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Studies of Length Structure of the Caranx rhonchus Stock  
off the West African Coast (Cape Verde - Cape Blanc)

by

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The main habitat of Caranx rhonchus is located in the area from 22°30'N to 8°N. The species is also observed in more southern areas, where it is of less importance. C. rhonchus forms dense concentrations within a range of near-bottom temperature from 15°C to 22°C.

Pre-spawning stocks of this species concentrate over the southern parts of the shelf, from 18°N to 9°N. Spawning takes place in the shallow water zone (5-75m) in summer.

C. rhonchus is found at the localities of the shelf mentioned above in detached local groups which inhabit a definite area of the shelf, where they can find all that is required for the life cycle; there it spawns, fattens, etc. The fish tend to move from time to time, depending on the dynamics of water masses and food reserves, but these movements are insignificant in time and space.

In the northern area, Cape Blanc, C. rhonchus is found in mixed age groups, mainly 4 - 6 years of age.

Southwards, from 19°N to 14°N the catches contain a more narrow range of age groups, mainly the 5 - 6 year olds. Four year olds are seldom found, and the young fish of 1 - 3 years are absent.

The length structure of the exploited concentrations of C. rhonchus from the main fishing grounds is presented in Table 1.

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TABLE 1

LENGTH STRUCTURE OF THE EXPLOITED CONCENTRATIONS OF C. RHONCHUS ON THE MAIN FISHING GROUNDS

		LENGTH IN CM																									
YEAR	AREA	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42		
1968	CAPE BLANC 19°N-24°N					4 0.2	8 0.5	22 1.3	53 3.1	171 10.0	324 19.0	30 1.8	243 14.2	206 12.2	155 9.0	145 8.5	114 6.7	120 7.0	65 3.8	41 2.4	2 0.1		2 0.1		2 0.1	1 709	100%
	SAINT-LOUIS 16°N-18°30'N									2 0.3	63 9.8	70 11.0	160 25.0	128 20.0	77 12.0	64 10.0	42 6.5	20 3.1	11 1.7	4 0.6						641	100%
	CAPE VERDE 14°N-15°N							1 0.1	11 0.9	52 4.0	92 7.1	163 12.6	171 13.1	261 20.0	250 19.2	170 13.0	101 7.8	23 1.8	5 0.4							1 300	100%
1969	CAPE BLANC 19°N-24°N	1 0.1	10 1.7	23 3.9	83 14.0	42 7.1	24 4.0	7 1.2	9 1.5	32 5.4	114 19.2	132 22.0	78 13.1	28 4.7	9 1.5	2 0.4	1 0.2									595	100%
	SAINT-LOUIS 16°N-18°30'N											1 0.5	6 3.0	9 4.5	26 13.4	42 21.0	36 18.0	50 25.0	26 13.0	3 1.5	2 0.1					200	100%
	CAPE VERDE 14°N-15°N																										
1970	CAPE BLANC 19°N-24°N												3 1.5	2 1	18 9.0	34 17.0	40 20.0	53 26.5	28 14.0	15 7.5	6 3.0	1 0.5				200	100%
	SAINT-LOUIS 16°N-18°30'N				5 -	24 0.4	102 1.3	225 3.7	360 5.4	689 9.7	1 040 13.9	814 11.0	931 12.5	5 911 8.2	599 8.3	551 7.7	437 6.3	361 5.4	181 3.1	109 2.3	51 0.7	103 0.1			3 -	7 976	100%