995 | 4153 | 3490 | 2250 | 2131 |
| Rarco Islancs | 514 | 893 | 590 | 491 | 45 | 285 | 100 | 39 | 101 | 119 | 2386 | 2046 | 857 | 1467 |
| France | - | 105 | 409 | - | - | $\ldots{ }^{1}$ | 500 | 5803 | 6701 | 8122 | 2046 | 3951 | - | - |
| German Dew. Rep. | $\cdots$ | - | - | - | - | - | 154 | 202 | 634 | 357 | 3527 | 2637 | 3471 | - |
| Germany, Fed. Sep: | 3412 | $22 \quad 223$ | 24015 | 17622 | 21130 | 16708 | 17204 | $24 \quad 037$ | 17327 | 34732 | 27806 | 40628 | 30918 | 38565 |
| Iceland | 12703 | 13675 | 13469 | 14758 | 21665 | 24866 | 21022 | 29021 | 38027 | 53988 | 63882 | 60080 | 59945 | 56342 |
| Tetherlands | - | . 48 | 37 | 401 | 309 | 409 | 25 | - | - | 52 | - | - | - | - |
| ETorway | 59 | - | - | 11 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Foland | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 113 | 150 | - |
| Spain | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 59 | 13 | - |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { TK (Tngland } \dot{\text { (ales }} \\ \text { Ma } \end{gathered}$ | 3454 | 9010 | 8767 | 11262 | 13899 | 14472 | 9857 | 13694 | 11561 | 13665 | 10634 | 21767 | 13152 | 11874 |
| UR. (Scotiand) | 120 | 431 | 563 | 1074 | 1221 | 1365 | 920 | 901 | 982 | 1605 | 2402 | 1743 | 545 | 509 |
| USSE | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 258 | 35 | 90 | 65 | - | 5 | - | - |
| Cotal | 10035 | 49795 | $50 \quad 385$ | 48449 | $60 \quad 417$ | 60107 | 52322 | 76471 | 78 578 | 116700 | 116836 | 136519 | 111301 | 110888 |

1) 

Inc. in $\mathrm{Vb}_{1}$
${ }^{\text {F }}$ ) German Democratic Republic catch data taken from "Atlantic Fish Catches of the Socialist Countries,

Table 6. Landings of Saithe from Faroe Islands (Vb), by country, for the years 1960-1973. Metric tons whole weight. (Data from Bulletin Statistique).

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parse Islands | 585 | 929 | 2494 | 2431 | 1338 | 1000 | 1167 | 2242 | 2629 | 4835 | 2694 | 5653 | 5646 | 2973 |
| France | - | - | 620 | 2207 | 6458 | ( $565^{1}$ ) | 9967 | 5555 | 424 | 7899 | 11036 | 10621 | 28346 | 22241 |
| German Dem. Rep. ${ }^{\text {² }}$ | -•• | - | - | - | - | - | 66 | 193 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Cermany, Fed. Rep. | 2533 | 2219 | 985 | 1415 | 6459 | 3557 | 4963 | 5797 | 7433 | 4676 | 2211 | 2254 | 3440 | 9329 |
| Iethorlands | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 63 | - | - |
| Torvay | - | - | - | - | + | - | 2498 | - | - | 378 | 1495 | 1839 | 470 | 355 |
| Poiand | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4050 |
|  | 6437 | 4230 | 3724 | 3177 | 4 32s | 5265 | 3321 | 3536 | 5123 | 4303 | 3056 | 3305 | 2453 | 7527 |
| TIT (5cotland) | 2140 | 2214 | 2631 | 3463 | 3309 | 3794 | 3581 | 3996 | 4778 | 5346 | 8608 | 7198 | 6225 | 10131 |
| Toial | 111845 | 9592 | $10 \quad 454$ | 12693 | 21893 | 22181 | 25563 | 21319 | 20387 | 27437 | 29110 | 30933 | 46580 | 56606 |

1) Va included.
F) German Democratic Republic catch data from "Atlantic Fish Catches of the Socialist Countries, 1961-72" (Moscow, 1974).

Table 7. Landings of Saithe from West of Scotland and Rockall (VIa + VIb), by country, for the years 1960-1973. Zietric tons whole weight. (Data from Bulletin Statistique).

