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DFO Atlantic Fisheries
Research Document 95/ 32

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MPO Pêches de l'Atlantique
Document de recherche $95 / 32$

Update on the Status
of Unit 3 Redfish: 1994
by

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#### Abstract

The document summarizes commercial fishery and research survey data for Unit 3 redfish during 1994. Most of the catch was taken by small otter trawlers ( less than 65 feet) and was slightly higher than the previous year, but well below the TAC. The small trawler fishery started in April, peaked in July and closed at the end of August. Some very small redfish (less than 20 cm ) were landed early in the season from the area north and east of Brown's Bank for use as lobster bait, but were avoided once the lobster season ended. Commercial catch rates have declined slightly but many changes in the fishery make these difficult to interpret. Present biomass, as judged from the 1994 survey is not greatly different than average since the late 1980s however there were increased numbers of small redfish particularly in area north and east of Brown's Bank. There is, as yet, no indication that this recruitment will result in a marked increase in the biomass but combined with the low exploitation rates which currently prevail, should result in fishing and stock conditions in 1996 being very much the same as in recent years.


## Résumé

Le présent document résume les données de la pêche commerciale et des relevés de recherche en ce qui concerne le sébaste de l'unité 3 en 1994. La plupart des prises ont été capturées par de petits chalutiers (moins de 65 pieds) utilisant des chaluts à panneaux et étaient légèrement supérieures à celles de l'année précédente, quoique bien inférieures au TAC. La pêche des petits chalutiers a commencé en avril, a atteint son plus fort en juillet et s'est terminée à la fin d'août. Au début de la saison, ces bateaux ont débarqué de très petits sébastes (moins de 20 cm ), en provenance du nord et de l'est du banc de Brown, destinés à servir d'appât pour le homard, mais ils ont évité ces captures après la fin de la saison de pêche du homard. Les taux de prises commerciales ont diminué légèrement; toutefois, en raison de changements dans la pêche, ce phénomène est difficile à interpréter. La biomasse actuelle, tel qu'on peut en juger par le relevé de 1994, ne diffère pas beaucoup de la moyenne depuis la fin des années 1980, mais on a constaté un plus grand nombre de petits sébastes, en particulier au nord et à l'est du banc de Brown. Rien n'indique encore que ce recrutement aboutira à une nette amélioration de la biomasse; toutefois, combiné aux faibles taux d'exploitation actuels, il devrait se traduire en 1996 par une situation très comparable à celle des dernières années en ce qui a trait à l'état du stock et aux conditions de pêche.

## Introduction

Figure 1. Unit 3 Management Area for redfish


The Unit 3 management area for redfish (Figure 1), first implemented in the 1993 Groundfish Management Plan, is located on the central and western Scotia Shelf, and consists of statistical unit areas 4Wdehkl and NAFO division 4X. Redfish in this area were previously managed as part of a larger 4VWX management area. The predominant species in Unit 3 is Sebastes fasciatus (Acadian Redfish), occurring in the deep basins and at the edge of the continental shelf, with S. mentella (Beaked Redfish) occurring in the deeper waters off the continental shelf. Differences between these two species are not readily apparent, therefore commercial and research catch are not routinely separated by species.

The 1987 4VWX redfish stock status report (Zwanenburg and Hurley 1987), and a series of previous annual reviews, established that there was inadequate scientific basis for an analytical assessment and for annual adjustment of TAC advice. The 1993 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) levels for the new management unit introduced in that year were established on the basis of the sum of the 1991 TACs for the previous units prorated by historical (1981-90) catches in the new units, giving Unit 3 a TAC of $10,000 \mathrm{t}$.

The first scientific description of Unit 3 redfish was a report to the FRCC in autumn

1993 and was used as a basis for a recommendation for the 1994 TAC also of 10,000t (FRCC 1993). The 1994 Unit 3 redfish stock status report (Branton and Halliday 1994) included a summary of fishing and research data for the period 1970 to 1993, and concluded that fishing and stock conditions in 1995 might be expected not to differ greatly from those in recent years. As a result, the TAC for 1995 was also set at $10,000 \mathrm{t}$.

This report gives a description of the 1994 Unit 3 fishery with particular attention to location and season of fishing, catch rates by vessel class, size compositions of the commercial catch and Research vessel survey results for 1994 are provided and status of the stock expected in 1995 is discussed.

## Description of the Fishery

Total Unit 3 redfish landings for 1994 were 5,179 ( Table 1, Figure 2), slightly higher than 1993, but well below the 10,000 t TAC. The 1993 and 94 landings were more than twice that of any year in the period 1990 to 92 which were the lowest for the period 1977 to 94.

