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The 1996 large seiner fishery in 4Vn.

by R. Claytor<br>Department of Fisheries and Oceans<br>P.O. Box 5030<br>Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 9B6

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#### Abstract

The 4 Vn large seiner herring fishery was marked by several issues in 1996. First, there was an increase in allocation from 4200 t to 6423 t , second, the starting date of the fishery was changed from November 1 to October 15, third, the percentage of small fish in the catch was much higher than in recent years, and fourth, a nights fishing late in the season had a high rate of spring spawners in the catch.

Development of a management plan and decision rules for this fishery require information concerning, weight to be caught, size of herring in catch, opening date, and catch composition. Results from an analysis of the fishery and surveys indicate that the size limit in 1996 was sufficient to meet management objectives, that the 4T migration into 4 Vn is consistently well underway by November 1, and that there were temporal and spatial trends in the catch composition regarding spring and fall spawners but not immature fish.

These results and those describing the results of the status of the Bras d'Or lake herring stock were used in developing decision rules for this fishery. Relevant documents are: Claytor (1997), the 4WX stock status report (Anon 1997a) and a fishery stock status report (Anon 1997b).


## Résumé

Plusieurs paramètres de la pêche du hareng par gros senneurs en 4 Vn ont été modifiés en 1996. Tout d'abord, l'allocation, de 4200 t a été portée à 6423 t . Ensuite, la date d'ouverture de la pêche, qui était le $1^{\text {er }}$ novembre, a été avancée au 15 octobre. Troisièmement, le pourcentage de petits poissons des prises était de beaucoup supérieur à celui des années précédentes et, quatrièmement, une pêche de nuit pratiquée en fin de saison a donné lieu à la capture d'un taux élevé de géniteurs de printemps.

L'élaboration d'un plan de gestion et de règles de décision pour cette pêche exige de disposer de renseignements sur le poids des captures, la taille des harengs capturés, la date d'ouverture et la composition des prises. L'analyse des résultats de la pêche et des relevés montre que la limite de taille imposée en 1996 était suffisante pour l'atteinte des objectifs de gestion, que la migration de 4 T en 4 Vn est presque toujours bien en cours au $1^{\text {er }}$ novembre et que la composition des prises en géniteurs de printemps et d'automne, mais non en poissons immatures, présente des tendances spatiales et temporelles.

Ces résultats et ceux de l'étude de l'état du stock de hareng du lac Bras d'Or ont été utilisés pour l'élaboration de règles de décision pour cette pêche. Les documents pertinents à ce sommaire sont: Claytor (1997), le rapport sur l'état des stocks en 4WX (Anon., 1997a) et un rapport sur l'état de stocks exploités (Anon., 1997b).

## Introduction

Four points regarding the herring stocks present in 4 Vn and their effect on management regulations and allocations are necessary to consider when evaluating the fisheries in the area. These points are:

1. The existence of small stocks, which spawn in the area.
2. 4 Vn is an overwintering area for 4 T and other stocks of 4 Vn , Bras d'Or Lakes, and 4 WX origin.
3. Herring of 4 T origin predominate in the overwintering catch and a portion of the 4 T TAC is allocated to 4 Vn .
4. The 4 Vn allocation includes an amount set aside for the large seiners based in the Gulf, as well as local fishers from 4 Vn .

Allocations set in 4 Vn in recent years have been $<3 \%$ of the 4 T biomass. Thus, the main issues concerning the large seiner fishery relate to the impact of this fishery on local spawning stocks. The principal local stocks of concern are the spring spawning stock in the Bras d'Or Lakes and small groups of fall spawners which occur along the coast and in the Bras d'Or Lakes.
Timing of opening dates, closed areas, and size limits are the managment measures used to assist in reducing exploitation on these local stocks. For example, the opening date is set with the intent of waiting until the migration of 4 T herring into 4 Vn is well under way. Large seiners from the Gulf of St. Lawrence have access to 4 Vn north of the Cape Dauphin Line, while those from southwest Nova Scotia (4WX) have access to 4 Vn south of the Scaterie Line. Fishing by large seiners is prohibited between the Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines (Fig. 1). The management intent of the Cape Dauphin Line is to restrict large seiners from fishing at the only entrance and exit point for Bras d'Or Lake herring to and from the 4 Vn area. Fishing by 4 WX large seiners south of the Scaterie Line has the intent of allowing this fleet access to any 4 WX herring which may migrate to this area of 4 Vn . In recent years there has been no catch by the 4 WX fleet in 4 Vn south of the Scaterie Line.
In 1992, it was decided to include all herring caught by large seiners in this fishery as part of the 4 T stock assessment. As a result, catches in the 4 Vn winter purse seine fishery are added to the 4 T assessment and the allocation for the winter 4 Vn fishery is included in the overall 4 T herring TAC. These changes have been made for the 4T assessment for all years back to 1978.
This decision was based on analyses of historical tagging data, length-frequencies, and acoustic surveys which indicated that most of the herring caught in the 4 Vn purse seine fishery were of 4 T origin (Simon and Stobo 1983, Chadwick et al 1993). This change does not mean or imply that no local stocks or 4WX fish are caught in this fishery, but that the predominant part of the catch was from 4T and these fish should be accounted for in that stock assessment. Prior to 1992, catches in 4 Vn were not included in either the 4 WX or 4 T herring assessments.

## Historical Description of the Fishery

Herring fisheries in 4 Vn include purse seine vessels ( $>65^{\prime}$ ) from the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, local bait fisheries by gillnetters during the spring in the Bras d'Or Lakes and along the coast, and local trapnets during the spring, and a combination of local trapnets and small seiners in the fall.
A 4 Vn herring gillnet bait fishery takes place from mid-May to mid-July in depths of about 15 fathoms. About 500 fishers participate in this fishery for lobster bait. Bait requirements are about 300 pounds of herring a day for a lobster fishery lasts about 50 days. Thus, a maximum of 3500 tonnes of herring are potentially harvested each year in this fishery.
The Bras d'Or lake fishery is described in detail in a separate working paper (Denny et al. 1997). The majority of this fishery occurs in the spring with about 30 participants in 1996. The Bras d'Or
lakes also support a small fall fishery, and a minimal winter fishery under the ice for herring by the Eskasoni First Nation has occurred historically.

In the late 60s and early 70s the large seiner fishery occurred primarily from November to December with some catches from February to April by foreign (Table 1) and domestic fleets (Table 2). During the 1980s catches were concentrated in November and December and during the 1990s catches have occurred primarily in November (Table 2).
The large seiner allocation in 4 Vn was 4200 tonnes from 1986 to 1995. In 1996, it was raised to 6423 tonnes to reduce fishing mortality in Chaleur Bay (4T) and spread the fishing mortality from the large seiners to other components of the 4T stock (Table 3).
In 1996, the large purse seine fishery began with a test fishery on Oct. 18 and concluded on Dec. 4. Catches occurred primarily in Aspy Bay, as in recent years, but some also occurred near Neils Harbour and St. Ann's Bay (Fig. 2).

