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Fisheries of Denmark, 1971

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Fisheries of Denmark, 1971^{1/}

SUMMARY

The Danish fisheries continued to prosper in 1971; the quantity and value of landings and exports all increased. Cod landings increased sharply, and prices received for cod products were exceptional. Sales to the United States, mostly cod fillets and blocks, nearly tripled in value. Nevertheless, the main markets were again in West Germany, United Kingdom, and Sweden. Both Greenland and the Faroe Islands had good years. Denmark has agreed to enter into the European Economic Community (EC) on January 1, 1973. Negotiations in 1972 paved the way for solutions to the international controversy over the salmon fishery off Greenland.

PRODUCTION

The 1971 Danish catch was 1,390,900 metric tons, valued at DKr. 988 million (US\$135 million).^{2/} In both quantity and in value, the catch increased over 10 percent from 1970 (table 1). Landings of cod, pond trout, fish for reduction, and herring increased; haddock, plaice, salmon, and shrimp decreased.

Cod landings increased by 38 percent; pond trout, 25 percent; herring, 18 percent; and fish for reduction, which constituted close to 80 percent of the total Danish landings by 10 percent. In value, cod increased sharply by 70 percent, pond trout by 19 percent, and herring by 24 percent. Value of fish for reduction increased only slightly more than 1 percent. Sand eels, herring, Norway pout, and cod filleting wastes were the main sources of fish used for reduction into meal and oil.

The catch landed in Denmark by foreign vessels, mainly herring, declined by 15 percent in 1971.

^{1/} Based on information provided by the Regional Fisheries Attache, United States Embassy, Copenhagen.

Issued by the International Activities Staff, National Marine Fisheries Service.

^{2/} DKr. 7.33 = US\$1

Table 1.--Danish landings of fish and shellfish, 1970 and 1971

Species	1971 ^{1/}		1970	
	1,000 metric tons	1000 DKr.	1,000 metric tons	1000 DKr.
<u>Danish vessels</u>				
Cod	133.6	206,385	96.8	121,054
Haddock	9.4	17,539	11.7	19,044
Herring	31.1	35,706	26.3	28,680
Plaice	43.7	107,986	49.7	116,746
Salmon	1.6	36,356	2.0	39,380
Fish for reduction	1,085.8	297,996	968.1	294,649
Lobster, deepwater	1.2	13,330	1.2	12,242
Shrimp	4.0	18,932	4.4	21,298
Other	68.8	136,781	50.5	102,439
Subtotal ^{2/}	1,379.2	871,011	1,210.7	755,532
Pond trout	^{3/} 11.7	^{3/} 117,000	9.3	98,462
Total	1,390.9	988,011	1,220.0	853,994
<u>Foreign vessels</u> (mainly herring)	179.4	172,209	210.5	176,514
Grand total	1,570.3	1,160,220	1,430.5	1,030,508

^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Includes Danish landings in foreign ports - 16,987 tons in 1971 and 13,502 tons in 1970.

^{3/} Estimate.

Note: Includes Greenland but only a small amount of Faroese landings.

Source: Ministry of Fisheries and Danish Trout Association.

FISHING FLEET

The Danish fleet decreased in number in 1971 but continued to increase in total gross tonnage. The decline was in vessels less than 50 feet long. Vessels over 100 GRT increased from 187 to 209.

The primary fishing grounds for Danish fishermen are the North Sea, which contributes 78 percent of the Danish catch; the Kattegat, 8 percent; and the Skagerrak, 6 percent. The Faroe Islands and Greenland grounds are important fishing areas for fleets based in those areas.

FOREIGN TRADE

From 4 to 5 percent of Danish exports and 1 percent of Danish imports in recent years have been fishery products. In 1972, fishery exports were 455,356 metric tons valued at US\$202 million.

The leading exports in 1971 were fish meal, cod fillets and blocks, pond trout, plaice and sole fillets, and fresh and smoked salmon (table 2). Exports of cod fillets and blocks in 1971 increased by 53 percent in quantity and by 81 percent in value. Exports of flatfish fillets decreased in quantity by 15 percent, but their value declined by less than 5 percent.

West Germany continued to be Denmark's main market followed by United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

Danish exports to the United States more than doubled in 1971 (table 3) owing to a strong demand. Danish exports of frozen cod fillets and blocks soared to 15,572 metric tons in 1971 from 6,679 tons in 1970, and the value increased almost three-fold.

