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NOTES ON SALMON CATCHES AT WEST GREENLAND, NORWEGIAN SEA AND HOME WATERS
IN 1974

by

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It was recommended at last year's Council meeting (C. Res. 1974/4:13) that member countries should continue to report data on salmon catches at West Greenland, in the Norwegian Sea and in home waters and that these should be worked up by the Chairman of the ICES/ICNAF Joint Working Party on North Atlantic Salmon and presented to the Council's statutory meetings. This note summarises the data supplied by member countries for 1974 in accordance with this recommendation.

1. West Greenland Fishery

Table 1 gives the provisional catch data for the West Greenland fishery in 1974 together with revised data for 1973 and those for the previous years 1960-1972. (This table corresponds with Table 1 of the last Report of the ICES/ICNAF Working Party: C.M. 1974 Doc. M:2). As in previous years, the data for the fishery by Greenlanders in 1974 refer to the combined drift-net and set gill-net components, for which separate statistics are not available.

The provisional data for 1974 show that the catch in 1974, at about 1959 m. tons, was approximately 400 tons less than in 1973. This decrease is attributable almost entirely to the Greenlandic fishery, in which an early closure was enforced to meet the requirements of the existing ICNAF catch regulations. The total catch by the drift-net fishery, at about 760 m. tons, was approximately the same as in 1973. (The total catch by Norwegian, Danish and Faroese drift-netters in 1974 equalled the combined catches for these countries specified for 1974 in the ICNAF regulations, although the Norwegian catch was about 60 m. tons lower and the Danish and Faroese catch about 60m. tons higher than their specified catch limits).

The numbers of vessels, excluding those registered in Greenland, taking part in the drift-net fishery each year since 1964 are tabulated below.

Year	Denmark	Faroes	Norway	Sweden	Total
1965	0	1	1	0	2
1966	0	1	1	0	2
1967	4	4	3	0	11
1968	10	2	4	1	17
1969	15	6	11	2	34
1970	13	7	10	1	31
1971	11	3	8	0	22
1972	12	4	8	0	24
1973	11	4	7	0	22
1974	8	1	*	0	?

*No data supplied

Although no information is available for Norway, it is evident from these data that there was a significant decrease in the number of drift-netters operating in the offshore fishery in 1974. These together with the catch data suggest a higher catch rate, and hence available stock density, than in 1973.

2. Norwegian Sea Fishery

The provisional catch data for the long-line fishery in the Norwegian Sea and the drift-net fishery within Norwegian fishery limits, together with those for the years 1965-1973, are given in Table 2 (corresponding with Table 7 of the Report of the ICES/ICNAF Working Party).

These data show that the total catch in the long-line fishery in 1974 was about 160 tons less than in 1973, and only about 40% of the peak catches in 1968 and 1969. Estimates of average catch-per-unit-effort, expressed as numbers of salmon per 1000 hooks, for Danish vessels fishing in the area between latitudes 68° and 74°N and longitudes 0° and 22°E in May and the first half of June in each of the years 1969-1974 are given below:

Year	Period	
	1-31 May	1-15 June
1969	44(17,378)	28(4,721)
1970	41(10,791)	17 (257)
1971	40(23,285)	26(6,584)
1972	42(31,337)	30(6,814)
1973	80(28,139)	48(6,555)
1974	57(16,914)	19(1,280)

(Figures in brackets refer to the numbers of salmon caught by the sampled vessels).

The average catch rates in both periods were substantially lower in 1974 than the ^{high} levels in 1973 but the value for May was still substantially higher than in the preceding years.

3. Home Waters Fisheries

The reported statistics of home-waters catches in 1974 are given in Table 3 (corresponding with Table 10 of the Working Party Report), together with revised data for 1973 and those for the preceding years 1960-1972.

Although data were not reported for all countries, those for the main salmon producing countries show that in 1974:-

- The total catch by Ireland was approximately 200 m. tons greater than in 1973, reaching its highest level recorded in the 15-years period and continuing the upward trend of recent years. The increase was due to a 272 ton rise in the grilse catch, the salmon catch decreasing by 74 tons.
- The total catch by Norway was approximately 200 tons lower than in 1973. The catches of both salmon and grilse decreased, the former by 128 tons and the latter by 81 tons.
- The total catch by Scotland was 520 tons lower than in 1973. As in the Norwegian fishery, the catches of both salmon and grilse decreased, the former by 307 tons and the latter by 213 tons.

- d) The total England and Wales catch in 1974 was, like the Scottish one, lower than in 1973.
- e) The Canadian catch was approximately 100 tons higher than in 1973.

