

Report of the Saithe (Coalfish) Working Group

Charlottenlund, 4 - 8 February 1974

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^{x)} The General Secretary,
ICES,
Charlottenlund Slot,
2920 Charlottenlund,
Denmark.

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1. Participants:

Mr N.N. Argurov	U.S.S.R.
Mr N. Daan	Netherlands
Mr K. Hoydal	Denmark
Mr A. Hysten	Norway
Mr T. Jakobsen	Norway
Mr B.W. Jones (Chairman)	U.K. (England)
Mr E.S. Prosvirov	U.S.S.R.
Dr H.H. Reinsch	Germany (F.R.)
Mr J. Richards	U.K. (Scotland)
Mr D. de G. Griffith	ICES Statistician, also attended the Meeting.

2. Terms of Reference

The Working Group was asked to update assessments of the state of the saithe stocks and to assess the effect of the new fisheries regulation at Faroes upon these stocks (C.Res.1973/2:21).

3. Catch and Fishing Effort

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are reproduced from the previous report with the addition of data for 1972 and provisional estimates for 1973. Recent catches from the north-east Atlantic have remained stable at about 600 000 tons. There has been little change in the last two years in the landings from the individual fishing areas with the exception of Faroe where there has been an increase in the reported landings, particularly by French vessels.

The data of catch per unit effort and estimates of total fishing effort (Tables 2 and 3) have to be accepted with caution, and the limitations of of these data are discussed in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 of the Report of the 1973 Meeting.

4. Mortality Estimates from Catch per Unit Effort Data

Table 4 has been updated. The recent data do not change the earlier conclusion of the Working Group that the method used does not provide very reliable total mortality estimates for the saithe fisheries.

5. Virtual Population Analysis

At the previous (1973) Meeting of the Working Group, data were assembled for Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) for all main fishing areas except the north-east Arctic. Preliminary analyses were made with the available data. At the present Meeting data were presented for the north-east Arctic and the data for all areas were updated to include landings in 1972.

Analyses were made and the results were inspected to assess whether the initial assumed values of the fishing mortality coefficient for the oldest age-groups of each yearclass (F_I) appeared to be consistent with the calculated values for the younger age-groups. Further analyses were made with different values for F_I where these were considered desirable. A VPA was also made using the combined data for all areas.

5.1. Results

The VPA method suffers from the disadvantage that estimates of mortality for the most recent years can be subject to error if the assumed values of fishing mortality in the most recent year (F_I) are incorrect. However, errors resulting from incorrect assumptions become reduced in the earlier years. The final values of F_I which were used were based on an inspection of the preliminary runs and interpolation of the trend of fishing mortality with what the recent changes in fishing effort were believed to be. The resultant values of fishing mortality for a natural mortality coefficient = 0.2 are tabulated in Tables 5 - 10. At Faroe and west of Scotland fishing mortality appears to have remained fairly constant over the period, but in the other areas there has been a trend of increasing fishing mortality and this has been particularly marked in the north-east Arctic and northern North Sea. The results for the combined data for all areas will be closely related to the estimates for the Arctic and North Sea because the numbers of fish caught in these two areas are much larger than in the other areas and together account for about 85% of the catch in the north-east Atlantic. Bearing in mind the limitations of the VPA method in providing accurate estimates of fishing mortality in the most recent years, the Working Group believes that the present levels of F on the fully exploited age-groups in the various fishing areas lie within the limits indicated below:

Area	Fishing Mortality
North-east Arctic (I + IIa)	0.4 - 0.6
Northern North Sea (IV)	0.5 - 0.7
Iceland (Va)	0.3 - 0.5
Faroe (Vb)	0.2 - 0.5
West of Scotland (VIa)	0.2 - 0.4
All areas combined	0.4 - 0.6

Estimates of yearclass strength as population size of 2 year old fish are given in Table 11. With the exception of the yearclasses 1967 onwards, the sum of the populations in the areas separately agrees very closely with the population size calculated from the combined total catch data.

In the VPA calculations described above no allowance has been made for migration of saithe between the different areas. It is well known from the results of tagging experiments that such long distance migrations do take place, but the magnitude and regularity of the migrations are not sufficiently well known to be expressed in a quantitative manner which could be incorporated in the calculations.