The size regulation in the 4 Vn fishery was changed in 1996. In $1996,10 \%$ of the herring by number were permitted to be $<24.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ fork length compared to $<26.5 \mathrm{~cm}$ fork length in previous years. This change made the size regulations in 4 Vn consistent with those in 4 T .

## 1996 Large Seiner Fishery Data

The spring spawner catch in 1996 was about $25 \%$ higher than the long-term average but was almost twice as high as the 1991-1995 average (Table 3). The percentage of fall spawners in the catch was above the long-term average but was lower than occurred from 1991-1995 (Table $3)$.

The percentage of spring and fall spawners changed through the season. The highest percentage of fall spawners was at the beginnning of the season and in Aspy Bay. The lowest percentage was during the last part of the season (Dec. 3-4) near St. Ann's Bay (Fig. 2, Table 4).
The fall spawner catch-at-age matrix was dominated by age 4 herring from the 1992 year-class (Fig. 3, Table 5). The 1990 year-class was second in importance and the 1991 year-class (Age 5) was not as strong as the 1990 or 1992 year-classes (Fig. 3, Table 6).

The spring spawners were dominated by age 5 herring from the 1991 year-class (Fig. 4, Table 5). Age 4 herring from the 1992 year-class seem to be somewhat weaker than other recent yearclasses (Fig. 4, Table 7).
Spring spawners tended to be heavier at age than fall spawners, although length at age was similar between the two spawning components (Table 5).

## Size

Size of herring caught in 4 Vn is an issue for two reasons. First, the 4T TAC is set based on expected fishing patterns. The ages expected to be caught in the fishery are predicted from the previous years age structure with the assumption that there will be no major changes in the partial recruitment by age for the fishery. This projection establishes expected targets of immature and mature fish in the catch. If the catch of immature fish is expected to increase then the target fishing mortality would have to be lowered to account for the greater numbers of fish that would be harvested. Concentrating harvest on immature fish, regardless of species, has relatively more risk than concentrating on larger mature fish.

Second, a large portion of immature fish in the 4T population over-winter in 4T or at least migrate later to 4 Vn than adults. This delay in migration means that a larger percentage of immature herring caught in the over-wintering fishery would be of local origin than is expected in the harvest of larger mature fish. A likely reason for this delay in migration is the presence of anti-freeze proteins in juvenile herring which permits them to over-winter under the ice (Chadwick et al. 1990).

Thus, the purpose of the minimum size regulation in this fishery is to maintain the harvest of immature fish within the target fishing mortalities projected for the 4T stock and to protect local juvenile herring.
The first target of keeping the harvest of immature herring within the $\mathrm{F}_{0.1}$ fishing mortality level was met for fall and spring spawners in combined 4T and 4Vn catches in 1996 (Table 8). In comparison with other years, the catch of immature herring in 1996 was the second highest since 1992 and accounted for about $7 \%$ of the catch by weight (Table 9). There were no temporal or spatial trends to the percentage of catch of immature herring (Table 10).
There were no immature herring over 28.5 cm total length in the large purse seine catch in 1996 (Fig. 5). Not all herring below 28.5 cm are immature (Fig. 5) and about $30 \%$ of the large purse seine catch of mature herring was below 28.5 cm (Fig. 5, Table 11). Immature herring are defined as those with maturity state $1-2$, while maturing and mature herring are stages $3-8$. Half the immature herring caught were between 27.5 and 28.5 cm total length (Figs. 6, 7).

There was a higher percentage of fish less than 28.5 cm in the catch in 1996 compared to previous years (Table 11). This difference is consistent with the relatively high percentage of fall spawners ( $24 \%$ ) and spring spawners ( $65 \%$ ) age 3 and less found in the acoustic survey in 4T in 1996 compared to previous years (Claytor et al. 1997). These percentages indicate that a higher than normal percentage of immature fish are in the 4T population at the present time.

## Opening Date

The most appropriate opening date of the 4 Vn large seiner fishery depends on when 4 T herring start their migration into 4 Vn and at what point the numbers are large enough so that catches will consist predominately of 4 T herring.

Research surveys have been conducted during January, July, September, October, and November in 4 Vn . Thus, there is considerable information to assist in determining when overwinter migrations to 4 Vn from other areas occur.
January surveys have found large concentrations near St. Pauls Island and off Neils Harbour during the three years of this survey from 1995 to 1997. In 1995, a large concentration was observed in the southern portion of 4 Vn and in 1996 large concentrations were also observed in deep water off St. Anns Bank (Figs. 8-10). Herring during these January surveys were primarily found at depths of 50 to 200m. Surveys during February were conducted in 1981 and 1995 but were restricted to areas south of the Cape Dauphin Line. Few herring were observed in these surveys (Fig. 11).
Catches of herring in July bottom trawl surveys are extemely variable. Biomass estimates in this survey range from 0 to 39,000 tonnes (Table 12). Distribution maps indicate that when herring are found in this area they are south of Aspy Bay. (Figs. 12-16). A comparison of the January surveys to these July surveys indicates that over-wintering populations have left the 4 Vn area by July.
In September of 1994-95, bottom trawl surveys indicated low abundance of herring in 4 Vn compared to January levels, with herring primarily found in the southern portion (Fig. 17). These surveys occurred in the second half of September and indicate that the winter migration of 4 T had not begun.
Acoustic surveys in 4 Vn from September to November indicate that the 4 T migration has consistently advanced after November 1. In some years, the migration appears to make an appreciable start by mid-October but in other years this is not the case (Table 12). Two years, 1991 and 1992, were the peak abundance years for the 4T stock, yet the abundance in 4 Vn by mid-October in these years was very different (Table 12). A comparison of 1995, when the acoustic survey was in 4 Vn at the end of September, and 1996 in mid-October, indicate a biomass four times higher in 1996 than 1995, supporting a mid-October and later migration of 4T herring into 4 Vn (Table 13).

The major biomass concentration during October and November north of the Cape Dauphin Line are in Aspy Bay, with smaller concentrations off St. Anns Bank (Fig. 18). In some years, herring schools are also found on the Gulf of St. Lawrence side of Cape Breton during October and November (Fig. 18). Offshore bottom trawl surveys during October from 1979-1984, observed few herring in deeper water (Fig. 19). This lack of herring in deeper water at this time of year is consistent with oberservations during the acoustic surveys for offshore strata.
These results indicate that 4T herring probably begin their migration around the middle of October, but the 4T migration is consistently well established by November 1. This migration continues through to January and concentrations of 4T herring in the 4 Vn area would increase as the season progresses.
Observations that are consistent with the migration beginning around the middle of October are the decline in size of fish caught in the Chaleur Bay purse seine fishery around the middle of October and the increase of size of herring in 4 Vn during 1995 (Tables 14, 15).

