

WALLEYE POLLOCK RESEARCHES IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE OKHOTSK SEA

Ovsyannikov E.E., Smirnov A.V., Avdeev G.V.

Pacific Research Fisheries Centre (TINRO-Centre),
690950, Vladivostok, 4 Shevchenko Alley, Russia

eeovsyannikov@tinro.ru

The researches were carried out in the central part of the Okhotsk Sea on Scientific Research Vessel «Professor Kaganovsky» in spring period 2007. A total of 22 pelagic trawls were performed across the network of station on 8 acoustic boards and 23 ichthyoplankton and hydrological stations.

The results of numerous researches done throughout 1980s and 1990s suggest there is no pollock spawning in the open waters of the Okhotsk Sea. The results of the above mentioned surveys confirmed the conclusion: pollock eggs were present in catches done only one 5 stations in the northern part of the area observed. The maximum catch of pollock eggs was 7 eggs per catch. Pollock of length 32-43 cm (4-6 year olds) dominated in catches. Among the mature females the dominant were females with after-spawning gonad maturity – 95%. There were no spawning females.

Despite the fact that pollock was spotted on all the trawl stations there were no dense walleye pollock concentrations in the observed area. Pollock catches per trawl hour accounted for an average only 162 kg or 711 species. The maximal pollock catches per trawl hour (695 kg or 7623 species) was in the northern part of the area observed near to the economic zone of Russia. The situation is explained by pollock migration from northern shelf of the Okhotsk Sea.

Thus, pollock migrating to feed was caught during the surveys. This pollock spawned in the shelf of the northern part of the Sea.