6. Growth

Growth data were available as mean length at age over a period of years for each stock. von Bertalanffy growth parameters were calculated for each area by a least squares fit of the growth curve, and the results are given in Table 12.

7. Yield per Recruit and Age at First Capture

The yield per recruit (Y_w/R) for each area was calculated for a range of values of instantaneous fishing mortality coefficient (F) and mean age at first capture (t_c), using a constant value of the instantaneous coefficient of natural mortality (M) of 0.2. The calculations were based on the Beverton and Holt yield equation, and the von Bertalanffy growth parameters used were those calculated from the English data:-

	I+II	IVa	Va	Vb	VIa
W_∞ (kg)	17.2	14.5	15.3	12.2	16.4
K	0.104	0.120	0.141	0.145	0.106
t_o (years)	-1.26	-1.47	-0.50	-1.30	-1.91

W_∞ was calculated as $L_\infty^3 \times 8 \times 10^{-6}$ kg. Age at recruitment (t_r) was taken as 2 years in all cases, and maximum age as 25 years. The results are presented in Table 13 and Figures 1 and 2. The graphs show the relationship between yield per recruit and F for the estimated present mean age at first capture (Figure 1), and the relationship between yield per recruit and mean age at first capture at present levels of F (Figure 2). The results indicate that at Iceland and Faroe the present values of t_c are optimum for the present levels of F . In the other areas the present value of t_c is lower than that required to give maximum yield per recruit at current estimated levels of F . In Table 13 the average number of 2 year old recruits (mean for the period 1962 - 1966) is given for each area. The present theoretical total catch (weight) from each area is calculated from yield per recruit x number of recruits. Some discrepancies between the calculated present yield and the observed landings must be expected, due to variation in recruitment. This can be compared with the estimated catch using the yield per recruit which would be obtained if the age at first capture was adjusted to the optimum value at the current levels of F . This indicates that an increase in the average age at first capture would result in increases in the total catches of 25%, 12% and 10% for the north-east Arctic, North Sea and west of Scotland areas respectively.

The Report of the 1973 Meeting of the Working Group includes an assessment of the effects of an increase in the minimum trawl cod-end mesh size in the north-east Arctic and at Iceland.

8. The Effect on the Saithe Fisheries of the Arrangement Relating to Fisheries in Waters Surrounding the Faroes

According to Article 2 in the Arrangement, which refers to species other than cod and haddock, the countries fishing in the area are placed in 3 categories:

Category 1 are those countries "...directing their fisheries in the area solely towards demersal species other than those covered by Article 1....." (i.e. cod and haddock). The countries in this category fishing

with trawl "...shall not exceed by more than 10% the highest figure they have respectively achieved" in the period 1968 - 1972. The countries in this category fishing solely by gill-nets and line shall not exceed by more than 25% the highest figure in the same period. This allows up to a 10% increase for France and Germany (F.R.) and a 25% increase for Norway.

Category 2 are those countries "...which have not habitually exercised fishing in the area...". They shall limit their catches of species other than cod and haddock to 2 000 tons each.

Category 3 are those countries which primarily direct their fishing towards cod and haddock. These countries are the U.K. and Faroes. No restriction is placed on their fishery of species other than cod and haddock.

Thus within the terms of the Arrangement, and if saithe catches increase by the stated percentages, catches that may be taken by Germany (F.R.), France and Norway as follows:

Country	Largest catch in period 1968-72 (tons)	Percentage increase	Catch (tons)
France	28 346	10	31 181
Germany (FR)	7 532	10	8 285
Norway	1 839	25	2 299

However, it is not possible to predict changes in catch by the U.K. or the Faroes, nor is it possible to predict how many countries, not previously fishing at Faroe, might opt to do so and take a catch of saithe of up to 2 000 tons.

In the circumstances no detailed quantitative estimates can be given of the effect of the Arrangement on the saithe fishery. Landings from Faroe have increased in the last two years. However, within the terms of the Arrangement it is likely that, in the near future, any overall increase in saithe landings will be a moderate one, and would probably not exceed 10%. As indicated in Section 7 of this Report, the present fishery appears to be generating a fishing mortality within the range 0.2 to 0.5, and the present average age at first capture is consistent with that required to give a maximum yield per recruit at this level of F. Provided there is no change in the fishery towards increasing exploitation of the youngest age-groups, it is likely that the stock will be able to withstand a moderate increase in the amount of fishing.