## Catch Composition

Fall Spawners: A comparison of the age composition of 4 T fall spawner population with the 4 Vn fall spawner purse seine catch indicates that the dominant ages and year-classes correspond between these two matrices from 1992 to 1996 (Fig. 20). The exception is that $11+$ herring in the purse seine catch were a higher percentage of the purse seine catch than in the population from 1992 to 1995 (Fig. 20). A similar correspondance between dominant year-classes is observed in comparisons among the 4T fall spawner mobile and fixed gear catch-at-age matrices and the 4 Vn purse seiner catch (Fig. 21).

In 1996, some sampling was done from local fixed gear fisheries in Neils Harbour and small purse seines and trapnets in Aspy Bay at the same time that the purse seiners were fishing in Aspy Bay. Age compositions of these catches were quite different from those of the purse seiners for fall spawners (Fig. 22).
These results are consistent with the hypothesis that the majority of the fall spawners 4 Vn purse seine catch is from herring of 4 T origin. The higher percentage of older fish in the catch than expected from the 4 T population indicates that a mixture of stock components may be in the catch.

Spring Spawners: A comparison of 4T spring spawner population age structure and spring spawner catches in the 4 Vn purse seine catch indicate the same year class dominating both catch matrices for 1994 to 1996, but not 1992 and 1993 (Fig. 23). The 1991 year-class ( 5 year-olds) dominanted in 4Vn and 4T mobile and 4T fixed gear spring spawner catches in 1996 (Fig. 24).

A comparison of the spring spawners caught in the Bras d'Or lakes in 1996 to catches of spring spawners in 4 T mobile and fixed gear and by 4 Vn purse seiners indicates that different yearclasses are important in the the Bras d'Or lake catch compared to the 4 T and 4 Vn purse seine catches (Fig. 25).
Spring stocks likely to be harvested originate in 4T and locally, including the Bras d'Or lakes. Spring spawning herring are about $25 \%$ of the 4 T population. As a result, harvest of spring 4 T herring could occur in 4 Vn as well those of local origin.
From 1992-1995 the catch of spring spawners ranged from 4-9\% (by weight) in this fishery (Table 3) and catches occurred primarily in Aspy Bay. At these levels, and because of the fishing location, risk of excessive harvest of local Bras d'Or lake spring stocks was miminal. In 1996, catches of spring spawners were $6 \%$ or less when the season began in Aspy Bay and increased to 13 to $22 \%$ from mid-November to Dec. 1. Percentage of spring spawners increased to $32 \%$ when fishing occurred near St. Ann's Bay on Dec. 3-4 (Table 4).
The catch of 167 tonnes of spring spawners on Dec. 3-4 raised concern because of its proximity to Bras d'Or Lakes and the time of year. Samples were collected and otoliths examined to determine stock origin from qualitative characteristics. Scientific staff from Moncton and St. Andrews participated in this indentification. It was possible to identify 64 tonnes as originating
from 4T spring spawners but the remainder could not be positively identified as Bras d'Or or 4T originating herring (Table 16).

The size of the Bras d'Or stock is unknown. If all herring whose origin could not be positively identified were of Bras d'Or origin then this could represent a substantial increase in harvest of that stock. For example, about 160 tonnes were harvested in the spring of 1996 for bait from that stock (Denny et al. 1997).

A comparison of spring spawners caught by 4 Vn purse seiners when fishing in Aspy Bay and Neils Harbour compared to those caught when fishing near St. Ann's Bay indicates a similarity in age structure (Fig. 26). These catches are dissimilar from those caught in Bras d'Or lakes (Fig.
26). A comparison of age structure of fish identified as 4T origin from the St. Ann's Bay catch and those that could not be identified as 4 T or Bras d'Or lakes indicates that ages 5 and 6 predominate in both groups but not age 7 as in the Bras d'Or catch (Fig. 26).

These results are not consistent with the worse case scenario of the St. Ann's Bay catch of Dec. 3-4 that all 100 tonnes of spring spawners of unknown origin were from the Bras d'Or lake stock.

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Fig. 1. Areas and lines demarcating fishing zones in 4Vn.


Fig. 2. Percentage of fall spawners in large seiner catch by date and area in 4Vn, 1996.


Fig. 3. Fall spawner catch at age by year for large seiners in 4 Vn .


Fig. 3 (cont). Fall spawner catch at age by year for large seiners in 4 Vn .


Fig. 4. Spring spawner catch at age by year for large seiners in 4 Vn .


Fig. 4 (cont). Spring spawner catch at age by year for large seiners in 4 Vn .


Fig. 5. Length frequency distribution of total catch by large seiners in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1996$.


Fig. 6. Length frequency distribution of immature fall spawning herring caught by large seiners in 4Vn, 1996.


Fig. 7. Cumulative percentage at length for total catch of immature herring by large seiners in 4 Vn , 1996.


Fig. 8. Distribution of herring during the January 1995 bottom trawl survey in 4 Vn .


Fig. 9. Distribution of herring during the January 1996 bottom trawl survey in 4 Vn .


Fig. 10. Distribution of herring during the January 1997 bottom trawl survey in 4 Vn .



Fig. 11. Distribution of herring during February bottom trawl surveys in 4 Vn 1981, 1995. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{standard}$ tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 12. Distribution of herring during July bottom trawl surveys in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1970-75$. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} /$ standard tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 13. Distribution of herring during July bottom trawl surveys in 4Vn, 1976-81. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} / \mathrm{standard}$ tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 14. Distribution of herring during July bottom trawl surveys in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1982-87$. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} /$ standard tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 15. Distribution of herring during July bottom trawl surveys in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1988-93$. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} /$ standard tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 16. Distribution of herring during July bottom trawl surveys in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1994-96$. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} /$ standard tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 17. Herring kg/tow from September bottom trawl surveys in 4 Vn . Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines as in Fig. 1 are shown. Offshore line is 50 m depth contour.


Fig. 18. Distribution of herring during acoustic surveys from $1990-93,1995-96$ in 4 Vn . There was no survey in 4 Vn during 1994.


Fig. 19. Distribution of herring during October bottom trawl surveys in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1979-84$. Offshore lines are 50 and 100 m depth contours. Units are $\mathrm{kg} /$ standard tow. Cape Dauphin and Scaterie Lines are as in Fig. 1.


Fig. 21. Age distributions for fall spawner purse seine catch in 4 Vn and 4 T compared to inshore fall spawner catch in 4 T .


Fig. 22. Comparison of fall spawner catches in purse seine (mobile) and inshore (fixed) gears in 4T and 4Vn in 1995 and 1996.


Fig. 23. Age distributions for spring spawner purse seine catch in 4 Vn and spring spawner 4 T population from ADAPT-VPA.


Fig. 24. Age distributions for spring spawner purse seine catch in 4 Vn and 4 T compared to inshore spring spawner catch in 4 T .










Fig. 25. Comparison of spring spawner catches in purse seine (mobile) and inshore (fixed) gears in 4T and 4Vn in 1995 and 1996.


Fig. 26. Comparison of spring spawner catches in purse seine in 4 Vn and inshore gears in Bras D'or Lakes in 1996 during the fishery and Dec. 3-4. Percentages are within each category.

