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CANADIAN FIELD RESEARCH STUDIES FOR 1988
IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC

by

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Canadian field research studies for 1988 in the northeast Pacific

Field research was directed primarily at projects involving rockfishes, sablefish, Pacific hake, lingcod, Pacific cod, English sole and spiny dogfish. Field studies to examine the impact of groundfish species on the abundance of herring in the Vancouver area were continued. Species assemblage surveys and stomach analyses of groundfish were also conducted in Hecate Strait in the Charlotte Area. In addition, field testing of a computerized logbook was continued.

(a) Rockfishes

The first of a series of triennial sampling surveys for shelf rockfish was completed, including an examination of rockfish sampling methodology aboard the research vessel W. E. RICKER. Hook and line surveys of inshore rockfish were continued in the Vancouver Area (Strait of Georgia).

(b) Sablefish

On-board monitoring of commercial catches and collection of biological samples were continued. The larval survey to investigate factors controlling year-class strength of sablefish was continued in the Vancouver Area (La Pérouse Bank project).

(c) Pacific hake

Trawl surveys were conducted to monitor the offshore Pacific hake stock in the Vancouver Area (La Pérouse Bank project).

(d) Lingcod

The third hook and line survey in a three-year program to examine relative abundance in the Vancouver Area (Strait of Georgia) was completed.

(e) Pacific cod, English sole

Ovaries were collected in the Charlotte Area (Hecate Strait) for fecundity estimation and histological studies. English sole move to the southern part of Hecate Strait and spawn as early as November, while Pacific cod move to the same area but do not spawn until February.

(f) Dogfish

Tagging was continued in the Vancouver Area for stock delineation studies.

(g) Hecate Strait Project

Studies were continued in 1988 to define species-assemblage distributions for Hecate Strait (Charlotte Area) based on systematic trawl surveys. Stomach samples were analyzed to establish feeding patterns of species assemblages.

(h) La Pérouse Project

Studies were combined to examine groundfish-herring interactions and abundance/recruitment of hake and sablefish in the Vancouver Area off the west coast of Vancouver Island (La Pérouse Bank).

(i) Logbook

Field testing of a computerized logbook-plotter was continued using commercial trawl skippers. This system integrates catch entry data management with a plotter on a micro-computer.