9. Length-Weight Data

Table 13 in the 1973 Working Group Report gave length-weight data for the Iceland and Lofoten areas. The weight data were calculated from equations which fitted German length-weight observations. It was subsequently discovered that some of the calculated weights given in the table were incorrect and a revised version of the table is at Table 14 in this Report.

10. O-Group Saithe Survey

The representatives of the U.S.S.R. reported that a survey of O-group saithe was made last year in the northern North Sea by a U.S.S.R. vessel. No data from this survey were available at the present Meeting. The Working Group recommends that the Chairman of the Meeting to investigate the methodology of young fish surveys invites U.S.S.R. representatives to report to that Working Group the results and methods used in the U.S.S.R. O-group saithe survey.

Table 1. Summary of Saithe Landings by Regions in Metric Tons Round Fresh Weight.

Fishing Area Year	I	IIa	IIb	IV	Va	Vb	VI	TOTAL
1946	5 557	27 059	506	23 155	41 569	5 325	4 781	107 952
1947	15 498	46 560	958	31 929	43 379	8 759	5 596	152 679
1948	29 754	62 037	861	29 204	114 286	3 569	4 622	244 333
1949	33 551	61 449	357	27 079	87 045	6 114	3 730	219 325
1950	29 236	86 007	647	21 108	55 174	5 367	3 329	200 868
1951	27 028	76 269	1 204	22 217	74 096	8 698	4 362	213 874
1952	14 203	105 058	632	23 227	87 940	6 851	6 701	244 612
1953	18 636	104 915	716	22 791	73 131	7 184	6 206	233 579
1954	11 162	91 277	576	36 224	69 629	6 212	6 646	221 726
1955	13 404	90 807	928	44 942	47 843	7 234	8 687	213 845
1956	15 321	98 409	1 351	51 067	67 860	10 884	11 679	256 571
1957	16 253	112 682	1 353	55 546	62 061	26 858	12 210	286 963
1958	12 306	105 265	1 217	50 372	53 178	12 978	12 780	248 096
1959	17 813	113 511	1 235	51 224	48 478	14 545	9 845	256 651
1960	17 627	117 782	620	31 515	48 120	11 845	8 532	236 041
1961	16 602	92 859	421	35 489	50 826	9 592	6 723	212 512
1962	11 456	110 968	419	24 559	50 514	10 454	7 159	215 529
1963	21 399	126 491	146	30 300	48 011	12 693	6 609	245 649
1964	55 714	141 335	1 061	58 669	60 257	20 550	16 655	354 241
1965	18 676	164 995	877	73 274	60 177	22 071	18 276	358 346
1966	16 963	183 835	1 062	90 940	52 003	24 597	18 509	387 909
1967	15 452	175 331	408	76 759	75 712	23 219	16 034	382 915
1968	10 895	96 100	186	98 179	77 549	19 704	12 504	315 117
1969	19 524	118 851	1 004	115 564	115 853	27 536	16 366	414 698
1970	36 129	223 034	1 249	179 594	116 601	29 148	14 488	600 233
1971	38 448	174 493	720	209 532	134 127	30 867	11 203	599 390
1972	30 480	175 995	241	198 621	107 825	46 580	16 473	576 215
1973 ¹⁾	26 886	185 459	477	181 875	113 241	59 881	19 808	587 627

1) Provisional data.

Table 2. Catch per Unit Effort of Saithe by Statistical Areas for English and German Trawlers.
 English data (E) and Icelandic data (I) tons per million ton-hours.
 German (F.R.) data (G.) kg per fishing day.