Table 1. Foreign fleet mobile gear catches $(\mathrm{t})$ in 4 Vn by month from NAFO data files.

| Year | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 11378 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11465 |
| 69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 696 | 8300 | 1865 | 0 | 189 | 11050 |
| 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 127 | 173 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 344 |
| 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| 73 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 557 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 583 |
| 74 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 265 | 270 |
| 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 65 |

Table 2. Canadian fleet mobile gear catches $(t)$ in 4 Vn by month using NAFO data files.

| Year | Apr | Mav | Jun | Jul | Auq | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 63 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 65 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| 66 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 49 |
| 67 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 68 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 271 | 0 | 102 | 136 | 687 | 848 | 2046 |
| 69 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 443 | 0 | 0 | 1431 | 1624 | 0 | 3498 |
| 70 | 1827 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1569 | 1348 | 0 | 4754 |
| 71 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 849 | 7448 | 1897 | 0 | 0 | 10211 |
| 72 | 370 | 44 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4283 | 5631 | 4610 | 0 | 0 | 14938 |
| 73 | 883 | 2329 | 67 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5103 | 9004 | 257 | 0 | 0 | 17645 |
| 74 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 5119 | 6571 | 811 | 0 | 0 | 12530 |
| 75 | 0 | 213 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2409 | 3038 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5663 |
| 76 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 195 | 3830 | 6334 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10365 |
| 77 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3438 | 3632 | 3562 | 0 | 0 | 10632 |
| 78 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2247 | 603 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2855 |
| 79 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 798 | 2220 | 0 | 0 | 3026 |
| 80 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1215 | 2313 | 323 | 0 | 0 | 3867 |
| 81 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2482 | 951 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3433 |
| 82 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 237 | 3283 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3520 |
| 83 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2005 | 1802 | 174 | 0 | 0 | 3981 |
| 84 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3371 | 554 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3925 |
| 85 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2522 | 948 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3470 |
| 86 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2547 | 1805 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4352 |
| 87 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1873 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2373 |
| 88 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1091 | 1983 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3074 |
| 89 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 296 | 1821 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2117 |
| 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4711 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4711 |
| 91 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4789 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4789 |
| 92 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4228 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4228 |
| 93 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3947 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3955 |
| 94 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3176 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3190 |
| 95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3988 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3988 |
| 96 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 162 | 3590 | 524 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4276 |

Table 3. Large seiner fleet catches (t) in 4Vn by spawning group from 1978 to 1996.

| Year | Spawning Group |  | Total | TAC Percent |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fall | Spring |  |  |  |
| 78 | 1833 | 808 | 2641 | 8000 | 69 |
| 79 | 1418 | 1496 | 2913 | 3000 | 49 |
| 80 | 2981 | 870 | 3852 | 4500 | 77 |
| 81 | 2120 | 1162 | 3282 | 3000 | 65 |
| 82 | 2150 | 1373 | 3523 | 3000 | 61 |
| 83 | 2808 | 1167 | 3976 | 5000 | 71 |
| 84 | 3000 | 1004 | 4005 | 3500 | 75 |
| 85 | 2822 | 778 | 3600 | 3500 | 78 |
| 86 | 3105 | 1214 | 4319 | 4200 | 72 |
| 87 | 2093 | 279 | 2372 | 4200 | 88 |
| 88 | 2438 | 138 | 2576 | 4200 | 95 |
| 89 | 1959 | 159 | 2117 | 4200 | 93 |
| 90 | 3942 | 721 | 4663 | 4200 | 85 |
| 91 | 3871 | 921 | 4792 | 4200 | 81 |
| 92 | 3955 | 292 | 4247 | 4200 | 93 |
| 93 | 3722 | 219 | 3940 | 4200 | 94 |
| 94 | 2968 | 276 | 3244 | 4200 | 91 |
| 95 | 3990 | 153 | 4142 | 4200 | 96 |
| 96 | 3543 | 734 | 4276 | 6423 | 83 |
| Ave. 78-96 | 2843 | 724 | 3567 |  | 80 |
| Ave. 83-96 | 3158 | 575 | 3734 |  | 85 |
| Ave. 91-95 | 3701 | 372 | 4073 |  | 91 |
| Ave. 90-96 | 3713 | 474 | 4186 |  | 89 |

Table 4. Catch composition in $4 \mathrm{~V} n$ large seiner fishery by spawning group, Oct. 18-Dec. 4, 1996.

| Date | Location | Type | Numbers x 1000 |  |  | Biomass (t) |  | Percent Fall Spawners |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Spring | Fall | Total | Spring | Fall | Total | Numbers | Biomass |
| Oct. 18-22 | Aspy | Test | 35 | 764 | 799 | 8 | 154 | 162 | 96 | 95 |
| Oct. 31- Nov. 8 | Aspy | Fishery | 452 | 6614 | 7066 | 106 | 1263 | 1368 | 94 | 92 |
| Nov. 13-14 | Aspy | Test | 10 | 53 | 62 | 2 | 13 | 15 | 85 | 84 |
| Nov. 21-24 | Aspy | Fishery | 1958 | 9142 | 11101 | 403 | 1447 | 1850 | 82 | 78 |
| Nov. 25- Dec. 1 | Neil's | Fishery | 242 | 1789 | 2031 | 47 | 310 | 357 | 88 | 87 |
| Dec. 3-4 | St. Ann's | Fishery | 781 | 1932 | 1932 | 167 | 357 | 524 | 71 | 68 |
| Total |  |  | 3477 | 20294 | 22990 | 732 | 3544 | 4276 | 85 | 83 |

Table 5. Numbers, weight, and length-at-age by spawning group for large seiner catch in 4 Vn in 1996.

| Age | Fall Spawners |  |  | Age | Spring Spawners |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. | Wt.(kg) | Lth (cm) |  | No. | Wt.(kg) | Lth (cm) |
| 1 | 0 | 0.000 | 0.00 | 1 | 0 | 0.070 | 22.00 |
| 2 | 237 | 0.085 | 23.16 | 2 | 72 | 0.103 | 24.46 |
| 3 | 1335 | 0.122 | 26.55 | 3 | 551 | 0.136 | 26.31 |
| 4 | 7966 | 0.146 | 28.21 | 4 | 209 | 0.183 | 28.82 |
| 5 | 2560 | 0.165 | 29.63 | 5 | 1442 | 0.221 | 30.40 |
| 6 | 3309 | 0.186 | 30.82 | 6 | 932 | 0.228 | 30.66 |
| 7 | 1657 | 0.206 | 31.63 | 7 | 79 | 0.265 | 32.00 |
| 8 | 1176 | 0.228 | 32.68 | 8 | 27 | 0.324 | 33.90 |
| 9 | 887 | 0.238 | 32.97 | 9 | 96 | 0.310 | 33.46 |
| 10 | 579 | 0.263 | 34.42 | 10 | 4 | 0.314 | 33.59 |
| 11 | 589 | 0.322 | 36.68 | 11 | 64 | 0.318 | 33.71 |
| Totals | 20294 | 0.175 | 29.82 | Totals | 3477 | 0.211 | 29.81 |

