

Status of fishery for witch and American plaice  
in ICNAF Subdivision 3Pn and Divisions 4RS

by

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Witch flounder in ICNAF Subdivision 3Pn

Yields from witch in this area have been very low with most catches primarily by inshore gear, principally Danish seine. In 1976 there were about 285 tons landed by Newfoundland otter trawlers under 70 feet. Landings since 1967 are shown in Text Table 1.

Text Table 1. Nominal catches of witch flounder in ICNAF Subdivision 3Pn.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Canada (M)</u>	<u>Canada (N)</u>	<u>Canada (Tot)</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1967		897	897	3	900
1968		406	406	3	409
1969		233	233	1	233
1970		125	125	2	125
1971		13	13	3	16
1972		1,086	1,086	1	1,087
1973		829	829	36	865
1974	1	224	225	4	229
1975	14	32	46	15	61
1976	15	1,036	1,051		

Witch flounder in ICNAF Divisions 4R and 4S

Up to 1976 the fishery on this stock was to a large extent by Danish seiners (Text Table 2), however, during 1976, and in particular during the January to April period, there was a directed fishery for witch in this area by the otter trawler fleet probably in conjunction with the redfish fishery. Thus, in 1975 the Newfoundland otter trawler fleet (over 70 feet) recorded 660 hours of "main species witch" effort producing 0.250 tons per hour and in 1976 this increased to 5,400 hours and 0.470 tons per hour. Seventy-two percent (72%) of the catch came from Division 4R in 1976 with most of the catch coming from the St. Georges Bay area.

Text Table 2. Witch flounder landings in ICNAF Divisions 4RS, 1967-76.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Canada (M)</u>	<u>Canada (N)</u>	<u>Canada (Tot)</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1967	801	133	934	1	935
1968	582	679	1,261	6	1,267
1969	1,766	1,401	3,167	13	3,180
1970	1,372	2,023	3,395	3	3,398
1971	565	1,562	2,127		2,127
1972	728	206	934	18	952
1973	236	649	885	2	887
1974	793	1,718	2,511	9	2,520
1975	409	1,524	1,933		1,933
1976	1,572	3,368	4,940		4,940*

\* Preliminary

American plaice in ICNAF Divisions 4R and 4S

This is primarily a small boat fishery, although in 1976 the large trawlers took about 25% of the catch (based on Nfld. records of 2,170 tons landed). Most of the otter trawl catches occurred in April and May. The nominal catches are listed in Text Table 3B. In 1976, 80% of the total catch came from Division 4R.

Text Table 3. American plaice landings in ICNAF Subdivision 3Pn and Divisions 4R and 4S.

<u>Year</u>	<u>A. Subdivision 3Pn</u>			<u>B. Divisions 4R and 4S</u>		
	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
1960	18		18	1,370	2	1,372
1961	6		6	1,343		
1962	50		50	932		
1963	61		61	774		
1964	102	3	105	966	1	967
1965	74	6	80	698	15	713
1966	112	7	119	940		940
1967	296	1	297	1,117	39	1,156
1968	163	5	168	2,347	17	2,364
1969	117	1	118	2,778	8	2,786
1970	80	1	81	3,928	6	3,934
1971	74		74	2,252	5	2,257
1972	400	2	402	1,505	17	1,522
1973	180		180	1,050	45	1,095
1974	108	236	344	2,740	36	2,776
1975	50	29	79	1,270	66	1,336
1976	510		510	2,736*		2,736*

\*Preliminary

American plaice in ICNAF Subarea 3Pn

This is also primarily a small boat fishery. In 1976 nearly all of the catch was taken by Danish seine. Nominal catches are listed in Text Table 3A.