Statistical Area Country	I		IIa		IVa		Va		Vb		VIa	
	E.	E.	E.	G.	E.	E.	I.	E.	G.	E.	G.	E.
1946	29	277	73		308			330		147		151
1947	74	552	148		339			403		151		80
1948	93	571	112		287			218		80		64
1949	75	417	68	2 911	208			273	3 206	64		56
1950	62	110	60	5 323	136			160	3 647	56		79
1951	47	124	92	6 051	123			237	4 348	79		108
1952	39	176	231	7 379	113			216	3 867	108		88
1953	49	148	495	7 052	101			260	2 115	88		88
1954	30	169	369	9 296	99			227	2 742	88		46
1955	27	176	364	8 164	76			245	2 186	132		476
1956	35	121	388	6 033	77			259	3 705	187		240
1957	39	164	315	7 878	61			182	3 416	218		218
1958	36	168	341	7 310	60			243	2 501	204		204
1959	36	100	352	6 492	56			202	2 678	180		180
1960	35	149	303	7 539	54	222		161	2 407	153		153
1961	16	89	253	6 154	54	182		225	2 851	135		135
1962	14	93	231	6 932	51	211		186	3 025	142		142
1963	12	103	281	6 110	55	190		214	2 105	136		136
1964	45	114	269	5 252	61	161		266	2 269	244		244
1965	38	135	373	7 772	64	186		342	1 652	293		293
1966	44	189	344	6 884	54	183		278	1 768	305		305
1967	24	122	331	7 428	74	308		276	2 411	251		251
1968	27	119	166	6 410	90	356		398	1 915	233		233
1969	33	129	229	7 663	149	538		359	3 946	189		189
1970	51	151	226	13 542	92	440		411	3 405	285		285
1971	36	134	136	7 546	116			451	4 417	238		238
1972	35	129	107	11 087	65			247	3 918	164		164

Table 3. Estimates of Total Fishing Effort on Saithe in English, German and Scottish Units.

$$\text{Total effort} = \frac{\text{Total landings}}{\text{National catch per unit effort}}$$

English units : millions of ton-hours.

German units : thousands of days fishing.

Scottish units : thousands of hours fishing.

Icelandic units : millions of ton-hours

Statistical Area	I		IIa (Trawl)		IV		Va			Vb			VIa	
	E.		E.	G.	E.		E.	G.	I.	E.	G.	S.	E.	
1946	192				317		135			16				33
1947	201				216		128			22				37
1948	320				261		398			16				58
1949	447				398		418			22				58
1950	472				352		406			34				59
1951	351				241		602			37				55
1952	364				101		778			32				62
1953	380				46		724			28				71
1954	372				98		703			27				76
1955	496				123		630			30				66
1956	438				132		881			42				62
1957	417				176		1			118				56
1958	432				148		886			53				63
1959	495				146		866			72				55
1960	504				104		891			74				56
1961	1 038				140		941			43				50
1962	818				106		990			56				50
1963	1 783				108		873			59				49
1964	1 238				218		988			77				68
1965	491				196		940			65				62
1966	386				264		963			88				61
1967	644				232		1 023			84				64
1968	404				591		862			50				54
1969	592				505		778			77				87
1970	708				795		1 267			71				51
1971	1 068				1 541		1 156			68				47
1972	871				1 856		1 659			189				100

Table 4. Estimates of Coefficients of Total Mortality for Saith from German (G) and English (E) and Scottish (S) Age Compositions Per Unit Effort

Statistical Area	IIa			IV			Va		Vb			VIa										
	G.	E.	(5-9)	E.	(4-10)	(5-10)	G.	S.	(3-8)	G.	E.		(4-9)	G.	E.	S.	(4-8)	(5-10)	(6-12)	(4-9)		
Country																						
Age Groups	(5-11)	(5-9)	(4-10)	(5-10)	(3-8)	(6-11)	(4-9)	(6-12)	(5-10)	(4-8)												
Years																						
1949-50	-0.40					0.45																
1950-51	0.31					-0.34																
1951-52	0.16					0.92																
1952-53	0.44					1.00																
1953-54	0.52					0.51																
1954-55	0.65					1.17																
1955-56	0.93					0.20																
1956-57	0.91	0.57				0.63		-0.67														
1957-58	0.32	0.45				0.60		0.98									0.57					
1958-59	1.30	1.11				0.79		-0.57									0.57					0.29
1959-60	-0.23	0.61				0.62		0.47									0.80					0.75
1960-61	0.77	1.61				0.70		0.68									0.03					0.50
1961-62	0.59	0.45	1.40			0.31	0.53	0.43									0.61					0.71
1962-63	0.02	1.24	0.65			0.34	0.79	-0.02									0.34					0.89
1963-64	0.33		0.75			1.27	0.77	0.51									0.54					0.57
1964-65	-0.31		1.31	1.66		1.25	0.29	0.24									0.00					0.26
1965-66	0.41	0.20	1.40	-0.90		0.53	0.42	0.04									0.92					1.28
1966-67	0.27	1.12	0.44	0.19		0.45	-0.26	0.06									0.65					0.65
1967-68	0.29	0.75	1.49	0.56		0.63	-0.10	0.63									0.34					0.82
1968-69	0.52	0.81	0.21	-0.56		0.15	-0.38	-0.48									0.87					1.00
1969-70	-0.56	0.42	0.53	-0.72		0.40	0.63	0.61									0.14					0.46
1970-71	0.68	0.80	1.70	1.24	0.77	0.22	-0.10	1.01									0.75					0.56
1971-72	-0.18	1.01	0.75	-0.68		0.90	0.72	0.19									0.66					0.43