Table 6. Catch-at-age for fall spawners caught by purse seines in $4 \mathrm{Vn}, 1978$-1996.
Tableau 6. Prises selon l'âge pour les géniteurs d'automne capturés à l'aide de sennes coulissantes dans 4Vn, 1978-1996.

| Numbers $\mathrm{AGE}$ | $\begin{gathered} \times 1000 \\ 1978 \end{gathered}$ | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 42 | 5827 | 628 | 377 | 1888 | 1352 | 997 | 827 | 604 | 816 | 441 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 15 | 14 | 237 |
| 3 | 563 | 2622 | 2865 | 541 | 3147 | 4652 | 3551 | 1987 | 2533 | 1613 | 833 | 559 | 697 | 2105 | 20 | 159 | 280 | 137 | 1335 |
| 4 | 1601 | 656 | 2602 | 6800 | 3103 | 3651 | 4271 | 3920 | 5162 | 4138 | 1103 | 1408 | 2264 | 5406 | 1096 | 456 | 1964 | 551 | 7966 |
| 5 | 1092 | 167 | 888 | 693 | 1428 | 2114 | 2790 | 2982 | 2394 | 1413 | 3328 | 1130 | 1524 | 2547 | 3273 | 1814 | 722 | 4374 | 2560 |
| 6 | 842 | 100 | 655 | 591 | 359 | 584 | 775 | 927 | 1375 | 735 | 2394 | 2443 | 413 | 750 | 1427 | 4357 | 2426 | 1266 | 3309 |
| 7 | 628 | 324 | 663 | 0 | 158 | 218 | 377 | 590 | 1770 | 1040 | 575 | 460 | 2716 | 856 | 1474 | 1687 | 3193 | 3844 | 1657 |
| 8 | 366 | 0 | 636 | 206 | 40 | 50 | 66 | 66 | 967 | 620 | 734 | 684 | 642 | 1266 | 990 | 1473 | 984 | 3294 | 1176 |
| 9 | 449 | 0 | 905 | 236 | 47 | 83 | 58 | 130 | 245 | 165 | 346 | 429 | 857 | 1309 | 1379 | 1594 | 695 | 967 | 887 |
| 10 | 280 | 0 | 638 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 75 | 183 | 123 | 1686 | 539 | 983 | 1564 | 829 | 909 | 579 |
| 11+ | 156 | 0 | 493 | 0 | 57 | 38 | 19 | 48 | 7 | 22 | 79 | 292 | 3033 | 1699 | 4317 | 2587 | 1689 | 1732 | 589 |
| Total | 6019 | 9696 | 10973 | 9444 | 10227 | 12742 | 12904 | 11477 | 15137 | 10657 | 10028 | 7554 | 13833 | 16478 | 14959 | 15716 | 12798 | 17086 | 20294 |
| Weight (kg) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AGE | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| 1 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0378 | 0.0389 | 0.0349 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 2 | 0.1934 | 0.1067 | 0.1302 | 0.0803 | 0.1175 | 0.1409 | 0.1258 | 0.1144 | 0.0889 | 0.0750 | 0.0960 | 0.1197 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0280 | 0.0912 | 0.0854 | 0.0847 |
| 3 | 0.1832 | 0.1755 | 0.1648 | 0.1901 | 0.1951 | 0.1900 | 0.1992 | 0.2011 | 0.1481 | 0.1446 | 0.1589 | 0.1642 | 0.1726 | 0.1443 | 0.1322 | 0.1180 | 0.1393 | 0.1275 | 0.1216 |
| 4 | 0.2471 | 0.2262 | 0.2328 | 0.2089 | 0.2360 | 0.2382 | 0.2405 | 0.2471 | 0.1838 | 0.1862 | 0.2085 | 0.2077 | 0.2025 | 0.1915 | 0.1796 | 0.1531 | 0.1608 | 0.1609 | 0.1459 |
| 5 | 0.3042 | 0.2741 | 0.3035 | 0.2807 | 0.2571 | 0.2621 | 0.2655 | 0.2693 | 0.2202 | 0.2111 | 0.2395 | 0.2361 | 0.2240 | 0.2229 | 0.2087 | 0.1783 | 0.1800 | 0.1915 | 0.1651 |
| 6 | 0.3323 | 0.2979 | 0.3374 | 0.3149 | 0.2943 | 0.2957 | 0.2934 | 0.2983 | 0.2535 | 0.2543 | 0.2605 | 0.2743 | 0.2646 | 0.2477 | 0.2381 | 0.2044 | 0.2121 | 0.2131 | 0.1855 |
| 7 | 0.3562 | 0.3459 | 0.3655 | 0.0000 | 0.3250 | 0.3238 | 0.3194 | 0.3166 | 0.2601 | 0.2606 | 0.2943 | 0.2905 | 0.2924 | 0.2626 | 0.2468 | 0.2270 | 0.2295 | 0.2201 | 0.2055 |
| 8 | 0.3744 | 0.0000 | 0.3917 | 0.4284 | 0.3612 | 0.3602 | 0.3543 | 0.3513 | 0.2930 | 0.2968 | 0.3190 | 0.3096 | 0.3150 | 0.2972 | 0.2758 | 0.2455 | 0.2466 | 0.2490 | 0.2280 |
| 9 | 0.3880 | 0.0000 | 0.4000 | 0.4137 | 0.3958 | 0.4046 | 0.3591 | 0.3794 | 0.3277 | 0.3301 | 0.3331 | 0.3406 | 0.3360 | 0.3073 | 0.2856 | 0.2686 | 0.2822 | 0.2674 | 0.2385 |
| 10 | 0.3990 | 0.0000 | 0.4136 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3203 | 0.3179 | 0.3521 | 0.3371 | 0.3416 | 0.3206 | 0.2853 | 0.2827 | 0.2988 | 0.2898 | 0.2627 |
| 11+ | 0.4294 | 0.0000 | 0.4349 | 0.0000 | 0.4205 | 0.4193 | 0.4078 | 0.4213 | 0.4458 | 0.3924 | 0.3700 | 0.3477 | 0.3468 | 0.3544 | 0.3295 | 0.3105 | 0.3240 | 0.3392 | 0.3220 |
| Mean | 0.3045 | 0.1462 | 0.2717 | 0.2245 | 0.2102 | 0.2204 | 0.2325 | 0.2459 | 0.2051 | 0.1964 | 0.2431 | 0.2593 | 0.2850 | 0.2349 | 0.2644 | 0.2368 | 0.2319 | 0.2335 | 0.1746 |
| Catch Blomass (t) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 8 | 622 | 82 | 30 | 222 | 190 | 125 | 95 | 54 | 61 | 42 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 |
| 3 | 103 | 460 | 472 | 103 | 614 | 884 | 707 | 400 | 375 | 233 | 132 | 92 | 120 | 304 | 3 | 19 | 39 | 17 | 162 |
| 4 | 396 | 148 | 606 | 1421 | 732 | 870 | 1027 | 969 | 949 | 770 | 230 | 292 | 458 | 1035 | 197 | 70 | 316 | 89 | 1162 |
| 5 | 332 | 46 | 270 | 195 | 367 | 554 | 741 | 803 | 527 | 298 | 797 | 267 | 341 | 568 | 683 | 323 | 130 | 838 | 423 |
| 6 | 280 | 30 | 221 | 186 | 106 | 173 | 227 | 277 | 349 | 187 | 624 | 670 | 109 | 186 | 340 | 891 | 515 | 270 | 614 |
| 7 | 224 | 112 | 242 | 0 | 51 | 71 | 120 | 187 | 460 | 271 | 169 | 134 | 794 | 225 | 364 | 383 | 733 | 846 | 341 |
| 8 | 137 | 0 | 249 | 88 | 14 | 18 | 23 | 23 | 283 | 184 | 234 | 212 | 202 | 376 | 273 | 362 | 243 | 820 | 268 |
| 9 | 174 | 0 | 362 | 98 | 19 | 34 | 21 | 49 | 80 | 54 | 115 | 146 | 288 | 402 | 394 | 428 | 196 | 259 | 211 |
| 10 | 112 | 0 | 264 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 24 | 64 | 41 | 576 | 173 | 280 | 442 | 248 | 264 | 152 |
| 11+ | 67 | 0 | 214 | 0 | 24 | 16 | 8 | 20 | 3 | 9 | 29 | 102 | 1052 | 602 | 1422 | 803 | 547 | 587 | 190 |
| Total | 1833 | 1418 | 2981 | 2120 | 2150 | 2808 | 3000 | 2822 | 3105 | 2093 | 2438 | 1959 | 3942 | 3871 | 3955 | 3722 | 2968 | 3990 | 3543 |

