CANADIAN FIELD RESEARCH STUDIES FOR 1991
IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC

by

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Field research was directed primarily at projects involving rockfishes, sablefish, Pacific hake, and lingcod. Field studies to examine the impact of groundfish species on the abundance of herring in the Vancouver Area were continued. In addition, studies of community interaction were conducted in the Strait of Georgia in the Vancouver Area and in Hecate Strait in the Charlotte Area.

(a) Rockfishes

A larval survey for Pacific ocean perch was completed in the Charlotte Area during March. In May and June, two juvenile rockfish surveys were conducted in the Vancouver Area. A hydroacoustic survey for yellowtail rockfish is planned for November in the Vancouver Area.

(b) Sablefish

A biological sampling survey is planned for November in the Vancouver-Charlotte Region.
(c) **Pacific hake**

A spawning distribution survey was conducted in February in the Vancouver-Conception Region. An observer program was continued to obtain biological samples and estimate catches in the Canadian joint-venture and non-Canadian fisheries. A hydroacoustic/trawl abundance distribution survey was conducted in August in the Vancouver-Charlotte Region.

(d) **Lingcod**

A nesting survey, a post-larval survey, and a juvenile survey were conducted to monitor abundance in the Vancouver Area (Strait of Georgia). A transplant of lingcod from the Vancouver-Charlotte Region to depleted habitats in the Strait of Georgia is planned for September, in conjunction with a tracking study.

(e) **La Pérouse Project**

Studies were conducted 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).
(f) **Strait of Georgia Project**

An ongoing study is examining the factors leading to early marine mortality of hatchery-reared salmon. Diet, size, sex, and maturity of spiny dogfish are being monitored in the Strait of Georgia (Vancouver Area).

(g) **Hecate Strait Project**

An assemblage survey cruise was completed in June in the Charlotte Area. All demersal species were sampled.