Table 5. North-East Arctic (I + II) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
2	.08	.03	.00	.03	.07	.22	.04	.05	.02	.02	.08	.09	.2
3	.17	.28	.28	.19	.13	.17	.25	.22	.27	.41	.22	.43	.4
4	.20	.22	.29	.37	.46	.10	.40	.48	.21	.20	.69	.55	.5
5	.51	.30	.16	.24	.29	.38	.38	.51	.17	.31	.38	.51	.5
6	.28	.26	.34	.25	.17	.37	.32	.20	.21	.23	.54	.32	.5
7	.34	.11	.27	.26	.31	.26	.29	.22	.05	.18	.42	.51	.5
8	.28	.10	.12	.18	.28	.31	.20	.30	.11	.10	.49	.28	.5
9	.19	.09	.14	.17	.33	.53	.22	.32	.14	.14	.33	.41	.5
10	.22	.08	.11	.14	.30	.31	.36	.58	.21	.15	.49	.24	.5
11	.31	.17	.13	.15	.33	.43	.36	.62	.32	.10	.40	.65	.5
12	.39	.26	.19	.15	.41	.30	.46	1.17	.35	.18	.68	.59	.5
13		.18	.56	.34	.26	.43	.58	1.17	.94	.07	.80	.39	.5
14 = FI			.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	.3	.3	.3	.5	.5	.5

Average values

Ages	4-10	.29	.17	.20	.23	.31	.32	.31	.37	.16	.19	.48	.41
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Table 6. North Sea (IV) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
1									.00	.00	.00	.00	.01
2	.03	.02	.03	.01	.03	.00	.04	.03	.01	.05	.02	.12	.1
3	.25	.14	.12	.03	.12	.07	.07	.07	.15	.11	.19	.43	.4
4	.28	.43	.27	.23	.16	.30	.29	.13	.23	.30	.44	.63	.5
5	.34	.28	.26	.37	.28	.28	.42	.21	.37	.31	.69	.51	.6
6	.26	.34	.15	.16	.24	.18	.34	.24	.37	.50	.69	.40	.6
7	.08	.22	.06	.08	.19	.19	.49	.53	.24	.58	.46	.49	.6
8	.02	.11	.03	.04	.21	.12	.35	.82	.23	.49	.34	.56	.6
9	.01	.09	.02	.04	.25	.06	.45	.67	.33	.51	.29	.68	.6
10	.01	.25	.03	.02	.17	.10	.47	.78	.53	1.09	.34	.62	.6
11	.02	.14	.08	.04	.15	.08	.56	.80	.93	.28	.69	.54	.6
12		.17	.07	.14	.08	.05	.42	.51	.59	.46	.27	.97	.6
13		.09	.03	.13	.36	.05	.21	.08	.78	.57	.45	.11	.6
14 = FI			.1	.1	.2	.2	.3	.3	.5	.5	.6	.6	.6