Imports of fishery products fell from 232,000 tons (US\$51 million) in 1970 to 192,000 tons (US\$47 million) in 1971. By far the largest Danish import was fresh and chilled herring from Sweden. The continued demand for northern shrimp resulted in imports of 640 metric tons from the United States (table 4). Most of these shrimp are repacked in consumer packages for sale locally or for export. The 10 percent import surcharge imposed by Denmark late in 1971 threatened the growing United States export of frozen northern shrimp, but this was eliminated when Danish processors, suffering from lack of supply, convinced their Government to exempt shrimp from the surcharge list.

Table 2.--Danish fishery exports, by major commodities, 1970 and 1971

Commodity	1971		1970	
	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.
Fresh or frozen:				
Cod fillets and blocks	41,811	241,144	27,342	133,017
Flatfish fillets	10,815	95,462	12,738	99,906
Pond trout	11,169	104,247	8,585	87,523
Salmon	1,716	37,929	1,869	40,296
Shrimp	726	5,936	1,415	7,183
Lobster	1,049	17,395	985	16,172
Canned:				
Mussels	2,902	14,748	2,155	11,412
Sardines	4,884	25,340	3,498	16,714
Shrimp	1,113	14,798	929	11,696
Caviar	548	7,744	520	7,318
Smoked salmon	575	23,688	509	19,971
Smoked trout	185	3,169	155	2,795
Fish meal	172,164	266,736	150,647	250,757
Fish oil	17,777	26,826	27,478	45,891
Fish solubles	22,407	10,717	30,520	16,069
Other products	<u>165,515</u>	<u>576,279</u>	<u>154,264</u>	<u>507,816</u>
Total	455,356	1,472,158	423,609	1,274,036

Source: Danish Statistical Office

Table 3.--Danish export of fishery products to the United States, 1970 and 1971

Commodity	1971		1970	
	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.
Frozen: ^{1/}				
Cod fillets and blocks	15,572	93,562	6,679	34,438
Flatfish fillets	369	2,633	264	1,913
Other fillets ^{2/}	59	369	22	103
Lobster (deepwater)	31	1,221	46	1,772
Canned:				
Mussels	393	1,793	226	1,130
Sardines	2,477	13,318	1,282	6,991
Shrimp	51	716	66	797
Other products	<u>766</u>	<u>4,785</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>3,652</u>
Total	19,718	118,397	8,954	50,796

^{1/} Includes some fresh or chilled.

^{2/} Does not include herring fillets.

Note: Includes some shipments from Greenland. Does not include exports to Puerto Rico and U.S. possessions.

Source: Danish Statistical Office.

Table 4.--Danish imports of fishery products from the United States, 1970 and 1971

Commodity	1971		1970	
	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.
Eels, live or frozen	26	388	52	752
Salmon, frozen	85	1,017	121	1,629
Shrimp:				
Canned	129	1,656	96	1,475
Frozen or chilled	67	603	366	2,720
Other ^{1/}	444	8,959	140	3,267
Other products	<u>127</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>1,128</u>
Total	878	14,399	896	10,791

^{1/} Believed to be shrimp that have been boiled and then frozen.

Source: Danish Statistical Office.

FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroe Islands also enjoyed a good year in 1971 (table 5). The catch increased by only 1 percent, but value rose by 9 percent, as prices increased. Modernization of the fishing fleet continued; five new steel trawlers, two purse seiners, and 10 other vessels were added to the fleet.

The government continued to finance new ships and equipment for fishing and processing. Contracts were placed for seven new fishing vessels. Modernization of fish factories and the building of more factories continued.

Faroese trawlers and longliners continued to operate in the northwest Atlantic, and off Greenland, Iceland, and northern Norway. The purse seiners were concentrated in the northern parts of the North Sea.

Table 5.--Faroe Island catch, 1970 and 1971

Species	1971 ^{1/}	1970
	Metric tons (live weight)	
Cod	73,700	71,200
Haddock	13,400	13,200
Herring	61,600	75,000
Saithe	6,700	6,200
Salmon	300	300
Fish for reduction	45,600	32,000
Others	<u>8,800</u>	<u>9,900</u>
Total	210,100	207,800

^{1/} Preliminary data.

Source: Fisheries Department, Faroe Islands.