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1959 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Seloiun | 94 | 6 | 15 | 61 | 10 | - | 168 | 31 | 27 | 40 | 34 | -29 | 125 | 191 |
| Dermark | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Faroe Islands | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Prance | 41 | 33 | 434 | 415 | 2780 | 5059 | 7550 | 7092 | 3841 | 8109 | 5140 | 3300 | 6258 | 20972 |
| Gcrmea Deu. Repo ${ }^{\text {T) }}$ | - | - | - | - | - | - | 25 | - | 283 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ccmany, Yed. Rep. | 122 | 23 | 155 | 15 | 235 | 119 | 62 | 368 | 368 | 1988 | 545 | 1068 | 350 | 52 |
| Ieciand | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| Setherlands | - | - | - | - | $+$ | 12 | + | 54 | 59 | 14 | 7 | 32 | 638 | 67 |
| Momay | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Poland | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | 394 |
| Spain | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Syeden | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| UK (Ongland \& Vales) | $6: 56$ | 4484 | 4359 | 4072 | 7455 | 9012 | 7693 | 5796 | 5704 | 4015 | 3615 | 1965 | 2268 | 2138 |
| UK (H. Ireland) | - | 43 | 9 | 20 | 22 | 36 | 31 | 17 | 21 | 13 | 19 | 24 | 6 | 14 |
| TKK ( Scotland) | 1656 | 2130 | 2187 | 2026 | 3194 | 4157 | 3005 | 2676 | 2433 | 3035 | 5175 | 4620 | 6706 | 11330 |
| USE: | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 105 | 112 | 670 |
| Sotal | 8349 | 6724 | 7159 | 16609 | 13596 | 18395 | 18534 | 16034 | 12787 | 17214 | 14536 | 11146 | 16473 | 35834 |

*) German Democratic Republic catch data from "Atlantic Fish Catches of the Socialist Countries, 1961-72" (Moscow, 1974).

Table 8. Saithe. North-East Arctic. ( I + IIa + IIb $)$.
Estimates of fishing mortality from Virtual Population Analysis ( $M=0.2$ )

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | . 07 | . 02 | . 00 | . 03 | . 06 | . 17 | . 03 | . 04 | . 02 | . 01 | . 07 | . 11 | . 03 | . 10 | . 10 |
| 3 | . 16 | . 25 | . 26 | . 18 | . 11 | . 15 | .19 | . 17 | . 20 | . 34 | . 18 | . 36 | . 54 | . 29 | . 40 |
| 4 | . 19 | . 20 | . 25 | . 33 | . 41 | . 08 | . 34 | . 33 | . 15 | . 14 | . 51 | . 42 | . 40 | . 40 | . 40 |
| 5 | . 50 | . 27 | . 14 | . 20 | . 24 | . 32 | .31 | . 39 | . 10 | . 20 | . 24 | . 40 | . 35 | . 34 | . 40 |
| 6 | . 26 | . 25 | . 29 | . 22 | . 13 | . 30 | . 25 | . 15 | . 15 | . 13 | . 31 | . 23 | . 29 | . 32 | .30 |
| 7 | . 26 | . 10 | . 25 | . 22 | . 25 | . 20 | . 22 | . 17 | . 04 | . 12 | . 20 | . 28 | . 24 | . 31 | . 30 |
| 8 | . 20 | . 08 | . 10 | . 17 | . 23 | . 24 | . 14 | . 21 | . 08 | . 07 | . 29 | . 15 | . 17 | . 24 | . 30 |
| 9 | . 12 | . 06 | . 10 | . 15 | . 30 | . 38 | .16 | . 21 | . 09 | . 09 | . 23 | . 24 | . 16 | . 19 | . 30 |
| 10 | . 15 | . 05 | . 07 | . 10 | . 26 | . 28 | . 23 | . 37 | . 13 | . 09 | . 30 | . 26 | . 20 | . 31 | . 30 |
| 11 | . 18 | . 11 | . 08 | . 09 | . 21 | . 34 | .31 | . 32 | .17 | . 06 | . 21 | . 41 | . 29 | . 20 | . 30 |
| 12 | .16 | .13 | . 11 | . 08 | . 23 | . 17 | .33 | . 87 | . 14 | . 08 | . 33 | . 35 | . 19 | . 28 | . 30 |
| 13 | . 39 | . 06 | . 22 | . 17 | . 13 | . 19 | . 27 | . 63 | . 48 | . 02 | . 27 | . 21 | . 17 | . 27 | . 30 |
| $14=\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{I}}$ | . 20 | . 20 | . 20 | . 20 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 |

Table 9. Saithe North Sea (IV + IIIa)
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis ( $M=0.2$ )


Table 10. Iceland (Va) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis ( $M=0.2$ )