Table 7. Catch-at-age for spring spawners caught by purse seines in 4Vn, 1978-1996.
Tableau 7. Prise selon l'âge pour les géniteurs de printemps capturés à l'aide de sennes coulissantes dans 4Vn, 1978-1996.

| Numbers AGE | $\begin{array}{r} \times 1000 \\ 1978 \end{array}$ | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 58 | 5679 | 349 | 595 | 1525 | 302 | 522 | 615 | 117 | 73 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 809 | 5007 | 2614 | 2829 | 3074 | 3383 | 1759 | 953 | 929 | 226 | 214 | 0 | 218 | 167 | 28 | 43 | 35 | 36 | 72 |
| 3 | 978 | 383 | 901 | 1833 | 1994 | 1561 | 1702 | 1129 | 4064 | 827 | 132 | 105 | 552 | 108 | 11 | 27 | 474 | 13 | 551 |
| 4 | 358 | 0 | 143 | 0 | 667 | 526 | 636 | 636 | 1466 | 441 | 145 | 180 | 608 | 990 | 74 | 51 | 187 | 289 | 209 |
| 5 | 330 | 0 | 117 | 438 | 362 | 289 | 371 | 418 | 0 | 0 | 127 | 99 | 701 | 289 | 182 | 176 | 138 | 104 | 1442 |
| 6 | 455 | 298 | 277 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 265 | 64 | 0 | 219 | 333 | 134 | 573 | 265 | 208 | 113 | 932 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 59 | 0 | 218 | 381 | 0 | 150 | 183 | 141 | 79 |
| 8 | 114 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 413 | 67 | 29 | 109 | 35 | 1157 | 0 | 120 | 53 | 27 | 27 |
| 9 | 14 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 | 186 | 0 | 0 | 83 | 4 | 96 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 186 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| 11+ | 32 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 194 | 148 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 64 |
| Total | 3148 | 11367 | 4516 | 5695 | 7622 | 6061 | 4990 | 3751 | 7254 | 1698 | 706 | 712 | 2821 | 3790 | 1016 | 848 | 1362 | 755 | 3477 |
| Weight (kg) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| AGE | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| 1 | 0.0707 | 0.0966 | 0.1099 | 0.1057 | 0.0995 | 0.1183 | 0.0991 | 0.0895 | 0.0557 | 0.0571 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0785 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0586 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0704 |
| 2 | 0.1738 | 0.1538 | 0.1556 | 0.1823 | 0.1655 | 0.1679 | 0.1693 | 0.1684 | 0.1207 | 0.1214 | 0.1230 | 0.0000 | 0.1571 | 0.0941 | 0.1402 | 0.0991 | 0.1511 | 0.1079 | 0.1033 |
| 3 | 0.2279 | 0.1809 | 0.2149 | 0.2299 | 0.2211 | 0.2198 | 0.2235 | 0.2342 | 0.1557 | 0.1579 | 0.1813 | 0.1447 | 0.2170 | 0.1126 | 0.1785 | 0.1631 | 0.1494 | 0.1262 | 0.1363 |
| 4 | 0.2903 | 0.0000 | 0.2753 | 0.0000 | 0.2517 | 0.2536 | 0.2571 | 0.2633 | 0.1920 | 0.1878 | 0.1976 | 0.1772 | 0.2421 | 0.1807 | 0.2072 | 0.2216 | 0.1947 | 0.1774 | 0.1827 |
| 5 | 0.3226 | 0.0000 | 0.3141 | 0.3689 | 0.2889 | 0.3005 | 0.2996 | 0.3125 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.2415 | 0.2127 | 0.2785 | 0.2277 | 0.2433 | 0.2329 | 0.1870 | 0.1994 | 0.2211 |
| 6 | 0.3702 | 0.3639 | 0.3833 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.2279 | 0.2279 | 0.0000 | 0.2744 | 0.2802 | 0.2448 | 0.2938 | 0.2690 | 0.2203 | 0.2179 | 0.2284 |
| 7 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.2872 | 0.0000 | 0.3185 | 0.2653 | 0.0000 | 0.2962 | 0.2959 | 0.2412 | 0.2648 |
| 8 | 0.3627 | 0.0000 | 0.3868 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.2926 | 0.2941 | 0.3899 | 0.2785 | 0.2791 | 0.2824 | 0.0000 | 0.3421 | 0.2536 | 0.2394 | 0.3238 |
| 9 | 0.4796 | 0.0000 | 0.4831 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3604 | 0.3349 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.2955 | 0.3214 | 0.3103 |
| 10 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3409 | 0.3349 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3165 | 0.3135 |
| 11+ | 0.4330 | 0.0000 | 0.4411 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3287 | 0.3919 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.3140 | 0.3178 |
| Mean | 0.2568 | 0.1316 | 0.1927 | 0.2040 | 0.1802 | 0.1926 | 0.2013 | 0.2074 | 0.1674 | 0.1645 | 0.1952 | 0.2227 | 0.2555 | 0.2430 | 0.2873 | 0.2579 | 0.2030 | 0.2024 | 0.2110 |
| Catch Biomass (t) |  | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| 1 | 4 | 549 | 38 | 63 | 152 | 36 | 52 | 55 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 141 | 770 | 407 | 516 | 509 | 568 | 298 | 160 | 112 | 27 | 26 | 0 | 34 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | 223 | 69 | 194 | 421 | 441 | 343 | 380 | 264 | 633 | 131 | 24 | 15 | 120 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 71 | 2 | 75 |
| 4 | 104 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 168 | 133 | 164 | 167 | 281 | 83 | 29 | 32 | 147 | 179 | 15 | 11 | 36 | 51 | 38 |
| 5 | 106 | 0 | 37 | 162 | 105 | 87 | 111 | 131 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 21 | 195 | 66 | 44 | 41 | 26 | 21 | 319 |
| 6 | 168 | 108 | 106 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 15 | 0 | 60 | 93 | 33 | 168 | 71 | 46 | 25 | 213 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 69 | 101 | 0 | 44 | 54 | 34 | 21 |
| 8 | 41 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 121 | 20 | 11 | 30 | 10 | 327 | 0 | 41 | 13 | 7 | 9 |
| 9. | 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 1 | 30 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| $11+$ | 14 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 20 |
| Total | 808 | 1496 | 870 | 1162 | 1373 | 1167 | 1004 | 778 | 1214 | 279 | 138 | 159 | 721 | 921 | 292 | 219 | 276 | 153 | 734 |