Average values

Ages	4-9	.16	.24	.13	.16	.22	.39	.43	.29	.45	.48	.54
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Table 7. Iceland (Va) Saithe
Estimates of Fisk & Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
2		.01	.05	.01	.06	.02	.01	.02	.02	.02	.02	.01	.001
3		.15	.26	.08	.21	.13	.03	.06	.05	.11	.09	.07	.02
4		.20	.30	.11	.25	.21	.12	.10	.09	.15	.17	.23	.1
5		.34	.47	.21	.30	.23	.17	.24	.16	.22	.24	.37	.2
6		.33	.29	.39	.27	.28	.21	.32	.28	.36	.34	.44	.3
7		.20	.29	.45	.23	.23	.24	.30	.33	.42	.42	.50	.4
8		.13	.21	.38	.18	.23	.21	.29	.25	.34	.48	.60	.4
9		.13	.17	.26	.17	.19	.23	.28	.30	.31	.39	.55	.4
10		.22	.18	.24	.14	.18	.23	.26	.30	.13	.33	.55	.4
11		.26	.19	.29	.14	.18	.23	.26	.30	.25	.35	.79	.4
12		.54	.26	.42	.16	.16	.17	.18	.25	.25	.35	.79	.4
13		.29	.24	.39	.22	.21	.29	.43	.32	.12	.34	.33	.4
14 = FI			.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4

Average values

Ages 5+6	.33	.38	.30	.27	.12	.18	.20	.17	.12	.18	.20	.30
7-11	.19	.21	.27	.20	.29	.31	.22	.29	.29	.31	.39	.53

Table 8. Faroe (Vb) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
2	.03	.01	.00	.01	.00	.01	.00	.01	.01	.00	.04	.01	.01
3	.19	.03	.05	.03	.05	.05	.03	.03	.04	.04	.07	.19	.05
4	.07	.06	.10	.04	.13	.08	.10	.05	.11	.17	.30	.21	.2
5	.12	.11	.13	.08	.24	.18	.15	.11	.10	.21	.19	.44	.3
6	.16	.14	.16	.12	.19	.26	.26	.13	.13	.19	.21	.17	.5
7	.15	.11	.14	.19	.23	.26	.34	.28	.14	.20	.17	.16	.5
8	.15	.11	.09	.14	.29	.28	.30	.32	.27	.23	.19	.12	.5
9	.16	.11	.16	.17	.17	.37	.32	.26	.30	.42	.18	.11	.5
10	.16	.11	.15	.29	.20	.31	.44	.32	.27	.55	.31	.13	.5
11	.24	.13	.14	.19	.28	.36	.40	.35	.26	.42	.39	.19	.5
12	.25	.36	.12	.56	.23	.69	.37	.31	.41	.56	.31	.43	.5
13		.08	.30	.38	.27	.45	.72	.24	.30	.50	.55	.12	.5
14 = FI			.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.5

Average values

Ages 5-10	.15	.11	.14	.16	.22	.28	.30	.24	.20	.30	.21	.19
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Table 9. West of Scotland (VIa) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
2	.04	.02	.04	.01	.01	.02	.01	.02	.00	.03	.01	.01	
3	.28	.16	.19	.13	.30	.21	.28	.22	.18	.24	.39	.22	.3
4	.50	.40	.40	.22	.40	.67	.56	.51	.39	.60	.51	.72	.5
5	.62	.34	.39	.19	.45	.46	.63	.45	.41	.47	.52	.47	.5
6	.36	.43	.30	.27	.38	.54	.33	.27	.25	.29	.37	.34	.35
7	.32	.35	.43	.20	.41	.46	.26	.37	.23	.36	.23	.27	.3
8	.23	.30	.28	.49	.21	.34	.11	.29	.16	.25	.21	.31	.3
9	.15	.41	.23	.25	.37	.49	.16	.17	.13	.14	.15	.29	.3
10	.04	.21	.51	.05	.37	.41	.15	.25	.12	.14	.15	.15	.3
11	.05	.40	.06	.32	.43	.85	.23	.25	.15	.13	.19	.20	.3
12	.02	.30	.40	.07	.19	.14	.28	.33	.19	.15	.23	.17	.3
13		.17	.26	.15	.11	.41	.16	.61	.19	.35	.35	.31	.3
14 = FI			.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
<u>Ages</u>	<u>Average values</u>												
4-6	.49	.39	.36	.23	.41	.56	.51	.41	.35	.45	.47	.51	
7-10	.18	.32	.36	.25	.34	.42	.17	.27	.16	.22	.18	.25	