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | . 01 | . 02 | . 00 | . 01 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 | . 00 |
| 3 | . 05 | . 15 | . 06 | . 08 | . 06 | . 02 | . 01 | . 02 | . 02 | . 02 | . 01 | . 01 | . 02 | . 00 | . 02 |
| 4 | . 15 | . 20 | . 27 | . 11 | . 23 | . 13 | . 03 | . 07 | . 05 | . 10 | . 09 | . 07 | . 13 | . 10 | . 10 |
| 5 | . 29 | . 34 | . 31 | . 21 | . 25 | . 23 | . 13 | . 11 | . 09 | . 16 | . 17 | . 22 | . 23 | . 27 | . 20 |
| 6 | . 29 | . 33 | . 47 | . 40 | . 31 | . 24 | . 18 | . 25 | . 18 | . 25 | . 25 | . 34 | . 31 | . 41 | . 30 |
| 7 | . 24 | . 20 | . 29 | . 45 | . 28 | . 29 | . 22 | . 35 | . 29 | . 41 | . 39 | . 47 | . 38 | . 47 | . 40 |
| 8 | . 25 | . 13 | . 21 | . 38 | . 24 | . 24 | . 26 | . 33 | . 37 | . 45 | . 51 | . 64 | . 46 | . 44 | . 40 |
| 9 | . 28 | .13 | . 17 | . 26 | . 18 | . 23 | . 22 | . 31 | . 28 | . 41 | . 54 | . 86 | . 62 | . 43 | . 40 |
| 10 | . 22 | . 22 | . 18 | . 24 | .17 | . 19 | . 23 | . 30 | . 33 | . 34 | . 51 | . 66 | . 83 | . 57 | . 40 |
| 11 | . 18 | . 26 | . 19 | . 29 | . 14 | . 18 | . 23 | . 26 | . 33 | . 15 | . 39 | . 91 | . 58 | . 61 | . 50 |
| 12 | . 29 | . 54 | . 26 | . 42 | . 16 | . 16 | . 17 | . 19 | . 25 | . 28 | . 41 | 1.10 | 1.14 | . 96 | . 50 |
| 13 | . 32 | . 29 | . 24 | . 39 | . 22 | . 21 | . 29 | . 43 | . 32 | . 12 | . 39 | . 41 | . 84 | 2.00 | . 60 |
| $14^{\prime}=\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{I}}$ | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 40 | . 50 | . 60 | . 60 | . 60 |

Table 11. Faroe Vb Saithe.
Estimates of fishing mortality from Virtual Population Analysis ( $M=0.2$ ).

| Age | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | . 03 | . 01 | . 00 | . 01 | .00 | . 01 | .00 | . 01 | . 01 | . 00 | . 02 | . 02 | . 01 | . 03 | . 01 |
| 3 | .19 | . 03 | . 05 | . 04 | . 06 | . 06 | . 03 | . 03 | . 04 | . 04 | . 07 | . 10 | . 10 | . 11 | . 10 |
| 4 | . 07 | . 06 | .10 | . 04 | . 15 | . 09 | . 12 | -. 05 | . 12 | .19 | . 32 | . 20 | . 10 | . 29 | . 20 |
| 5 | . 12 | . 11 | .13 | . 08 | . 25 | .19 | .19 | . 12 | . 12 | . 24 | . 21 | . 48 | . 29 | . 61 | . 40 |
| 6 | .16 | . 14 | .16 | . 12 | . 21 | .26 | .29 | .15 | . 16 | . 22 | . 24 | . 19 | . 57 | . 66 | . 60 |
| 7 | . 15 | . 11 | .14 | .19 | . 25 | . 27 | . 35 | . 27 | . 17 | . 24 | . 21 | .19 | . 62 | . 68 | . 60 |
| 8 | . 15 | . 11 | . 09 | .14 | . 30 | . 28 | . 32 | . 29 | . 29 | . 29 | . 24 | . 15 | . 62 | . 55 | . 60 |
| 9 | .16 | . 11 | . 16 | .17 | .18 | . 37 | .33 | . 25 | .31 | . 45 | . 25 | .15 | .69 | . 51 | . 60 |
| 10 | .16 | . 11 | . 15 | . 29 | . 21 | . 31 | .46 | . 30 | . 29 | . 53 | . 35 | . 18 | .76 | . 56 | . 60 |
| 11 | . 20 | .13 | .14 | . 18 | . 30 | . 35 | . 42 | . 33 | . 27 | . 45 | .37 | . 22 | . 85 | . 45 | . 60 |
| 12 | .18 | . 29 | . 11 | . 55 | . 24 | . 71 | . 38 | . 29 | . 42 | . 56 | . 34 | . 39 | . 64 | . 61 | . 60 |
| 13 | 1.73 | . 05 | . 22 | . 36 | . 29 | . 44 | . 80 | . 21 | . 31 | . 50 | . 55 | . 13 | . 44 | . 20 | . 60 |
| $14=\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{I}}$ | . 20 | . 20 | . 20 | . 20 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 40 | . 40 | . 40 | . 60 | . 60 | . 60 |