Table 1. Unit 3 redfish Landings and TAC by Year In Thousands of Tonnes

| Year | Canada | Foreign | Total | TAC |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 77 | 2.1 | 2.9 | 5.0 |  |
| 78 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 3.4 |  |
| 79 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 2.6 |  |
| 80 | 2.9 | 0.9 | 3.8 |  |
| 81 | 3.7 | 0.8 | 4.5 |  |
| 82 | 3.1 | 1.6 | 4.7 |  |
| 83 | 4.0 | 0.8 | 4.9 |  |
| 84 | 4.6 | 0.9 | 5.5 |  |
| 85 | 5.8 | 0.0 | 5.9 |  |
| 86 | 6.6 | 0.1 | 6.7 |  |
| 87 | 6.1 | 0.0 | 6.2 |  |
| 88 | 3.9 | 0.0 | 3.9 |  |
| 89 | 3.2 | 0.0 | 3.2 |  |
| 90 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 2.3 |  |
| 91 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 1.9 |  |
| 92 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.4 |  |
| 93 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 5.1 | 10.0 |
| 94 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 5.2 | 10.0 |

Figure 2. Canadian and Foreign Landings and TAC for Unit 3 redfish during the period 1977 to 1994


Unit 3 redfish landing occurred in all months of 1994 (Table 2), mostly in the period April to October with a peak in July. Most of the landings were from statistical unit areas 4Xmnop. More than half of the landings were from 4Xo in the period April to August where there was a peak in July. There were no landings from statistical unit areas 4Wdeh. Historically, redfish have been caught in all of the statistical unit areas of Unit 3.

Redfish can only be caught efficiently using trawl nets. The otter trawl mesh size traditionally used in the Scotian Shelf redfish fishery is about 90 mm . Neither mesh size nor minimum fish size have been subjects of regulation but the use of 90 mm mesh or larger was made mandatory in 1993 and 1994 through licence conditions. The major vessel classes involved in the Unit 3 redfish fishery during this period have been small otter trawlers ( $<65^{\prime}$,Tonnage Class 2\&3) and large otter trawlers(>65',Tonnage Class 4\&5) (Table 3, Figure 3). Small trawlers accounted for about 4,000 t or $80 \%$ of the 1994 Unit 3 redfish landings, the highest since these vessels first
entered the fishery in the early 1980s. Large otter trawlers accounted for about $1,000 \mathrm{t}$ or $20 \%$ of the 1994 Unit 3 redfish landings, the lowest in the series.

Table 3. Unit 3 Canadian redfish catch by year and vessel type (main species redfish trips only) in thousands of tonnes

| Year | $<65^{\prime}$ | $>65^{\prime}$ | combined |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| 77 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| 78 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 79 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 80 | 0.1 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| 81 | 0.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| 82 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| 83 | 0.6 | 2.6 | 3.2 |
| 84 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 4.0 |
| 85 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 5.5 |
| 86 | 2.4 | 3.7 | 6.1 |
| 87 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 4.9 |
| 88 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 2.6 |
| 89 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 2.8 |
| 90 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| 91 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.2 |
| 92 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| 93 | 2.9 | 1.7 | 4.6 |
| 94 | 3.8 | 1.0 | 4.8 |

Figure 3 Unit 3 redfish catch by year and vessel type (main specles redfish trips only) in thousands of tons


Table 2. Landed tonnes by statistical unit area and month for mobile gear fishing redfish in Unit 3 during 1994

| AREA | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 Xm |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |  | 146 | 75 | 57 |  | 9 | 289 |
| 4 Xn |  |  | 1 | 10 | 58 | 314 | 374 | 116 |  | 1 |  | 6 | 881 |
| 4XO | 1 | 1 |  | 153 | 401 | 451 | 1064 | 546 | 16 | 33 | 33 | 5 | 2706 |
| 4 Xp |  | 11 | 4 | 10 | 156 | 587 | 46 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 828 |
| Mixed | 2 | 16 | 15 | 19 | 80 | 50 | 48 | 56 | 41 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 362 |
| sum | 4 | 29 | 21 | 192 | 695 | 1404 | 1532 | 869 | 133 | 105 | 39 | 41 | 5066 |

Table 4. Landed tons by vessel type, statistical unit area and month for mobile gear in Unit 3 redfish during 1994.

| VESS AREA | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| < TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Unit 3 redfish landings by small trawlers (Table 4) were from statistical unit areas 4Xnop between April and August with a peak in July. The landings from 4Xo by small otter trawlers were between April and August with a peak in July, from 4Xp in May and June and from 4Xn in June and August. Landings by large trawlers were from statistical unit areas 4Xmno between April and December, with a peak in June. The landings from 4Xo by large otter trawlers were between May and November with a peak in July, from 4Xn in May and June and from 4Xm between August and October, peaking in August.

Figure 4. Spatial variation of small otter trawler catch rates (tons per hour) for Unit 3 redfish during 1994


The small trawlers were concentrated north and east of Brown's Bank in the area of the

Western Ridge as well in the Crowell Basin and Fundian Channel (Figure 4 ). The best catches appeared to be coming from the Western Ridge. Fishers indicated that redfish in Crowell Basin and Fundian Channel were larger than at the Western Ridge, there was some seasonal movement of the Crowell Basin and Fundian Channel redfish, little or no movement of Western Ridge redfish and no exchange between the Western Ridge and the Fundian Channel ( Industry Consultation, Yarmouth March 1995).