Estimates of catch-per-unit effort in the home-waters fisheries of those countries reporting their latest statistics are given in Table 4 (corresponding with Table 11 of the Working Party Report) for the years 1960-1974 (1960-1973 for Scotland, including revised figures for 1971). Data for Canada are not included, owing to the breakdown of the data series following the national ban on commercial fishing for salmon in 1972.

Table 1 Salmon catches at West Greenland, 1960-1974, in metric tons, round fresh weight

Year	Drift Net				Gill Net and Drift Net Greenland ^d .	Total
	Norway	Faroes	Sweden	Denmark		
1960	0	0	0	0	60	60
1961	0	0	0	0	127	127
1962	0	0	0	0	244	244
1963	0	0	0	0	466	466
1964	0	0	0	0	1539	1539
1965	a)	36	0	0	(825)	(861)
1966	32	87	0	0	1251	1370
1967	78	155	0	85	1283	1601
1968	138	134	4	272	579	1127
1969	250	215	30	355	1360 (385) ^d	2210
1970	270	259	8	358	1244	2146 ^c
1971	340	255	0	645	1449	2689
1972	175	144	0	401	1320	2040
1973	215	171	0	385	1585	2356
1974 ^b	145	110	0	505	1199	1959

- a. Catch figures unavailable but catch known to be less than Faroos
- b. Provisional data
- c. Including 7 m. tons caught by long line by one of two Greenland vessels in the Labrador Sea early in 1970.
- d. Up to 1968, gill-net only; after 1968 gill-net and drift-net.
The figure in brackets for 1969 is an estimate of the minimum drift-net catch.

Table 2 (Table 7 of Working Party Report)

Catches in the Norwegian Sea Long-line Fishery and in the Drift-net Fishery within Norwegian Fishery Limits, 1965-74. Metric tons, round fresh weight.

Year	Norwegian Sea Long-line Fishery										Total Longline Catch	Catch by Drift Net Fishery within Norwegian Fishery Limits	
	Denmark		Faroes		Fed.Rep.Germany		Norway		Sweden				
	No. of Vessels	Catch	No. of Vessels	Catch	No. of Vessels	Catch	No. of Vessels ^e	Catch	No. of Vessels	Catch			
1965	1-2	- ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- ^a	283
1966	10	- ^a	0	0	0	0	0	0	- ^a	- ^a	- ^a	- ^a	312
1967	22	77	0	0	0	0	?	- ^a	6	- ^a	77+	77+	333
1968	28	177	2	5 ^b	0	0	?	100 ^d	16	126	408 ^d	408 ^d	228
1969	40	413	4	7 ^c	5	24	?	450 ^d	2	24	918 ^d	918 ^d	234
1970	60	481	5	12 ^b	4	21	?	420 ^d	1	24	958 ^d	958 ^d	183
1971	20	162	0	0	2	9	?	300 ^d	1	17	488 ^{d f}	488 ^{d f}	263
1972	20	182	2	9 ^c	2	4	?	300 ^d	1	20	515 ^{d f}	515 ^{d f}	404
1973	15	233	5	28 ^c	0	0	?	250 ^d	2	50	561 ^{d f}	561 ^{d f}	375
1974	10	148	5	20 ^c	0	0	?	200 ^d	1	25	393	393	

- a. Catch not known
 b. Roughly 70% of catch taken in vicinity of the Faroes
 c. All taken in vicinity of Faroes.
 d. Estimated catch
 e. Precise number unknown
 f. Excluding catches discarded because undersized.

Table 3 (Table 10 of Working Party Report)

Catches in Home Waters, 1960-1974 (salmon plus grilse except where shown separately) in metric tons, round fresh weight