Table 12. Saithe: West of Scotland (VI).
Estimates of fishing mortality from Virtual Population Analysis ( $M=0.2$ )

|  | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | . 04 | . 02 | . 03 | . 01 | . 00 | . 01 | . 00 | . 02 | . 00 | . 01 | . 00 | . 02 | . 23 | . 11 | . 40 |
| 3 | . 27 | .14 | . 17 | . 12 | . 22 | . 16 | . 19 | . 15 | . 13 | . 15 | . 15 | . 14 | . 29 | . 84 | . 60 |
| 4 | . 49 | . 39 | . 36 | . 19 | . 28 | . 57 | . 36 | . 30 | . 26 | . 39 | . 26 | . 35 | . 29 | 1.11 | . 50 |
| 5 | . 62 | . 34 | . 38 | .16 | . 29 | . 35 | . 47 | . 23 | . 20 | . 27 | . 26 | . 34 | . 19 | . 51 | . 50 |
| 6 | . 36 | . 44 | . 31 | . 26 | . 25 | . 36 | . 21 | . 18 | . 11 | . 12 | . 16 | . 24 | . 26. | .37 | . 40 |
| 7 | . 33 | .36 | . 44 | .21 | . 30 | . 33 | . 15 | . 22 | . 14 | . 14 | . 08 | . 18 | . 22 | . 46 | .30 |
| 8 | . 23 | . 32 | . 29 | . 51 | .18 | .29 | . 07 | . 15 | . 09 | . 14 | . 06 | . 15 | . 20 | . 27 | . 30 |
| 9 | . 15 | . 42 | . 25 | . 26 | .31 | . 49 | . 12 | . 11 | . 06 | . 07 | . 08 | . 13 | . 16 | . 18 | . 30 |
| 10 | . 05 | . 21 | . 52 | . 05 | . 32 | . 41 | . 15 | . 19 | . 07 | . 06 | . 07 | . 12 | . 14 | . 14 | . 30 |
| 11 | . 09 | . 46 | . 06 | .33 | .36 | . 85 | . 23 | . 25 | . 11 | . 08 | . 07 | . 15 | . 32 | . 18 | . 30 |
| 12 | . 02 | . 65 | . 48 | . 07 | . 15 | . 14 | . 28 | .33 | . 19 | . 11 | . 11 | . 10 | . 27 | . 30 | . 30 |
| 13 | . 19 | . 17 | . 90 | . 19 | . 09 | . 41 | . 16 | . 61 | . 19 | . 35 | . 23 | . 24 | . 22 | . 24 | .30 |
| $14=F_{I}$ | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 | . 30 |

Table 13. Estimates from Virtual Population Analysis of Population Size (millions) at 2 years old of each year-class. Estimates of year-class size of the more recent year-classes are less reliable than those of earlier year-classes.

| Year-class <br> Area | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 | 1971 | 1972 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| North-East Arctic | 115 | 225 | 349 | 121 | 383 | 210 | 263 | 193 | 366 | 368 | 406 | 233 | 405 | 180 | 212 |
| North Sea | 37 | 36 | 50 | 84 | 183 | 137 | 181 | 137 | 308 | 368 | 324 | 163 | 178 | 170 | 72 |
| Iceland | 41 | 38 | 103 | 67 | 114 | 87 | 85 | 74 | 112 | 70 | 51 | 32 | 60 | 90 | 123 |
| Faroe Islands | 10 | 14 | 24 | 17 | 25 | 22 | 25 | 21 | 40 | 30 | 38 | 45 | 32 | 56 | 5 |
| West of Scotland | 8 | 8 | 18 | 14 | 31 | 22 | 19 | 27 | 19 | 28 | 14 | 26 | 29 | 42 | 28 |

Table 14. Estimates of present Fishing Mortality rates and mean agesat first capture, with corresponding values for maximum yield per recruit.

| Area | Estimates present <br> Fishing Mortality | Present Mean Age at <br> First Capture (years) | Optimum Mean Age at First <br> (years) <br> Capture for Present F | Optimum F at Present <br> Age at First Capture |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| North-East Arctic | $0.3-0.4$ | 3.0 | 5.5 | 0.3 |
| North Sea | $0.3-0.4$ | 5.0 | 5 | 0.3 |
| Iceland | $0.5-0.6$ | 5.0 | 5 | 0.5 |
| Faroe Islands | $0.4-0.6$ | 4.5 | 0.4 |  |
| West of Scotland | $0.3-0.5$ | 3.0 | 5 | 0.4 |