Figure 5. Spatial variation of large otter trawler catch rates (tons per hour) for Unit 3 redfish during 1994


The large trawlers were less concentrated than the small trawlers, fishing the Scotia Shelf edge, Emerald Basin, Lahave Basin, and the Western Ridge (Figure 5 ).

## Variation Orders

Table 5. Variation Orders for Mobile < 65' Vessels fishing Unit 3 redfish During 1994

| Order <br> $\#$ | Start <br> Date | End <br> Date | Area/ <br> Stock | Comment |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 045 | May 4 | May 18 | 4 X | Small Fish <br> Closure |
| 046 | May 19 | June 22 | 4X, <br> Western <br>  <br> Test <br> Area 9 | Small Fish <br> Closure |
| 087 | Aug 31 |  | Unit 3 | Fishing <br> Prohibited |
| 112 | Nov 5 |  | Unit 3 | Fishing may <br> resume using <br> 130 mm sq |

On May 4, DFO closed all of NAFO
Division 4X to small trawlers fishing redfish (Table 5) because some vessel owners appeared unable to control landing of small redfish for use as lobster and longline bait. Many vessel owners were requesting this closure, plus the landing of other groundfish was above $10 \%$. Industry associations then proposed closing only the Western Ridge or Bowtie and Test Area 9 portions of 4X (Fig. 6) until observer monitored test fishing indicated that small redfish could be avoided.

Figure 6. Areas closed to small otter trawlers fishing redfish in Unit 3 during 1994 plus haddock nursery area which is closed to all otter trawlers


On May 19, DFO re-opened NAFO Division 4X and kept the Bowtie and Test Area 9 closed. On June 22 after demonstrating that small redfish could be avoided, all of 4X was reopened to small trawlers fishing redfish. On Aug 31, Unit 3 was closed to small trawlers fishing redfish when all but 270 t of 1994 quota had been caught. There was concern that if the entire redfish quota was used up, the entire groundfish fishery would have to be closed to small trawlers because no redfish bycatch was available. On November 5, Unit 3 was opened to small trawlers fishing redfish with 130 mm square mesh to use the last of the quota, however there was no fishing under these conditions (Annand and Hansen 1995).

## Allocations

The Unit 3 redfish TAC for 1994 was allocated (Table 6) to three vessel types: Mobile <65' (small trawlers), Mobile 65'-100' (large trawlers), and Vessels > 100' (large trawlers). Small trawlers were very successful, catching more than $95 \%$ percent of their quota. Both types of large trawler caught one third or less of their quota. This is about what happened last year and in the case of the large trawlers is not greatly different from their performance over the past 10 years. The overall utilization of the 1994 Unit 3 redfish TAC was $51 \%$, due mainly to continued limited interst of the large trawlers in this fishery.
Table 6. Allocations by Vessel Type for Unit 3 redfish during 1994

| Vessel Type | Quota $(\mathrm{t})$ | Catch ( t$)$ | \% Utilized |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Mobile $<65^{\prime}$ | 3,707 | 3,569 | 96 |
| Mobile $65^{\prime}$ <br> $100^{\prime}$ | 2,673 | 919 | 34 |
| Vessels $>100^{\prime}$ | 3,620 | 573 | 16 |
| Combined | 10,000 | 5,061 | 51 |

## Size Composition of Commercial Catch

In 1994, 25 Unit 3 redfish samples were taken by port samplers and 115 samples were taken by at sea observers. The overall catch at length for the Unit 3 was calculated by adding estimates for various vessel types by the time of year from statistical unit area 4Xo (Appendix 1, Figure 7) to estimates for unit areas 4Xmnp and to a single estimate for unit areas 4Wdehkl and 4Xqrst combined (Appendix 2, Figure 8).

Figure 7. Commercial catch at length of redfish from 4Xo portion of Unit 3 by vessel type and time of year during 1994 indicating percentage less than 20 cm.


Figure 8. Commercial catch at length of redfish from Unit 3 by statistical unit area during 1994 indicating percentage less than $\mathbf{2 0} \mathrm{cm}$.

| $X_{m}$ | $2 \%$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

In 1994 redfish landed from Unit 3 ranged in size from 10 to 47 cm , with a mode of 25 cm (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Commercial catch size composition of Unit 3 redfish for period 1984 to 1993 and for 1994


图84-93 ( $2.1 \%<20 \mathrm{~cm})-94(7.0 \%<20 \mathrm{~cm})$

## Occurrence of Very Small Redfish

Unit 3 redfish landings have traditionally had a high proportion of fish in the $20-25 \mathrm{~cm}$ range, therefore the definition of very small fish for the purpose of further study was taken as being less than 20 cm . In the period 1984 to 1993 (Appendix 3, Figure 9) about $2 \%$ of the redfish landed from Unit 3 were less then 20 cm in length. In 1994, about $7.0 \%$ of the redfish from Unit 3 were less than 20 cm in length.