Year	England & Wales			France	Iceland	Ireland ^b			Northern ^b Ireland	Norway			Scotland			Sweden ^{c,d}	USSR ^e	Canada ^d			USA
	S	G	T			S	G	T		S	G	T	S	G	T			S	G	T	
1960	-	-	283	50-100	100	-	-	743	139	-	-	1659 ^f	950	476	1436	40	1100	-	-	1635	< 2
1961	-	-	232	50-100	127	-	-	707	132	-	-	1533 ^f	820	376	1196	27	790	-	-	1580	< 2
1962	-	-	318	50-100	125	-	-	1459	356	-	-	1935 ^f	1015	725	1740	15	710	-	-	1717	< 2
1963	-	-	325	50-100	145	-	-	1458	306	-	-	1786 ^f	1286	412	1698	16	480	-	-	1848	< 2
1964	-	-	307	50-100	135	-	-	1617	377	-	-	2147 ^f	1216	698	1914	16	590	-	-	2066	< 2
1965	-	-	320	50-100	133	-	-	1457	281	-	-	2000	1042	560	1602	17	590	-	-	2113	< 2
1966	-	-	387	50-100	106	-	-	1238	287	-	-	1791	1069	555	1624	17	570	-	-	2356	< 2
1967	-	-	420	50-100	146	-	-	1463	449	-	-	1960	1245	888	2133	23	883	-	-	2859	< 2
1968	-	-	282	50-100	162	-	-	1413	312	-	-	1514	1020	543	1563	14	827	-	-	2104	< 2
1969	264 ^a	113 ^a	377	50-100	133	(260) ^g	(1470) ^g	1730	267	801	582	1383	987	954	1947	9	360	1546 ^a	411 ^a	1957	< 2
1970	213 ^a	214 ^a	527	50-100	195	268	1519	1787	297	816	355	1171	802	622	1424	?	(460)	1468 ^a	629 ^a	2097	< 2
1971	299 ^a	127 ^a	426	50-100	204	175	1464	1639	234	773	435	1208	715	704	1419	56	(443)	1440 ^a	394 ^a	1834	< 2
1972	323 ^a	119 ^a	442	50-100	(224)	200	1604	1804	232	1054	514	1568	987	706	1693	35	(465)	1106 ^a	419 ^a	1525	< 2
1973 ^h	327 ^a	126 ^a	453	45	?	244	1686	1930	182	1220	506	1726	1120	844	1964	25	?	1470 ^a	695 ^a	2165	2.7
1974 ^h	-	-	373	?	?	170	1958	2128	?	1092	425	1517	813	631	1444	30	?	-	-	2269	?

S = Salmon. G = Grilse. T - Total (Salmon plus Grilse)

a Estimated

b Catch in River Foyle allocated on basis of 50% Ireland and 50% Northern Ireland

c West coast catch only

d Not including angling catch (mainly grilse)

e Mainly salmon

f Including sea trout and sea char catches; less than 5% of total

g Estimated on basis of 1970 catches

h Provisional data

j Figures in brackets for Iceland and USSR taken from Bulletin Statistiques

Table 4 (Table 11 of Working Party Report)

Estimates of Catches per Unit Effort for some Home-Waters Fisheries, 1960-1973

Year	Ireland		Foyle Area	Norway	England and Wales		Scotland			
	Open Sea Drift nets ^a (Nos. of fish)	Licences ^b lbs of fish	Sea Drift Nets ^a (Nos. of fish)	Bag Nets ^c (kgs. of fish)	Drift Nets ^d N.E. Area ^d (Nos. of fish)		Fixed Engines ^e (Nos. of fish)		Net and Coble ^f (Nos. of fish)	
					Salmon	Grilse	Salmon	Grilse	Salmon	Grilse
1960	325	950	104	172	84.8	79.8	12.8	20.3	84.1	77.4
1961	224	1030	-	158	54.3	46.1	12.3	17.2	60.9	61.4
1962	563	2210	297	175	92.8	75.5	14.8	29.6	83.6	134.9
1963	456	1940	334	177	49.4	42.7	19.9	21.8	109.3	62.3
1964	430	1720	392	195	52.6	58.0	23.2	35.6	98.6	113.8
1965	520	1700	361	172	83.6	47.9	17.8	26.6	84.0	99.0
1966	516	1250	375	154	66.6	58.9	19.4	30.4	95.0	104.0
1967	733	1650	524	154	110.5	90.9	21.6	49.9	130.2	170.4
1968	552	1650	482	129	-	-	17.3	29.8	97.9	92.4
1969	491	2077	404	137	134.5	166.5	15.9	49.7	123.4	194.5
1970	422	1899	562	117	170.3	245.3	12.3	35.2	98.9	137.5
1971	420	1683	353	116	84.1	83.4	15.6	41.9	79.3	138.0
1972	353	1662	344	158	138.3	152.1	17.0	38.6	129.7	138.0
1973	350	1815	308	155	162.0	190.0	20.3	51.1	121.9	130.2
1974	760	2157	469	151 ^g	109.8	186.8	h	h	h	h

- a. Salmon + grilse per net (Numbers)
b. Salmon + grilse per licence (lbs)
c. Salmon + grilse per bag net
d. Catch per net licence issued
e. Catch per net per month
f. Catch per crew per month
g. Provisional
h. Data not yet available