Table 8. Catch ( t ) of immature herring caught in 4 T and 4 Vn compared to 4 T target catch of immature herring in 1996.

| Spawning Group | CATCH $(\mathrm{t})$ |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 4 M | 4 VN | TOTAL | TARGET |
| Immature | 278 | 256 | 534 | 576 |
| Fall | 93 | 29 | 122 | 269 |
| Spring | 371 | 285 | 656 | 845 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |

Table 9. Catch (tonnes) of herring in 4Vn by large seiners by maturity stage from 1992 to 1996. Numbers differ slightly from Table 3 because of rounding off effects associated with using different categories for estimating numbers in each case.

|  | Year |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Maturity Stage | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 |  |
| Immature | 59 | 26 | 308 | 0 | 285 |  |
| Fall Spawners <br> Maturing <br> Spawning <br> Spent | 89 | 201 | 670 | 120 | 381 |  |
| Spring Spawners <br> Maturing | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 5 |  |
| Total | 208 | 3517 | 1756 | 3903 | 2899 |  |

Table 10. Percent immature herring by weight in 4 Vn large seiner catch by fishing activity period.

| Fishing Period | Percent <br> Immature |
| :--- | :---: |
| Oct 18-22 | 2 |
| Oct. 31-Nov. 8 | 11 |
| Nov. 13-14 | 2 |
| Nov. 21-24 | 4 |
| Nov 25-Dec 1 | 8 |
| Dec. 3-4 | 4 |

Table 11. Cumulative percent at total length in large seiner 4 Vn catch by number from 1993 to 1996.

| Length (cm) | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 93-95 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 24.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 25 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 25.5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| 26 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| 26.5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 |
| 27 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 14 | 3 |
| 27.5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 19 | 4 |
| 28 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 26 | 6 |
| 28.5 | 4 | 16 | 4 | 33 | 8 |
| 29 | 5 | 19 | 6 | 41 | 10 |
| 29.5 | 7 | 23 | 10 | 49 | 14 |
| 30 | 10 | 28 | 20 | 57 | 19 |
| 30.5 | 14 | 34 | 30 | 65 | 26 |
| 31 | 19 | 41 | 41 | 73 | 34 |
| 31.5 | 27 | 50 | 51 | 78 | 43 |
| 32 | 35 | 58 | 60 | 84 | 51 |
| 32.5 | 43 | 65 | 68 | 87 | 59 |
| 33 | 51 | 71 | 75 | 91 | 65 |
| 33.5 | 57 | 76 | 80 | 93 | 71 |
| 34 | 62 | 79 | 83 | 95 | 75 |
| 34.5 | 68 | 83 | 86 | 96 | 79 |
| 35 | 73 | 86 | 89 | 97 | 83 |
| 35.5 | 78 | 89 | 91 | 98 | 86 |
| 36 | 84 | 92 | 93 | 98 | 89 |
| 36.5 | 88 | 95 | 95 | 99 | 93 |
| 37 | 92 | 97 | 97 | 99 | 95 |
| 37.5 | 95 | 99 | 98 | 100 | 97 |
| 38 | 98 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 99 |
| 38.5 | 99 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 39 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 39.5 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 40 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Table 12. Biomass estimates in tonnes from July and September bottom trawl surveys and October - December acoustic surveys in 4Vn from 1970-1996.

| Year | Trawl Biomass |  | Acoustic |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | July | Sep | Biomass | Dates |
| 70 | 6155 |  |  |  |
| 71 | 2459 |  |  |  |
| 72 | 1835 |  |  |  |
| 73 | 10968 |  |  |  |
| 74 | No Est. |  |  |  |
| 75 | 739 |  |  |  |
| 76 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 77 | 667 |  |  |  |
| 78 | 31 |  |  |  |
| 79 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 80 | No Sets |  |  |  |
| 81 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 82 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 83 | 0 |  |  |  |
| 84 | 1940 |  | 75724 | Nov 17-26 |
| 85 | 0 |  | 106865 | Nov 23-26 |
| 86 | 230 |  | 127708 | Dec 1-12 |
| 87 | 39345 |  | 443058 | Nov 17-24 |
| 88 | 81 |  | 172886 | Nov 21-22 |
| 89 | 0 |  |  | No survey |
| 90 | 9 |  | 135249 | Nov 4-8 |
| 91 | 4997 |  | 4418 | Oct. 21-23 |
| 92 | 0 |  | 44845 | Oct. 14-22 |
| 93 | 417 |  | 12512 | Oct 15-20 |
| 94 | 8788 | 8773 |  | No survey |
| 95 | 1773 | 5201 | 5295 | Sep 24-26 |
| 96 | 0 |  | 21804 | Oct. 14-16 |

Table 13. Acoustic abundance indices by strata for Cape Breton in 1995 and 1996.

|  | Survey Dates |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Location | Sep. 24-26, 1995 | Oct. 14-16, 1996 |
| Aspy Bay | 2700 | 11800 |
| Wreck Cove | 416 | 290 |
| St. Ann's | 136 | 70 |
| Haddock Bank | 60 | 1500 |
| Sydney | 1400 | 7200 |
| New Waterford | 583 | 944 |
| Total | 5295 | 21804 |

Table 14. Percent of herring below and above 30 cm total length by week in Chaleur fishery in 1995.

| Week | Percent $<=30$ | Percent $>30$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Aug. 27-Sep.2 | 62 | 38 |
| Sep. 3-9 | 63 | 37 |
| Sep. 10-16 | 71 | 29 |
| Sep. 17-23 | 71 | 29 |
| Sep. 24-30 | 77 | 29 |
| Oct. 1-7 | 71 | 29 |
| Oct. 8-14 | 79 | 21 |
| Oct. 15-21 | 87 | 13 |

Table 15. Percent of herring below and above 30 cm total length by week in 4 Vn fishery in 1995.

| Week | Percent $<=30$ | Percent $>30$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Oct. 29-Nov. 4 | 21 | 79 |
| Nov. 5-11 | 26 | 74 |
| Nov. 12-18 | 18 | 82 |
| Nov. 19-25 | 14 | 86 |

Table 16. Number ( x 1000 ) and biomass ( t ) of catch on Dec. 3-4 near St. Anns Bay by large seiners by spawning group and stock origin.