In 1994, the highest percentages of very small fish occurred in samples from statistical area 4Xo (Figure 8) where the content was estimated to be $10 \%$ by number and $3.1 \%$ by weight (Table 7). TC2 otter trawler landings from 4Xo during the first half of the year contained $20 \%$ very small redfish by numbers, whereas in the second half of the year after the lobster season had closed, the estimate was $3 \%$ by number. Estimates by number of very small fish in TC3 trawler landings from 4Xo were 9\% in the first half of the year and $8 \%$ in the second half. Estimates by number in TC4\&5 trawler landings from 4Xo were $14 \%$ in the first half of the year and $3 \%$ in the second half.

| Table 7. Occurance of small redfish ( $<20 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) in Unit 3 by statistical unit area, time of year and type of vessel |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Area | Months | Tonnage Class | Landed Tons | Number of Samples Lnd/Obs | Average Length |  | Percent of fish <br> less than 20 cm (8 inches) |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | cm | in | By Number | By Weight |
| 4 Xm | All | All | 319 | 1/3 | 26 | 10 | 2 | 0.6 |
| 4Xn | All | All | 833 | 3/19 | 31.7 | 13 | 2 | 0.3 |
| 4Xo | $\begin{gathered} \text { Jan } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { Jun } \end{gathered}$ | 2\&3 | 877 | 7/18 | 23.4 | 9 | 16 | 7.9 |
|  |  | 4\&5 | 138 | $1 / 7$ | 24 | 9 | 14 | 5.2 |
|  | Jul to Dec | 2\&3 | 1509 | 5/36 | 25.9 | 10 | 6 | 1.1 |
|  |  | 4\&5 | 199 | 1/3 | 26.2 | 10 | 3 | 1 |
|  | All | All | 2714 | 14/64 | 24.2 | 9 | 10 | 3.1 |
| 4Xp | All | All | 832 | 3/13 | 29.2 | 11 | less than 1 | less than .01 |
| Mixed | All | All | 428 | 4/16 | 26.4 | 10 | 4 | 1.1 |
| All | All | All | 5176 | 25/115 | 25 | 10 | 7 | 1.8 |

## Resource Status

## Catch Rate

Table 8. Catch, Effort, and Catch per Unit of Effort by vessel type and year for Unit 3 redfish

| Small |  |  |  |  | Otter Trawlers |  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Large Otter Trawlers |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Year Catch | Effort | CPUE | Catch | Effort CPUE |  |  |
| 1982 | 365 | 750 | 0.5 | 2013 | 2381 | 0.8 |
| 1983 | 631 | 839 | 0.8 | 2859 | 2788 | 1.0 |
| 1984 | 1534 | 2532 | 0.6 | 2456 | 1652 | 1.5 |
| 1985 | 2075 | 2537 | 0.8 | 3471 | 2033 | 1.7 |
| 1986 | 2385 | 3938 | 0.6 | 3649 | 3683 | 1.0 |
| 1987 | 2712 | 4672 | 0.6 | 2492 | 2218 | 1.1 |
| 1988 | 1434 | 2510 | 0.6 | 1694 | 1775 | 1.0 |
| 1989 | 1391 | 1872 | 0.7 | 1371 | 1275 | 1.1 |
| 1990 | 353 | 1004 | 0.4 | 1410 | 692 | 2.0 |
| 1991 | 433 | 658 | 0.7 | 1005 | 1279 | 0.8 |
| 1992 | 321 | 1305 | 0.2 | 1500 | 1566 | 1.0 |
| 1993 | 2887 | 5125 | 0.6 | 1716 | 2009 | 0.9 |
| 1994 | 3847 | 9759 | 0.4 | 1015 | 1783 | 0.6 |

Catch rates for large and small otter
trawlers declined over the period 1982 to 1994
(Table 8). The small otter trawler catch rate was 0.4 tons per hour (tph) in 1994, slightly less than the 5 year average annual rate of 0.5 tph , while the large otter trawler catch rate was 0.6 tph , substantially less than the 5 year average of 1.1 tph.

Fishers indicated that this slight reduction in catch rates for $<65^{\prime}$ vessels may have been due to the small fish closures in statistical unit area 4Xo during May and June (Industry Consultation, Yarmouth March 1995). The <65' vessels accounted for over $80 \%$ of the 1994 redfish landings from Unit 3.

An inital analysis of catch and effort data provided unreasonable results for the $>65^{\prime}$ vessels. A close look at the commercial landings effort data revealed a subtrip which had 990 effort hours for 2 fishing days and another which had 680 effort hours for .2 fishing days. Live weight for these two substrips was 5 tons. Staff at Statistics indicated that this was an entry error on a field for which there was no quality control processing. These erroneous data were removed
before calculating Table 5, but the lack of quality control on effort data cast doubt on the reliability on the remaining data also.

## Research Survey Stock Size Estimates

Survey estimates of population size indicate that the population has been quite stable in biomass and abundance since the late 1980s (Table 9, Figure 10). The semi-pelagic nature of redfish and limited depth range of the Scotia Fundy summer surveys ( 200 fm ) suggests that actual stock biomass is higher than the survey estimates.