Faroese exports of fishery products account for about 97 percent of total Faroese exports. Exports were up slightly (0.8 percent); the value increase was 8.9 percent (table 6). About 21 percent of the exports went to EC countries, 45 percent to EFTA countries, and 34 percent went to other countries. Sales to the United States increased in value by about 55 percent in 1971. Frozen cod and haddock fillets and Greenland turbot were the major products sold to the United States.

Table 6.--Faroe Islands exports of fishery products, by principal commodities, 1970 and 1971

Product	1971		1970	
	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.	Metric tons	1,000 DKr.
Fresh herring	35,535	38.0	41,450	41.7
Frozen fillets	10,874	70.0	12,189	59.0
Frozen salmon	232	4.0	246	4.1
Wet salted fish	18,102	84.1	23,550	77.8
Fish meal	16,153	23.8	13,725	23.2
Fish oil	5,432	8.5	6,133	9.8
Other	<u>30,028</u>	<u>42.1</u>	<u>18,024</u>	<u>32.8</u>
Total	116,356	270.5	115,317	248.4

Source: Fisheries Department, Faroe Islands.

GREENLAND

Greenland's 1971 catch declined slightly, but higher prices increased values substantially over 1970 (table 7). Cod landings declined slightly, while landing of halibut, salmon, and shrimp remained about the same.

Table 7.--Greenland landings of fish and shellfish, 1970 and 1971

Species	1971		1970	
	<u>Metric tons</u>	<u>1,000 DKr.</u>	<u>Metric tons</u>	<u>1,000 DKr.</u>
Cod	19,964	11,313	20,507	9,445
Salmon	1,372	14,619	1,341	12,478
Shrimp	8,941	15,020	8,789	13,149
Other	<u>7,882</u>	<u>2,794</u>	<u>8,441</u>	<u>2,901</u>
Total	38,159	43,746	39,078	37,973

Source: Ministry of Greenland.

The number of vessels over 40 GRT in Greenland's fleet is still very modest-- 19 vessels in 1971, an increase of three over 1970. Two new 193-foot stern trawlers were added to the fleet, and one trawler chartered from Faroese interests.

Greenland's leading export products are now frozen fillets and canned shrimp, rather than salted fish, as had been true in the past. About 70 percent of the 1970 exports went to the United States, consisting primarily of cod fillets and blocks. Most of the rest went to Greece. The 1970 exports were valued at DKr. 82.9 million (US\$11.1 million).

GREENLAND SALMON CONTROVERSY

A record volume of Atlantic salmon was caught on the high seas off West Greenland in 1971 by Danish and Norwegian fleets. The large catch resulted in serious concern in American and Canadian circles over the effects on their salmon runs. Protests demanded an end to the fishery. The United States Congress passed legislation allowing the President to embargo fish imports from countries which continue to fish contrary to good conservation practices. Greenlanders also feared that their inshore salmon fisheries and birds^{1/} used for human consumption would be endangered if the high seas fishing continued.

In February 1972, the United States and Denmark reached an agreement on salmon fishing. The agreement recommends that salmon fishing off Greenland be phased out in 4 years. The recommendation also has been accepted by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) to which Norway is also a party, but does not become binding until the contracting governments accept ICNAF's recommendation. Danish acceptance was approved by its legislative body.

^{1/} An average of 500,000 guillemots (diving birds of the auk family) have been killed in salmon nets over the last 3 years. Greenlanders eat 825 tons of guillemots per year. Environmentalists believe guillemot stocks will be endangered if the accidental killing continues.

PROSPECTS

Denmark, by referendum on October 2, 1972, voted to enter into the European Economic Community. The concomitant entry of UK into EC on January 1, 1973, and the gradual reductions in import duties between member countries is expected to improve market conditions for Danish fish exports to this sector, which currently accounts for two-thirds of total Danish fish exports. These improved trade benefits are expected to counter any adverse effects of competition by vessels of member countries which may fish in Danish waters. Greenland will also be covered by Denmark's entry, but the Faroe Islands will have 3 years to decide whether it will join.

The past decade has been one of rapid expansion in the Danish fishing industry. This period may be expected to give way to a period of stabilization and consolidation. Efforts are being made to divert more of the catch to human consumption. Sales of frozen fish blocks and fillets are expected to continue to rise. Emphasis is on modernizing and increasing the catching capacity of the fleet by adding vessels over 100 GRT.