Table 15. Percentages by Weight of Saithe less than 30, 35 and 40 cm in Length in the Landings from the Different Areas ${ }^{\text {T }}$.

| Country | Length | Percentage by Weight |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | I+II | IV | Va | Vb |  | VI |
| England | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | 0 |
|  | 35 | 0 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 |  | 0.1 |
|  | 40 | 0.2 | 2.4 | $>0.1$ | 0.1 |  | 1.4 |
| Faroe | 40 |  |  | 0 |  |  |  |
| Germany, F.R. | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |
|  | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  |
|  | 40 | $>0.1$ | 0.3 | 0 | 0 |  |  |
| Iceland | 40 |  |  |  | 0 |  |  |
| Netherlands | 30 |  | 0 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 35 |  | 0.1 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 40 |  | 1.0 |  |  |  |  |
| Norway | 30 | 0.9 | 1.3 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 35 | 5.8 | 8.8 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 40 | 18.1 | 43.5 |  |  |  |  |
| USSR | 30 | $<0.1$ | 0 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 35 | 0.6 | 0.2 |  |  |  |  |
|  | 40 | 6.6 | 2.8 |  |  | Clyde | $\begin{aligned} & \text { North } \\ & \text { Coast } \end{aligned}$ |
| Scotland | 30 |  | 0 |  | 0 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
|  | 35 |  | 0.2 |  | $>0.1$ | 7.9 | 2.6 |
|  | 40 |  | 4.3 |  | 0.4 | 20.9 | 16.1 |

*) Averaged for 1971-73, except USSR and Netherlands (1970-72) and Scotland (1972-73).

Table 16. Lengths of Saithe Corresponding to Different Rates of Retention. Selection Factor: 3.8.

|  | Mesh Size (mm) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: |
| \% Retention | 80 | 130 | 145 |
| 5 | 18.4 | 37.4 | 43.1 |
| 25 | 26.2 | 45.2 | 50.9 |
| 50 | 30.4 | 49.4 | 55.1 |
| 75 | 35.0 | 54.0 | 59.7 |
| 95 | 41.2 | 60.2 | 65.9 |

This paper not to be cited without prior referencesiollot. to the author ${ }^{2 /}$

International Council for the
Explaration of the Sea
C.M.1975/F: II

Demersal Fish
(Northern) Committee
The Arcto-Norwegian Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (Linne) Fishery and their Stock Status
Sonina, M.A.

Abstract
The haddock fishery in the Barents Sea
in 1950-1974, their abundance and stock (biomass) are considered in the paper. The relationship between the fishery and stock and growth rate of the species is analysed. The cause of the abundance reduction of immature fish population in 1974 is revealed. The forecast of the stock status and possible optimum tield of haddock in 1975 and 1976 is given due to the assessment of the year classes abundance:

$$
x^{x} x
$$

Immature haddock mainly inhabit in the southem Barents Sea and Bear Island - Spitsbergen area. The species, reached

[^2]the maturity,migrate to the spawning grounds into the Norwegian Sea: As usually,after spawning mature haddock migrate back to the southern Barents Sea in small numbers (Sonina,1969, 1973).

Haddock start to mature since the age of 3-4 years at the length of $37-42 \mathrm{~cm}$ and on the whole they become matured at the age of $5-6$ complete years with mean length of 47 cm : I'hus, haddock inhabit in the Barents Sea mainly at the age up to 7 years and constitute the bulk of the catches at the age of 3-5 complete years (Konstantinov and Mukhin,1965; Sonina, 1967). Mean length of haddock in the southern Barents. Sea in 1950-1974 was equal to $40^{\circ} 7 \mathrm{~cm}$ and their average weight was 795 (Table 1): -

Haddock at the age of 5-10 years with the length of $50-70 \mathrm{~cm}$ dominated in the catches taken in the Norwegian Sea:

In 1950-1966 an annual mean yield of baddock taken by all countries and USSR in the southern Barents Sea constituted $102^{\circ} \cdot 2$ thou.t. $46^{\circ} 6$ thou.t. was taken by USSR: Annual mean Jield of haddock in the Norwegian Sea was $35^{\circ} 3$ thou.t. and in the Bear Island-Spitsbergen area - $4^{\circ} 3$ thou.t. (Nizovtsev, Ponomarenko,Sonina,Shestova,1970). The Soviet Union chiefly undertakes the haddock fishery in the southern Barents Sea:

The investigations showed that the existing fishery does not mainly effect the stock and abundance of haddock, because the commercial mortality is greatly overlapped by
natural fluctuations of the Jeat classes abundance. The haddock stock in the Barents Sea depends mainly upon the abundance of successive year classes;growth and maturity rates (Sonina, 1969,1970a):

The abundance fluctuations of the Arcto-Norwegian haddock Jear classes are fairly great: for fry - 250 times.