Table 9. Survey Biomass (tonnes) and Abundance (numbers per standard tow) estimates for Unit 3 redfish from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Survey

| Year | Biomass |  | Abundance |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Annual |  |  |  |
| Estimate | 5 Year | Anerage | Annual |  |
| Estimate | S Year |  |  |  |
| Average |  |  |  |  |

Given redfish longevity and survey variability a running average of the 5 most recent years was calculated to further illustrate biomass trends. The research survey series prior to 1982 have not been included due to vessel changes and associated uncertainties over appropriate conversion factors.

Survey mean numbers/ tow shows a trend towards higher abundance starting in the late 1980s and continuing to 1994 (fig 11). In 1994, the mean numbers per tow increased to 80 fish per tow from 76 fish per tow in 1993, above the 10 year average of 67 fish per tow.

Figure 10. Biomass for Unit 3 redfish from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Vessel Survey


Figure 11. Abundance (numbers per standard tow) for Unit 3 redfish from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Vessel Survey


## Research Vessel Survey Size Compositions

There were two readily observable modes in the length frequency from the 1994 summer survey, one at 25 cm and another at 13 cm (Appendix 4, Figure 12). The mode at 25 cm has generally been observed throughout the history of the survey whereas the 13 cm mode has occurred only sporadically (Figure 13). In 1994, this mode of smaller fish occurred almost exclusively in and around the 4Xo statistical unit area. Previous occurrences of small fish have occurred elsewhere in Unit 3 and there have also been cases of modes of large fish occurring in and around 4Xo.

Figure 12. Population size composition for Unit 3 redfish from Scotia Fundy Summer Survey for 1994


Figure 13. Size composition of survey catches for Unit 3 redfish from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Vessel Survey for the period 1982 to 1994


## Recruitment

The size compositions of survey catches in the late 1980s and the early 1990s provide some evidence of small fish entering the population (Figure 14). A decline in the average length of fish in the survey catches after 1986 supports this indication that some recruitment occurred in the period (Figure 15). The 1994 survey in particular showed the presence of moderate numbers of fish less than 20 cm long in the population.

Figure 14. Numbers of Unit 3 redfish by size category and year from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Survey


Figure 15. Average length of Unit 3 redfish by year from Scotia Fundy Summer Research Vessel Survey


## Size at Maturity

There have been no directed studies regarding the growth rate and average size or age at maturity of Unit 3 redfish. However in the Gulf of Maine, which is adjacent to the main concentrations of redfish in Unit 3, S. fasciatus females are $50 \%$ mature at a length of about 22 cm (Mayo 1993). This is smaller than the same species in the Laurentian Channel where females are $50 \%$ mature at between 25 and 28 cm (Atkinson et al. 1995).

## Distribution

The population continues to be widely distributed in all deep water areas of the management unit. The occurrence of small redfish less than 20 cm long in survey catches is also widespread. There are concurrent concentrations of both large and small fish north and east of Brown's Bank in the same area as encountered by the commercial fishery. There are concentrations of large fish on the inshore slope of LaHave and Emerald Basins and in the Fundian Channel without corresponding concentrations of smaller fish (Appendix 5).

## Harvest Rate

A harvest rate (calculated as the ratio of commercial catch to survey biomass) of 0.15 was adopted for redfish by CAFSAC in 1979 as an approximation to fishing at $\mathrm{F}_{0.1}$ when this reference point could not be calculated. Harvest rate estimates were in the 0.10 to 0.20 range in the early 1970s, the actual value depending on assumptions about catch levels in that period, but have not exceeded 0.08 for the more recent period of 1986 to 1994 (Table 10).

Table 10. Harvest rate of Unit 3 redfish for the period 1986 to 1994

|  | Annual <br> Landings | 5yr Avg <br> Biomass | Harvest <br> Rate |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 86 | 6.7 | 82.3 | 0.08 |
| 87 | 6.2 | 80.4 | 0.08 |
| 88 | 3.9 | 72.5 | 0.05 |
| 89 | 3.2 | 57.0 | 0.06 |
| 90 | 2.3 | 65.9 | 0.03 |
| 91 | 1.9 | 52.2 | 0.04 |
| 92 | 2.4 | 62.8 | 0.04 |
| 93 | 5.1 | 60.1 | 0.08 |
| 94 | 5.2 | 64.5 | 0.08 |

## Conclusions

The increase in catches for 1993 and 1994, compared to 1992, resulted from an increase in fishing effort, reflecting decreased fishing opportunities for more valuable species.

Commercial catch rates have declined slightly over the last five years but many changes in the
fishery make these difficult to interpret in the context of redfish abundance. Research vessel surveys indicate stability in the population biomass and suggest some improvement in recruitment in recent years. There is, as yet, no indication that this recruitment will result in a marked increase in the biomass but combined with the low exploitation rates which currently prevail, should result in fishing and stock conditions in 1996 being very much the same as in recent years. Catches of $10,000 \mathrm{t}$ in 1995 and 1996 would be consistent with the currently established $15 \%$ target harvest rate.

It appears that fishing in 1994 was directed towards small fish because of their accessability and a ready market and that these catches could be avoided when required.

