

## THE CAPELIN FISHERY 1972-1988

by

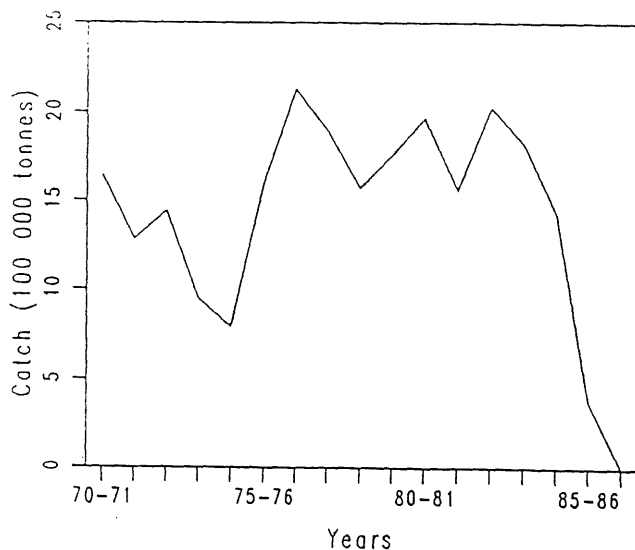
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The figure below shows the catch of Barents Sea capelin as reported in official statistics. This fishery has been carried out almost exclusively by Norway and USSR, although other nations have occasionally taken part in the fishery to a very small extent.

The fishery is conducted in two different seasons: January-April on the spawning population near the coasts of Norway and USSR and August-December on fishing fields located north of 73 degrees.

Catch of capelin in one "biological year"  
(July one year to June the next)



The official statistics do not reflect the extra mortality that may have been associated with the fishery, in addition to the catches. This mortality is not well documented, but reports in the media and elsewhere indicate that during the autumn fishery, large quantities of one-year-old capelin were caught in the seines. Although they were released, it is likely that the juveniles died of their injuries. A geographical overlap of one-year-old capelin and adult capelin occurred in the first half of the 80's.

During the years 1984-86 a fairly large part of the catches was taken for human consumption, and there were consistent reports that quantities of capelin unsuitable for this purpose were thrown overboard.

Below is shown the fishing mortality for 2- and 3-year-old capelin during the autumn and the natural mortality during the same period.

The natural mortality in the periods 1972-1978 and 1979-1983 is estimated together with length at maturity. In the period 1984-1987 the natural mortality is calculated on basis of length at maturity estimated for 1979-1983. We refer to working group reports for details.

Since 1984, there has been an abrupt increase in natural mortality, probably from predation from cod.

Average inst. natural and fishing mortalities per month of capelin during autumn (July-December)

