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**CANADIAN FIELD RESEARCH STUDIES FOR 1992
IN THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC**

by

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Canadian Field Research Studies for 1992 in the Northeast Pacific

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

(a) Rockfishes

A larval survey for Pacific ocean perch was completed in the Charlotte Area during April. Larval concentrations were found at depths between 300 to 400 m, near the spawning adults.

A hook and line survey was completed in the Strait of Georgia (Vancouver Area) during June. Biological samples of inshore rockfish species were obtained, and catch rates were measured to derive a depletion estimator of abundance.

(b) Sablefish

A biological sampling survey is planned for October in the Vancouver-Charlotte Region. In April, a survey of the distribution and abundance of larval sablefish was conducted in the Vancouver Area.

(c) **Pacific hake**

An observer program was continued to obtain biological samples and estimate catches in the Canadian joint-venture fishery. Biological sampling surveys were completed in the Vancouver Area during May and June. In addition, a hydroacoustic/trawl abundance distribution survey was conducted in August in the Vancouver-Charlotte Region.

(d) **Pacific cod**

A juvenile survey is planned for September in the Vancouver Area, with Pacific cod as the primary target species.

(e) **Halibut**

The halibut bycatch study was continued for the trawl fishery in the Charlotte Area. Bycatch mortality is being examined.

(f) **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).

(g) **Strait of Georgia Project**

An ongoing study is examining the factors leading to early marine mortality of hatchery-reared salmon. The distribution, growth and diet of juvenile salmon are being monitored in the Strait of Georgia (Vancouver Area). A monthly sampling program for productivity was also implemented, with temperature, salinity and plankton data collected from ten sites.