## Acknowledgements

The author acknowledges with thanks, the valuable technical assistance of Kirsten Clark, who performed many of the computerized analyses.

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Appendix 1. Landed numbers at length of Unit 3 redfish by tonnage class and time of year for statistical unit area 4Xo in 1994

|  | January to June |  |  |  | July to December |  |  |  | All Months |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Length (cm) | TC2 | TC3 | TC2+3 | TC4+5 | TC2 | TC3 | TC2+3 | TC4+5 | TC2-5 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2191 | 2191 | 0 | 2191 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 163 | 0 | 163 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 2478 | 2144 | 4622 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4622 |
| 14 | 5817 | 2175 | 7993 | 946 | 0 | 4637 | 4637 | 0 | 13575 |
| 15 | 11597 | 2230 | 13827 | 3191 | 0 | 11138 | 11138 | 284 | 28440 |
| 16 | 37735 | 7699 | 45434 | 8038 | 0 | 11161 | 11161 | 74 | 64708 |
| 17 | 75908 | 19045 | 94953 | 18839 | 4063 | 41153 | 45216 | 5619 | 164627 |
| 18 | 133709 | 52315 | 186024 | 23361 | 24736 | 62693 | 87429 | 4288 | 301101 |
| 19 | 138639 | 42294 | 180934 | 26508 | 37819 | 94430 | 132249 | 9910 | 349601 |
| 20 | 179224 | 54609 | 233833 | 31756 | 74566 | 95639 | 170205 | 10546 | 446339 |
| 21 | 119057 | 90391 | 209448 | 33190 | 120332 | 102418 | 222750 | 17638 | 483026 |
| 22 | 187568 | 99749 | 287317 | 44484 | 141184 | 181318 | 322502 | 26319 | 680623 |
| 23 | 136494 | 89534 | 226028 | 63334 | 170876 | 211825 | 382701 | 48846 | 720909 |
| 24 | 190353 | 132276 | 322629 | 69317 | 199497 | 268120 | 467616 | 66054 | 925615 |
| 25 | 169978 | 155584 | 325562 | 40897 | 198782 | 275287 | 474069 | 86228 | 926757 |
| 26 | 139084 | 118522 | 257606 | 42721 | 227939 | 256713 | 484651 | 76503 | 861482 |
| 27 | 123776 | 112918 | 236694 | 46654 | 195433 | 235490 | 430923 | 74493 | 788763 |
| 28 | 105711 | 134666 | 240377 | 37706 | 70502 | 224298 | 294801 | 51068 | 623951 |
| 29 | 66450 | 93509 | 159959 | 30350 | 107428 | 214937 | 322365 | 50789 | 563463 |
| 30 | 56666 | 57999 | 114665 | 11682 | 116983 | 195603 | 312586 | 51106 | 490040 |
| 31 | 23345 | 55493 | 78838 | 9856 | 45409 | 71610 | 117019 | 36597 | 242310 |
| 32 | 24752 | 36679 | 61431 | 6565 | 70502 | 102505 | 173008 | 23983 | 264986 |
| 33 | 23366 | 32762 | 56128 | 5344 | 63270 | 80188 | 143458 | 2276 | 207206 |
| 34 | 19358 | 21370 | 40727 | 1788 | 24915 | 65470 | 90385 | 2564 | 135464 |
| 35 | 8879 | 12565 | 21445 | 2701 | 20673 | 36476 | 57149 | 948 | 82244 |
| 36 | 5589 | 1686 | 7276 | 785 | 20852 | 23852 | 44704 | 0 | 52765 |
| 37 | 2930 | 6757 | 9687 | 989 | 8484 | 15476 | 23960 | 97 | 34733 |
| 38 | 2203 | 1740 | 3943 | 362 | 8305 | 8229 | 16534 | 291 | 21131 |
| 39 | 1444 | 464 | 1908 | 349 | 0 | 3425 | 3425 | 0 | 5683 |
| 40 | 498 | 152 | 650 | 275 | 0 | 6064 | 6064 | 0 | 6988 |
| 41 | 124 | 0 | 124 | 106 | 0 | 1890 | 1890 | 0 | 2120 |
| 42 | 178 | 0 | 178 | 157 | 0 | 97 | 97 | 0 | 432 |
| 43 | 124 | 0 | 124 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 187 |
| 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | $\underline{0}$ | 0 | 31 |
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| 48 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| 49 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| total-> | 1993033 | 1437329 | 3430362 | 562504 | 1952549 | 2904498 | 4857048 | 646522 | 9496435 |