The abundance of the haddock year classes depends mainly upon the survival conditions of fry (Sonina, 1969; Ponomarenko,1973;Hylen and Dragesund,1973) and at present time it does not depend upon the parents stock value, sizeagm composition and sex composition of spawners, ratio between recruits and second spawness in population and extruded egss (Sonina, 1969, 1970a, 1972, 1973).

The efficiency of haddock fishery in the southern Barents Sea depends upon the stock state, distributien and bohaviour of fish, chiefly (Sonina, 1969, 1970b): The coefficient of correlation between the Fiela taken by the Soviet steam trawlers and their catch (stock index) per one hour trawling taken in the southern Barents Sea in 1950-1953 constituted $+0^{\bullet} 89 \pm 0^{\bullet} 05$. Theigreatest catches of haddock for the period analysed were taken in those Jears (1954, 1955, 1956, 1957,1961, $1962,1965,1966,1967,1968,1972,1973$ ), when the stock-mas fairly great. In 1952-1968 in most cases the abundance and stock of commercial stock of haddock were on the average and good levels, because in these years the abundant jear classes dominated in stock.

In 1950-1964 one stroig;six rich,four average and four poor year classes were registered (Table 2). The year classes with the greatest abundance we refer to the "strong" ones. The next symbols for year classes arb: "rich","average" and "poor". In 1969-1971 the abundance and biomass of the commercial baddock stock in the Barents Sea sharply decreased because of scanty of the 1965, 1966 and 1968 year classes: In these jears the baddock gield in the Barents Sea considerably reduced. However, in 1972 and 1973 the abundance and biomass considerably increased because the haddock of the abundant 1969 year class reached the commercial size and their yield was record. In 1972 and 1973 the Soviet vessels took 176 and. 186 thou.t. of haddock, that exceeded the maximum yield taken in 1956, when the species of the abundant 1950 year class at the age of 6 years constituted the bulk of catches. In 1973 the haddock abundance in the Barents Sea was on considerably high level. 546 specimens were registered in the mean weighted catch per one hour trawling, that exceeded the indexes of relative abundance of population in all the previous years since 1927 (Sonina, 1969). The 1969 year class of haddock was greater than the $1950^{\circ}$ one, which up to the present time was considered to be the most abundant for the last 35 years. So,if the species of the 1950 year class at the age of 3 complete years constituted $137^{\circ} 7$ specimens in the mean weighted catch per one hour trawling and at the age of 4 years - $193^{\circ} 7$ specimens, then the 1969

Jear class haddock at the adequate age constituted $252^{\circ} 5$ and $300^{\circ} 2$ specimens, respectively (Table 3). The average catch per one hour trawling taken by the Soviet steam trawlers in 1972 and 1973 was twice higher than in 1953 and $1954-2^{\circ} 3$ and $3^{\circ} 2$ ggainst $1^{\circ} 1$ and $1^{\circ} 6$ centners.

Compared to the previous year in 1974 the abundance of population considerably decreased. So, if in 1973 in May and June in the coastal areas 566 specimens were registered in the mean catch per one hour trawling, then in 1974.-. 193 specimens.

In 1973 the species of the abundant 1969 and rich 1970 year classes of $31-50 \mathrm{~cm}$ long dominated in population. The species of the 1969 jear class constituted $68^{\circ} \%$ in the catches, and those of 1970-20.7\%.

In 1974 the catches of haddock in the southern Barents Sea mainly consisted of the 1969-1971 year classes species of 31-55 cm long. The species of the abundant 1969 and rich 1970 jear classes constituted the same percentage : $39^{\circ} 5$ and 39.9\%. The haddock of the 1969 year class was registered in greater quantities than those of 1970 and 1971 year classes'. Consequently;in 1974 the abundance-of species of the strong 1969 year class considerably decreased,that caused the abundance reduction of immature fish population. The investigations showed that this took place.mainly in consequence of early sex maturity of the 1969 year ciass species and transport of mature fish into the spawning stock.