Fall Spawners 4T

|  | Number | Wt (kg) | Lth (cm) | Biomass |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Immature | 153 | 0.1255 | 26.3 | 19 |
| Maturing | 113 | 0.1780 | 29.7 | 20 |
| Spawning | 0 | 0.0000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Spent | 1705 | 0.1865 | 30.0 | 318 |
| Total |  |  |  | 357 |

## Spring spawners $4 T$

| Immature | 18 | 0.1080 | 24.8 | 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Maturing | 303 | 0.2050 | 29.6 | 62 |
| Total |  |  |  | 64 |

Spring spawners Unknown

| Immature | 13 | 0.1010 | 24.4 | 1 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Maturing | 447 | 0.2267 | 30.6 | 101 |
| Total |  |  |  | 103 |

Spring Spawner Total 167
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Printemps + Automne } & 524\end{array}$

Appendix 1. Comparison of total length and fork length (cm).

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | Length <br> Fork | Difference |
| 19.0 | 17.06 | 1.94 |
| 19.5 | 17.51 | 1.99 |
| 20.0 | 17.95 | 2.05 |
| 20.5 | 18.40 | 2.10 |
| 21.0 | 18.85 | 2.15 |
| 21.5 | 19.30 | 2.20 |
| 22.0 | 19.75 | 2.25 |
| 22.5 | 20.20 | 2.30 |
| 23.0 | 20.64 | 2.36 |
| 23.5 | 21.09 | 2.41 |
| 24.0 | 21.54 | 2.46 |
| 24.5 | 21.99 | 2.51 |
| 25.0 | 22.44 | 2.56 |
| 25.5 | 22.89 | 2.61 |
| 26.0 | 23.33 | 2.67 |
| 26.5 | 23.78 | 2.72 |
| 27.0 | 24.23 | 2.77 |
| 27.5 | 24.68 | 2.82 |
| 28.0 | 25.13 | 2.87 |
| 28.5 | 25.57 | 2.93 |
| 29.0 | 26.02 | 2.98 |
| 29.5 | 26.47 | 3.03 |
| 30.0 | 26.92 | 3.08 |
| 30.5 | 27.37 | 3.13 |
| 31.0 | 27.82 | 3.18 |
| 31.5 | 28.26 | 3.24 |
| 32.0 | 28.71 | 3.29 |
| 32.5 | 29.16 | 3.34 |
| 33.0 | 29.61 | 3.39 |
| 33.5 | 30.06 | 3.44 |
| 34.0 | 30.51 | 3.49 |
| 34.5 | 30.95 | 3.55 |
| 35.0 | 31.40 | 3.60 |

Appendix 2. July survey bottom trawl results for herring from 1970-1996.

| Year | Cruise | Number of sets Total | with Herring | Number |  |  |  | Weight |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | Total | Std. Error | per tow | Std. Error | Total Weight | Std. Error | per tow | Std. Error |
| 70 | A175/176 | 11 | 4 | 15,409,196 | 11,711,605 | 54.10 | 41.12 | 6,155,255 | 4,683,895 | 21.61 | 16.45 |
| 71 | A188/189 | 6 | 1 | 5,327,590 | 5,327,547 | 18.71 | 18.71 | 2,458,888 | 2,458,867 | 8.63 | 8.63 |
| 72 | A200/201 | 6 | 2 | 4,360,294 | 4,321,409 | 15.31 | 15.17 | 1,835,059 | 1,835,044 | 6.44 | 6.44 |
| 73 | A212/213 | 8 | 1 | 23,065,330 | 23,065,142 | 80.98 | 80.98 | 10,968,568 | 10,968,477 | 38.51 | 38.51 |
| 74 | A225/226 | 9 | 1 | 41,785 | 41,785 | 0.15 | 0.15 |  |  |  |  |
| 75 | A236/237 | 9 | 2 | 2,662,756 | 2,605,217 | 9.35 | 9.15 | 739,423 | 710,931 | 2.60 | 2.50 |
| 76 | A250/251 | 5 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 77 | A265/266 | 9 | 2 | 1,876,778 | 1,648,232 | 6.59 | 5.79 | 667,378 | 590,756 | 2.34 | 2.07 |
| 78 | A279/280 | 9 | 1 | 30,895 | 30,895 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 30,895 | 30,895 | 0.11 | 0.11 |
| 79 | A292/293 | 9 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 80 | A305/306 | 0 | 0 | NO SETS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 81 | A321/322 | 9 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 82 | H080/081 | 9 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 83 | N012/013 | 9 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 84 | N031/032 | 9 | 7 | 4,573,473 | 3,546,209 | 16.06 | 12.45 | 1,940,015 | 1,690,630 | 6.81 | 5.94 |
| 85 | N049/049 | 12 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 86 | N065/066 | 15 | 2 | 565,930 | 422,815 | 1.99 | 1.48 | 230,079 | 169,348 | 0.81 | 0.59 |
| 87 | N85/86/87 | 15 | 2 | 141,200,864 | 108,953,320 | 495.76 | 382.54 | 39,345,240 | 32,698,934 | 138.14 | 114.81 |
| 88 | N105/106 | 17 | 2 | 279,064 | 261,729 | 0.98 | 0.92 | 81,182 | 81,180 | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| 89 | N123/124 | 13 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 90 | N139/140 | 15 | 1 | 23,678 | 23,678 | 0.08 | 0.08 |  |  |  |  |
| 91 | N154/H231 | 14 | 3 | 12,214,459 | 11,952,931 | 42.89 | 41.97 | 4,997,256 | 4,903,313 | 17.55 | 17.22 |
| 92 | N173/174 | 15 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 93 | N189/190 | 13 | 4 | 1,070,794 | 729,833 | 3.76 | 2.56 | 416,927 | 307,443 | 1.46 | 1.08 |
| 94 | N221/222 | 15 | 4 | 26,460,278 | 26,229,668 | 92.90 | 92.09 | 8,787,702 | 8,748,364 | 30.85 | 30.72 |
| 95 | N226/227 | 15 | 6 | 7,847,600 | 7,245,658 | 27.55 | 25.44 | 1,773,281 | 1,616,214 | 6.23 | 5.67 |
| 96 | N246/247 | 15 | 0 | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