Appendix 2. Landed numbers at length by statistical unit area for Unit 3 redfish in 1994

| Length | 4Xm | 4Xn | 4Xo | 4Xp | 4WdehkI 4Xqrst | Total | \% at length |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 2191 | 0 | 0 | 2191 | 0.01 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 0.00 |
| 12 | 155 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 0.00 |
| 13 | 0 | 104 | 4622 | 0 | 0 | 4726 | 0.03 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 | 13575 | 394 | 0 | 13969 | 0.10 |
| 15 | 2660 | 0 | 28440 | 0 | 2848 | 33948 | 0.23 |
| 16 | 3066 | 0 | 64708 | 0 | 2874 | 70648 | 0.48 |
| 17 | 7869 | 7020 | 164627 | 0 | 8516 | 188032 | 1.28 |
| 18 | 5367 | 14039 | 301101 | 0 | 9120 | 329627 | 2.25 |
| 19 | 3174 | 8784 | 349601 | 394 | 25504 | 387456 | 2.64 |
| 20 | 7589 | 10562 | 446339 | 7454 | 17415 | 489359 | 3.34 |
| 21 | 10997 | 17592 | 483026 | 8455 | 34846 | 554915 | 3.78 |
| 22 | 17287 | 15930 | 680623 | 16376 | 46085 | 776301 | 5.29 |
| 23 | 31864 | 21936 | 720909 | 25437 | 48345 | 848490 | 5.78 |
| 24 | 89263 | 30202 | 925615 | 47598 | 86287 | 1178965 | 8.04 |
| 25 | 167166 | 74742 | 926757 | 78620 | 118714 | 1365998 | 9.31 |
| 26 | 120480 | 66952 | 861482 | 131215 | 123258 | 1303387 | 8.88 |
| 27 | 138837 | 47868 | 788763 | 175316 | 136150 | 1286934 | 8.77 |
| 28 | 101721 | 62181 | 623951 | 158523 | 119790 | 1066167 | 7.27 |
| 29 | 114813 | 69971 | 563463 | 155570 | 97926 | 1001744 | 6.83 |
| 30 | 54941 | 76260 | 490040 | 218985 | 42492 | 882718 | 6.02 |
| 31 | 52389 | 69393 | 242310 | 105988 | 38673 | 508754 | 3.47 |
| 32 | 42690 | 70704 | 264986 | 108824 | 26895 | 514098 | 3.50 |
| 33 | 2628 | 61753 | 207206 | 100793 | 16899 | 389280 | 2.65 |
| 34 | 9390 | 75497 | 135464 | 76898 | 16876 | 314126 | 2.14 |
| 35 | 280 | 77288 | 82244 | 58769 | 13184 | 231765 | 1.58 |
| 36 | 0 | 75840 | 52765 | 45131 | 13341 | 187078 | 1.28 |
| 37 | 0 | 88196 | 34733 | 57974 | 15774 | 196679 | 1.34 |
| 38 | 0 | 59947 | 21131 | 47249 | 15041 | 143368 | 0.98 |
| 39 | 0 | 39076 | 5683 | 30428 | 18005 | 93191 | 0.64 |
| 40 | 0 | 34816 | 6988 | 25427 | 15645 | 82877 | 0.56 |
| 41 | 0 | 31908 | 2120 | 7380 | 10941 | 52349 | 0.36 |
| 42 | 0 | 33550 | 432 | 4954 | 5426 | 44362 | - 0.30 |
| 43 | 0 | 39598 | 187 | 3018 | 3245 | 46049 | 0.31 |
| 44 | 0 | 25892 | 31 | 1460 | 1859 | 29243 | 0.20 |
| 45 | 0 | 10546 | 31 | 2190 | 1732 | 14500 | 0.10 |
| 46 | 0 | 19411 | 63 | 1564 | 487 | 21526 | 0.15 |
| 47 | 0 | 9039 | 31 | 313 | 218 | 9601 | 0.07 |
| 48 | 0 | 2202 | 31 | 521 | 572 | 3326 | 0.02 |
| 49 | 0 | 1000 | 0 | 417 | 64 | 1481 | 0.01 |
| total-> | 984627 | 1349798 | 9496435 | 1703636 | 1135047 | 14669544 | 100 |

Appendix 3. Landed numbers at length by year for Unit 3 redfish during the period 1982 to 1994

