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International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

C.M. 1992/G:19
Demersal Fish Committee

REPORT OF THE STUDY GROUP ON BOTTOM TRAWL SURVEYS IN SUB-AREAS VI, VII AND VIII AND DIVISION IXa

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1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

At the 1991 ICES Statutory Meeting the Council decided (C.Res. 1991/2:17), that the Study Group on Bottom Trawl Surveys in Sub-areas VI, VII and VIII and Division IXa (Chairman : Mr J.C. POULARD, France) will work by correspondence for a period of two years to :

- a) assemble data from different national research vessel surveys in a common data base in 1992;
- b) describe the seasonal distribution and relative abundance of commercially important species, including mackerel and horse mackerel in the area;
- c) promote collaboration between national laboratories in coordinating bottom trawl surveys in the area;
- d) submit a written report to the Demersal Fish Committee at the 1992 and 1993 Statutory Meetings.

2 PARTICIPANTS BY CORRESPONDENCE

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3 REPORT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN

Generally speaking little progress has been made during last months with regard to the different terms of reference.

3.1 Survey data exchange format and data base

During the last year meeting, this study group (ANON 1991a) agreed to use the "IYFS data exchange format" for the exchange of survey data. To use this format, the group have to introduce new codes (for species, countries, ships and gears) corresponding to their own needs.

The up dating of the list of species caught during the various national surveys is still in process. The last year study group report will provide the necessary information to complete the lists of codes for countries, ships and gears.

The purpose is to start pooling data collected during the fourth quarter of 1990, because the best coverage of the area is obtained at this time of the year. This work is planned to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1993.

3.2 Seasonal distribution and relative abundance of commercially important species

No progress has been made on this topic. The aim is to map at least five species (in addition to mackerel and horse mackerel) distribution, starting by the fourth quarter of 1990 as it was done for mackerel (Anon 1991b) and horse mackerel (Anon 1991c) in 1991.

3.3 Collaboration between national laboratories

Following the last year recommendation of the study group a comparison of fishing gear performance will be undertaken between Spain and France from 26 September to 4 October 1992.

Surveys planned for the next months in Sub-areas VII and VIII are as follows :

Country	Survey code	Date
SPAIN	D/C	12/09 - 4/10
FRANCE	EVHOE	18/09 - 30/10
NETHERLANDS	DMR	9 - 27/11

4 REFERENCES

- Anon. 1991a. Report of the study group on the coordination of bottom trawl surveys in Sub-areas VI, VII and VIII and Division IXa. ICES, Doc. C.M. 1991/G : 13.
- Anon. 1991b. Mackerel Working Group. ICES, Doc. C.M. 1991/Assess : 19.
- Anon. 1991c. Working Group on the Assessment of the Stocks of Sardine, Horse Mackerel, Anchovy. ICES, Doc. C.M. 1991/Assess : 22