Table 10. Total North-East Atlantic (I, II, IV, Va, Vb, VIa) Saithe
Estimates of Fishing Mortality from Virtual Population Analysis (M = 0.2)

Year Age	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972 FI
2	.05	.02	.00	.02	.04	.08	.03	.03	.01	.03	.04	.05	
3	.17	.20	.21	.14	.11	.11	.12	.12	.16	.20	.17	.29	.2
4	.19	.25	.26	.28	.35	.17	.28	.20	.18	.23	.44	.45	.3
5	.40	.29	.21	.24	.28	.31	.30	.29	.22	.27	.40	.44	.4
6	.25	.27	.31	.25	.21	.31	.28	.22	.23	.32	.47	.35	.5
7	.23	.14	.22	.24	.26	.24	.31	.30	.17	.24	.38	.45	.5
8	.17	.09	.10	.18	.25	.24	.23	.37	.20	.26	.41	.42	.5
9	.14	.08	.10	.14	.25	.34	.26	.33	.20	.24	.34	.49	.5
10	.12	.09	.09	.11	.22	.22	.32	.47	.24	.27	.44	.34	.5
11	.17	.10	.09	.11	.20	.25	.35	.45	.33	.13	.39	.58	.5
12	.15	.22	.09	.14	.18	.16	.31	.52	.28	.22	.41	.64	.5
13		.08	.23	.14	.15	.17	.27	.37	.41	.13	.47	.23	.5
14 = FI			.2	.2	.2	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.5	.5	.5
<u>Ages</u>	<u>Average values</u>												
5-10	.22	.16	.17	.19	.24	.28	.28	.33	.21	.27	.41	.41	

Table 11. Estimates from Vital Population Analysis of Population Size (Millions) at 2 Years of Age of Each Yearclass. Estimates of Size of Yearclasses After 1966 are Less Reliable than for Earlier Yearclasses.

Yearclass Area	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
I + II	105	208	323	106	342	170	207	149	314	300	355	288	70
IV	47	44	53	68	178	156	167	124	360	268	293	131	184
Va	41	39	107	69	123	94	87	71	110	75	64	37	52
Vb	10	15	24	19	28	25	27	23	41	29	22	68	9
VI	7	7	17	14	23	16	14	20	12	12	5	20	
All areas combined	214	314	522	274	692	458	500	382	829	718	906	789	373

Table 12. von Bertalanffy Growth Parameters for Saithe

From English data (1960 - 1971)

	N.E. Arctic	North Sea	Iceland	Faroe	West of Scotland
L_{∞}	129	122	124	115	127
K	0.104	0.120	0.141	0.145	0.106
t_0	-1.26	-1.47	-0.50	-1.30	-1.91

From German data

	N.E. Arctic		North Sea		Iceland		Faroe		
	1947-55	1956-61	1962-72	1964-72	1946-54	1955-61	1962-72	1957-61	1962-72
L_{∞}	114	112	118	120	112	119	121	114	119
K	0.123	0.160	0.151	0.161	0.176	0.155	0.160	0.172	0.149
t_0	-2.06	-0.82	-0.18	0.20	-0.23	-0.90	-0.36	-0.36	-0.81

Table 13. Estimates of Catches from the Saithe Fisheries if Age at First Capture was Adjusted to the Optimum Value for Present Levels of Fishing Mortality.

Area	Present		Average number of recruits (millions)	Age at first capture for maximum yield at present F	Yield in weight (thousands of tons)	
	F	Average age at first capture (years)			Present	Maximum
I+II	.50	3.0	236	6.0	221	276
IV	.60	3.5	197	6.0	235	263
Va	.40	5.5	97	6.0	141	141
Vb	.40	5.0	29	5.0	41	41
VI	.40	3.0	17	5.0	20	22

Table 14. Length/Weight Relationship for Saithe Based on German data.
Fitted Relationship: Iceland W = 13.12 x 5.4 x 10⁻⁶
Lofoten W = 13.15 x 4.4 x 10⁻⁶

Length (cm)	Whole Weight (kg)	
	Iceland	Lofoten
32.5	.281	.255
37.5	.440	.400
42.5	.650	.593
47.5	.92	.84
52.5	1.26	1.15
57.5	1.67	1.54
62.5	2.17	2.00
67.5	2.75	2.55
72.5	3.45	3.19
77.5	4.24	3.93
82.5	5.15	4.79
87.5	6.19	5.76
92.5	7.36	6.87
97.5	8.67	8.11
102.5	10.14	9.49
107.5	11.76	11.03
112.5	13.55	12.72

Figure 2.