| length | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | total | \%at length |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2191 | 2191 | 0.00 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 163 | 163 | 0.00 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 155 | 0.00 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4726 | 4726 | 0.00 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 40403 | 13969 | 54372 | 0.04 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3748 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9218 | 33948 | 46914 | 0.03 |
| 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9216 | 0 | 27037 | 0 | 0 | 63658 | 0 | 18437 | 70648 | 188997 | 0.12 |
| 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10347 | 10619 | 17999 | 2098 | 0 | 0 | 254632 | 0 | 64718 | 188032 | 548445 | 0.36 |
| 18 | 2696 | 0 | 0 | 13504 | 60845 | 6244 | 0 | 48374 | 34063 | 305428 | 0 | 69852 | 329627 | 870634 | 0.57 |
| 19 | 19766 | 10164 | 5373 | 26480 | 146340 | 138186 | 83608 | 78016 | 71328 | 470677 | 0 | 309759 | 387456 | 1747154 | 1.15 |
| 20 | 113430 | 21223 | 10816 | 114832 | 226470 | 224733 | 88203 | 98285 | 74167 | 585012 | 0 | 386306 | 489359 | 2432836 | 1.60 |
| 21 | 128064 | 50071 | 39353 | 123263 | 378900 | 676207 | 72056 | 282421 | 173134 | 1077314 | 6587 | 293297 | 554915 | 3855584 | 2.54 |
| 22 | 83263 | 218119 | 115768 | 103065 | 409621 | 916242 | 389954 | 676799 | 226019 | 528274 | 19757 | 891765 | 776301 | 5354950 | 3.53 |
| 23 | 178773 | 221401 | 178233 | 250129 | 463434 | 1146121 | 449184 | 1304709 | 559483 | 598335 | 19757 | 708822 | 848490 | 6926871 | 4.57 |
| 24 | 541320 | 469469 | 402535 | 677359 | 612746 | 1418164 | 521786 | 1315027 | 896188 | 371633 | 6587 | 1321259 | 1178965 | 9733037 | 6.42 |
| 25 | 1087373 | 816819 | 862131 | 1640184 | 853272 | 1939479 | 755977 | 1290420 | 1232574 | 434951 | 16112 | 1303882 | 1365998 | 13599172 | 8.97 |
| 26 | 1564746 | 1340619 | 1432136 | 1896341 | 1305191 | 2193393 | 1060447 | 1305253 | 1018882 | 433629 | 35869 | 1138913 | 1303387 | 16028805 | 10.57 |
| 27 | 1900992 | 1611112 | 1650530 | 2291476 | 1281983 | 2072377 | 995034 | 1242903 | 1222581 | 470373 | 72448 | 1140422 | 1286934 | 17239166 | 11.37 |
| 28 | 1426372 | 1403302 | 1957727 | 1805524 | 1181624 | 1562054 | 658147 | 745804 | 553790 | 430450 | 191754 | 1297951 | 1066167 | 14280666 | 9.42 |
| 29 | 1076906 | 1346300 | 1249982 | 1809771 | 1020330 | 1510764 | 641082 | 623524 | 324458 | 368291 | 205634 | 1327919 | 1001744 | 12506705 | 8.25 |
| 30 | 1093090 | 1045632 | 1396997 | 1600996 | 1126778 | 1506534 | 795306 | 320221 | 189354 | 284143 | 202266 | 981574 | 882718 | 11425609 | 7.54 |
| 31 | 1178354 | 891381 | 1384241 | 1141041 | 860169 | 975809 | 388750 | 412059 | 237260 | 175579 | 192387 | 693649 | 508754 | 9039433 | 5.96 |
| 32 | 941930 | 943238 | 1271715 | 904073 | 742203 | 862299 | 543181 | 332527 | 253808 | 118501 | 244177 | 653517 | 514098 | 8325266 | 5.49 |
| 33 | 558886 | 616795 | 817146 | 632535 | 510522 | 460396 | 459896 | 291957 | 165823 | 183874 | 306420 | 687416 | 389280 | 6080945 | 4.01 |
| 34 | 153546 | 379657 | 462570 | 365490 | 263828 | 253400 | 379181 | 148977 | 87037 | 187246 | 273579 | 396437 | 314126 | 3665074 | 2.42 |
| 35 | 83083 | 206047 | 133231 | 188680 | 154466 | 167640 | 264488 | 51964 | 25674 | 75413 | 225082 | 123313 | 231765 | 1930847 | 1.27 |
| 36 | 103499 | 146054 | 61697 | 29990 | 106587 | 144487 | 116487 | 12105 | 23262 | 68738 | 191154 | 106141 | 187078 | 1297278 | 0.86 |
| 37 | 30025 | 128639 | 25564 | 5795 | 126510 | 65153 | 89231 | 11166 | 6130 | 14347 | 178478 | 156490 | 196679 | 1034206 | 0.68 |
| 38 | 23961 | 65059 | 20677 | 1932 | 267944 | 4581 | 106656 | 7044 | 5770 | 13434 | 183106 | 110558 | 143368 | 954090 | 0.63 |
| 39 | 5907 | 22959 | 11433 | 1932 | 174223 | 9633 | 104998 | 3166 | 2164 | 0 | 289142 | 80993 | 93191 | 799741 | 0.53 |
| 40 | 4075 | 9124 | 5602 | 0 | 228581 | 471 | 124819 | 4215 | 361 | 0 | 354440 | 25004 | 82877 | 839567 | 0.55 |
| 41 | 1528 | 2677 | 2532 | 0 | 146896 | 314 | 64186 | 1461 | 361 | 0 | 165467 | 0 | 52349 | 437770 | 0.29 |
| 42 | 764 | 1004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 157 | 38149 | 2510 | 0 | 0 | 85511 \| | 0 | 44362 | 172458 | 0.11 |
| 43 | 236 | 4800 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 731 | 0 | 0 | 33330 | 871 | 46049 | 86016 | 0.06 |
| 44 | 0 | 1004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2804 | 0 | 29243 | 33051 | 0.02 |
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14500 | 14500 | 0.01 |
| 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21526 | 21526 | 0.01 |
| 47 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9601 | 9601 | 0.01 |



Appendix 4. Population numbers at length of redfish by year for Unit 3 during the period 1982 to 1994 (hundred thousands)


