

Size-Composition of *Trachurus trecae* Stock in the  
Shelf Waters of the North-Western African Coast

by

S. M. Overko<sup>x)</sup>

Fisheries for *Trachurus trecae* have been carried out by Soviet fishing vessels in the Central Eastern Atlantic since 1962. The most densely exploited concentrations of *T. trecae* are found within the area from Cape Verde to Cape Blanc (14°N to 23°N).

This fishery is based upon individuals varying in age from 2 to 5 years. The fish are mainly found at depths ranging from 30 m to 250 m; near-bottom temperatures range from 14°C to 18°C.

Spawning takes place from October to April at depths of 50 m to 250 m. Pre-spawning and spawning concentrations are not observed north of 19°N. The young fish of this species are equally distributed over a great area of the shelf from Cape Verde to Cape Blanc.

The length of *T. trecae* increases with depth. Thus, at depths of 30-34 m young fish of 13 cm to 19 cm are found. At depths of 50 m to 200 m the length of the fish varies only little between 20 cm to 33 cm, and at the maximum depths of 200 m to 250 m the bulk of the catches is composed of individuals 34-39 cm long.

Annual observations carried out by AtlantNIRO research vessels have provided information on the length structure of the exploited *T. trecae* stock.

The variation in the size-composition by years and areas is given in Table 1.

x)

Mr. S.M. Overko,  
Atlantic Research Institute  
of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography,  
(AtlantNIRO),  
Kaliningrad,  
U. S. S. R.