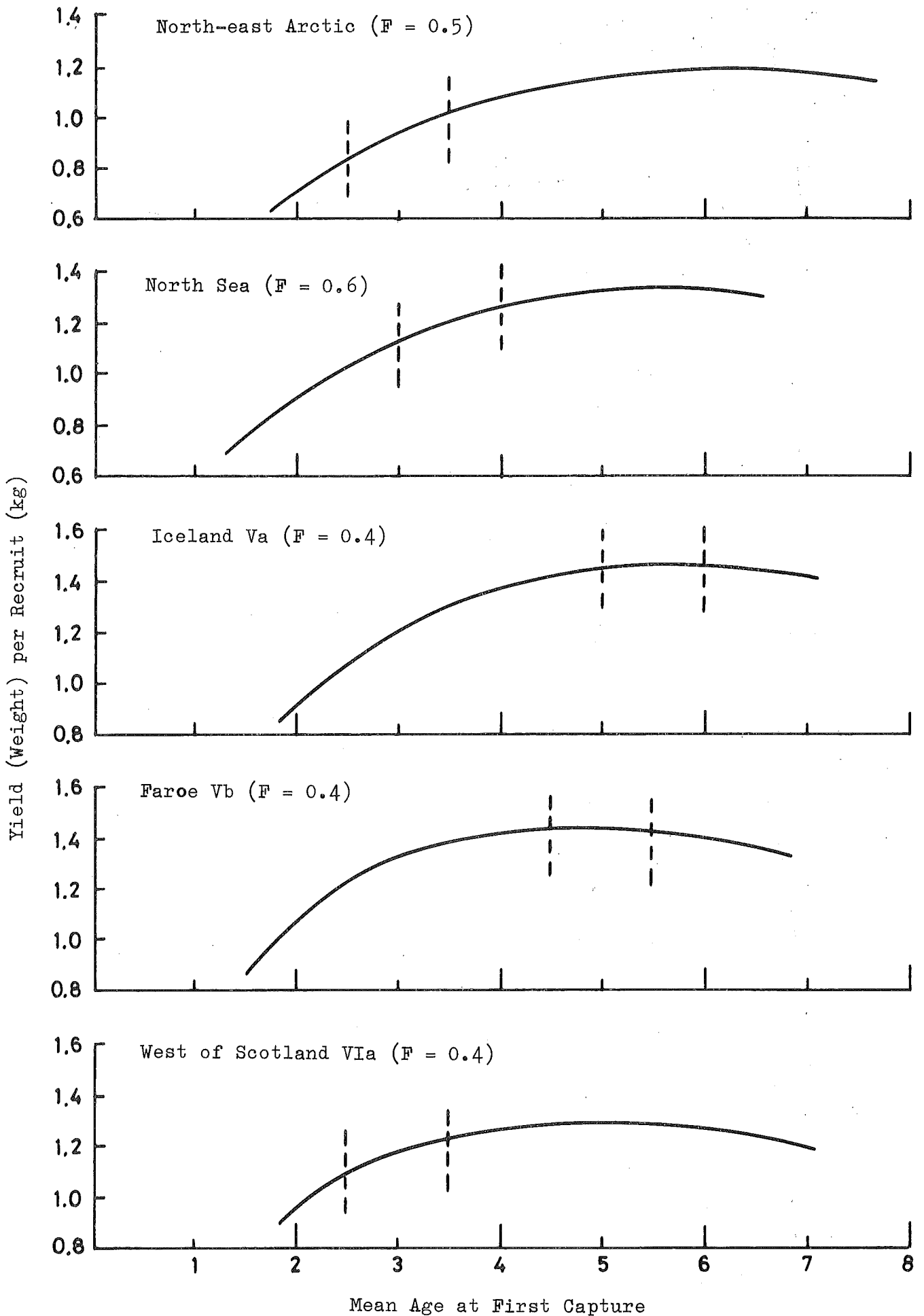


Figure 1.

