Groundfish Forum 1998
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Panel on North Atlantic cod, haddock, saithe and redfish.

Presentation

Supply of Atlantic cod, haddock, saithe and redfish from Iceland, Faroes, Canada and Greenland – prognosis and trends
Global dispostion and markets of redfish
Special focus: haddock dispostion and markets

Ladies and gentlemen

My presentation to this years Groundfish Forum covers the following areas:

- Supply of Atlantic cod, haddock, saithe and redfish from Iceland, Faroes, Canada and Greenland – prognosis and trends
- Global disposition and markets of redfish
- Special focus: haddock disposition and markets

Supply Iceland, Faroes, Canada and Greenland – prognosis and trends

Iceland
The first column shows the average annual catch over the last 5 years - FAO data. The next three show the panels estimations for 97, 98 and 99. The last column is the outlook for the stock based on scientific assessment.

The figures show a very positve trend in cod which started in 1995, the catch reaching 250.000 MT next year. Many of the year classes are however under the long term average and the recovery of the stock is only due to strict management measures which is expected to continue and will result in an increased biomass.

Both haddock and saithe are well below average, haddock giving only 40.000 MT this and next year and saithe only 30.000 MT these years. The outlook for saithe is similar, so we can expect a similar TAC for coming years, and haddock catch may even go down.

Compared to the years 1992-1996 when redfish was being caught on the average 121.000 MT every year, the main quantity being from the coastal fisheries. The figures for 1997-1999 are steady the difference from one year to the other depending mainly on oceanic redfish from the Irminger Sea, since coastal redfish quota is constant at 65.000 MT.

Faroes
The situation in the Faroes is, that the expectation is for a lower quantity of catch. Cod catch has been good in the last years, due to the good catch in the Faores Waters and in the Barent Sea. The cod catch of 58.000 MT last year is expected to go down this and next year. The scientists want a reduction in the effort in Faroes Waters.

Haddock was strong in 97 with 21.000 MT but the outlook is for a fall in catch, that is also what scientists recommend.

There is no sign of better times for saithe, which is staying around 21-23.000 MT compared to the average for the previous 5 years.

Redfish catch is expected to be stay around 11.000 MT, less than the years before.

Canada, US and NAFO

These figures cover Canada, the US and NAFO catch. And they show a growth. The five year average was 173.000 MT, last year quantity was only 91.000 MT. Both cod and redfish were at a very low level. It is though expected that the outlook is better, but then only in the southern waters around Nova Scotia, and we hope that they will in the future not have to confine their talk on the Groundfish Forum to shellfish and crustaceans.

Cod is expected to increase to 48.000 MT next year. No recovery is in sight in the northern waters. TAC and catch of haddock will stay around 11-12.000 MT.

Saithe is expected to increase considerably due to increased TAC and go to 25.000 MT next year, which is above the 5 year average.

TAC for redfish is around 30.000 MT and the stock is healthy. The catch is expected to be around that figure, which is still far below the average for the years before.

Greenland

To complete the picture for the North Atlantic we look at Greenland. Only figures for the last years are available, showing cod with 9.000 MT, wheroff only 2.000 MT are from Greenland Waters and 7.000 MT from the Barent Sea. No prognosis is available now, but scientists recommend a moratorium until the stock recovers.

On redfish: this figure is very low, but foreign vessels are also catching substantial quantities in East Greeland waters in last years. Scientists warn of overfishing of juweniles.

Global disposition and markets of redfish

The second part of my presentation looks at the supply and markets of redfish.

Supply

In the years 1992-1996 annual catch of redfish was 373.000 MT, since then catch has decreased conciderably. The main reason for this change is less redfish from Canada, mainly from the own waters. Baltic States reduced their fishing fleet in early 90´s and are now catching very little.

Total redfish supply in 1997 proved to be even worse, since only 274.000 MT were caught. One can see that this was caused by a general reduction in catch by most countries.

The Irminger Sea is supplying around half of the redfish, so the sitution there is vital to the supply. No new report is available on this stock. For the coming years, total supply is expected to be around 280.000 MT, a reduction is expected to be in Norway and Russia, but some strengthening from Iceland and Canada. Scientists are not sending out any warnings on redfish.

Markets

The market for redfish is dominated by:

- Strong fillet sales in Europe, both fresh and frozen, expecially Germany.
- Strong market in Asia for h&g redfish
- And a good market for fresh and frozen fillets in N-America.

Last year we saw the consumption fall to 281.000 MT due to less supplies and at the same time prices increased. The catch has recently been good and production is likely to increase.

Special focus: haddock disposition and markets

The last part of my presentation is a special focus on haddock, the disposition and markets worldwide.

Disposition

The catch of haddock last year was just over 330.000 MT and the main harvesting nations were countires of the European Union, expecially the UK, and Norway followed by Iceland, Russia and the Faroes. The estimation for this and the coming year is showing a reduction in the supply, which could go down to around 300.000 MT. Some of the prognosis is based on my own estimates.

Markets

Just under half of the resource or 155.000 MT is being sent fresh to the various markets and over 134.000 MT is going as frozen fillets or blocks to the users. Wholefrozen is much less.

Haddock is a traditional European fish, consumed were fresh haddock used to be readily available. It is being consumed to a large extent in Europe and to some degree in N-America but then mainly by people of European origin. UK is the most important market in Europe, consumption is mainly in fish and chips shops, in the east and north east part of England. Smoked haddock from Scotland is a popular item in the north part of England.

In the US it is the New England area and Up-State New York that dominate the consumption of haddock. It is usually served baked or broiled or it is eaten in a restaurant on a Friday evening Fish-Fry.

This concludes my report.

Thank you.