It is known that sex maturity of fish depends upon their growth rate. Faster the haddock grow, at earlier age "they become to be matured and earlier migrate from the Barents Sea (Sonina, 1967,1969):

In the fifties-sixties the slowest growth was observed for the 1950 and 1951 year classes haddock (Table 4) :In this connection the species of these year classes as a whole reached the maturity at the age of 6-7 Jears and inhabited in the Barents Sea up to 8-9 years old. Comparatively low growth rate was typical for the species of the rich 1959 1961 year classes and they also matured later than those of fast growing jear classes and occurred in the Barents Sea up to 7-8 years old. On contrary, the haddock of the 1956,1957,1963-1969 year classes had the high growth rate: The species of the $1956,1957,1963$ and 1964 year classes reached their maturity at the age of $5-6$ years: Much earlier the haddock of the 1967 year class matured. The males of this year class at the age of 4 Jears constituted among the recruits on spawning grounds over 50\%, and feriales - about $25 \%$ in samples collected (Sonina, 1972):

The 1969 year class species were characterized with approximately the same growth rate as the haddock of the 1967 year class and they reached their maturity also early: They started to spawn at the age of 3 Jears, a lot of fish matured at the age of 4 years and, on the whole, they became matured at the age of 5 complete years:

The studying of the spawning population of haddock showed that in 1973 the species of the 1969. year class at the age of 4 years constituted among the recruits $85^{\circ} 5 \%$. Besides, the haddock of this year class at the age of 4 years spawned for the second time ( $4^{\circ} 1 \%$ ). In 1974 the haddock of. the 1969 year class also dominated among the recruits po... pulation $\left(94^{\circ} 5 \%\right)$, and among the second spawners the species of this year class constituted $32^{\circ} 7 \%$ :

If in 1973 the "remainder" in the spawning population ( $59^{\circ} 8 \%$ ) exceeded the recruitment ( $40^{\circ} 2 \%$ ), then in 1974 the recruitment ( $77^{\circ} 9 \%$ ) was considerably greater than the "remainder" ( $22 \cdot 1 \%$ ); that was the evidence of significant recruitment of the spaming haddock population with the species of the most abundant 1969-year class,which the recruits population was mainly consisted of ( $94^{\circ} 5 \%$ ). In spring 1974 during the ichtivoplankton survey an extraudinary great number of extruded eegs of hadock was observed, that was also the evidence of fairly great abundance of the spawning fish, and it was considerably higher than that of 1959-1973. Thus, the main mass of fish of the 1969 year class reached their maturity at the age of 5 years and migrated away from the Barents Sea: In 1975 the species of the rich 1970 and average 1971 and 1972 year classes constituted the bulk of haddock catches in the Barents sea. In 1976 the population will recruit with the species of the rich 1973 "year class, Thus, in 1975 and 1976 the haddock stocks will be on the average level and in interests of rational exploration the annual field in the Barents Sea
in these years can constitute 100-120 thoust.

## CONCLUSIONS

$\therefore$ 1.In 1950-1974 the abundance and stock (biomass) of haddock in the Barents Sea were on the comparatively high level. The population was rather regularly recruited with the abuncont year classes: From 1950 to 1973 two strong, eight rich,seven average and seven poor year classes were registered:
2. Commercial stock of haddock depends upon the abundance of successive year classes, recruited'the commercial stock and upon the growith rate of species: The higher the growth rate, earlier haddock reach the sex maturity and migrate from the Barents Sea:
3.A close relationship exists between the haddock stocks and their annual field ( $r=+0^{\circ} 89 \pm 0^{\circ} 05$ ).
4.The 1969 year class was more abundant than the 1950 one, that was considered up to present to be the most abu-ndant-for the last 35 years. In consequence of this in 1972 and 1973 the abundance of the commercial stock of haddock in the Barents Sea was the highest for the period analysed. However, the 1969 year class haddock had the bigh rate of growth and on the whole reached their maturity at an age of 5 years and transported into the spawning stock. Considerable abundance. reduction of the immature fish in the Barents Sea in 1974 was explained mainly by this fact:

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The indexes of abundance and stock of the Arcto-
Norwegian haddock in the Barents Sea

| Year | Mean le of one cimen, |  | ber <br> $s$ in <br> ghte <br> 1 b | Mean <br> per <br> hour <br> ing, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1950 | 33,0 | 625 | I28 | 0,8 |
| I95I | 33,8 | 480 | I28 | 0,6 |
| I952 | 30,2 | 380 | 264 | I, 0 |
| 1953 | 34,8 | 500 | 223 | I,I |
| I954 | 37,5 | 630 | 255 | I, 6 |
| 1955 | 40,I | 700 | 329 | 2,3 |
| I956 | 44,8 | 950 | 315 | 3,0 |
| I957 | 43,8 | 860 | 232 | 2,0 |
| I958 | 42,4 | 880 | 102 | 0,9 |
| I959 | 37,0 | 700 | I29 | 0,9 |
| 1960 | 38,I | 700 | 187 | I, 3 |
| I96I | 42,9 | 950 | I47 | I, 4 |
| I962 | 42,8 | 930 | I6I | I, 5 |
| I963 | 40,9 | 760 | I32 | I, 0 |
| 1964 | 38,3 | 590 | 237 | I, 4 |
| I965 | 4I, 6 | 765 | 236 | I,7 |
| I966 | 42,4 | 850 | I77 | I,5 |
| 1957 | 46,6 | IIIO | I62 | I, 8 |
| I968 | 46,2 | 980 | I49 | I,5 |
| 1969 | 49,8 | I350 | 4 I | 0,6 |
| 1970 | 4I,5 | 840 | 75 | 0.7 |
| I97I | 46,3 | II35 | 62 | 0,7 |
| 1972 | 40,6 | 700 | 330 | 2,3 |
| 1973 | 38,7 | 590 | 546 | 3,2 |
| I974 | 43,2 | 925 | I60. | I,5 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { I950- } \\ & \text { I974 } \end{aligned}$ | 40.7 | 795 | I96 | I, 5 |

The abundance of haddock year classes due to the data of young determination and fishery in 1950-1973

a)

Number of the 1950-1970 year classes haddock at different age in the average-weighted catch per one hour trawling (in specimens)

Year class


I950 I95I $27,8 \quad I 3,9 \quad 29,4 \quad 22,6 \quad I 3,6 \quad 4,4 \quad I, 3 \quad 0,8 \quad 0,3$ I952: $4,3 \mathrm{I} 3,4 \mathrm{IO}, 3 \mathrm{I} 2,7 \quad 4,2 \quad 0,7 \quad 0,6 \quad 0, I \quad 0, I$ I953 I7,9 46,7 96,0 39,6 II,9 2,3 I,2 $0,9 \cdots 0,2$ 1954 IO,I I8,5 $9,5 \quad 5, I \quad I, 5,0,5 \quad 0,50, I \quad-$ $1955 \quad 3,4^{\circ} 6,7 \quad 8,8 \quad 7,9 \quad I, 9 \quad I, 0.0,3 \quad 0, I \cdots-$
I956 $2 I, I \quad 70,8 \quad 84,2 \quad 39,5 \quad I 7,5 \quad 5,0 \quad I, 2 \quad 0,6 \vdots \quad-$ 1957 26,5 67,4 55,0 38,0 $7, I \quad I, 7 \quad 0,6 \quad 0,4 \quad 0,2$ I958 $\quad 9,9 \quad 27,5 \quad 27,6$ II,6 $3,8 \quad 0,8 \cdot 0,4 \quad 0, I:-$ $1959 \quad \mathrm{I} 9,2 \quad 59,9 \quad 64,0 \quad 39,9 \quad \mathrm{I}, 0 \quad 3,0 \quad \mathrm{I}, 2 \quad 0,2 \quad 0,2$ $I 960$ I4,0 39,0 II5,7 80,I 27,4 IO,0 I,7 0,3 I,I I96I $4, I \quad 69,0$ II9,3 $64,6 \quad 28,5 \quad 4,6 \quad I, 4 \quad 0,7 \quad I, 0$ I962 $4,4 \quad I 3,4 \quad 23,4 \quad I 7,9 \quad 3,3 \quad I, 3 \quad I, 0 \quad 0,4 \cdots \quad 0,2$ I963 7,4 48,7 70,0 3 IT,4 $6,6 \quad 3,7 \quad I, 8 \quad 0,6 \quad 0,2$ $1964 \quad 9, I \quad 33,9$ I07,0 $23, I \quad 9,4 \quad 2,5.0,7 \quad 0,2$ I965 0,2 0,8 I,2 I,3 0,5 0,6 -$1966-2,2 \quad 2,7 \quad I, 7 \quad 2,6 \quad 0, I$ $1967 \quad 4,8 \quad 54,6 \quad 37,6 \quad 30,4 \quad 2,4$ I968 . 0,6 2,9 I9,5 25,2

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text { T969 } & I 3,7252,5300,2 \\
I 970 & 2 I, 3 I 70,0
\end{array}
$$

Mean length of the 1950-1972 year classes haddock at different age in the southern Barents Sea (cm)



[^0]:    F) The General Secretary, ICES,
    Charlottenlund Slot, 2920 Charlottenlund, DENMARK.

[^1]:    \#) German Democratic Republic catch data taken from "Atlantic Fish Catches of the Socialist Countries, 1961-72" (Moscow, 1974).

[^2]:    I/ The Polar Hesearch Institute of Marine Fisheries and

    - Oceanography (PINRO),Mumansk,USSR.

