

OBSERVATIONS ON THE ECOLOGY OF THE PACIFIC COD (*GADUS MACROCEPHALUS*) IN CANADIAN WATERS¹

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(Abstract)

The Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) occurs in economic concentrations around the great arc of the North Pacific Ocean from Korea to Oregon. Near the southern limit of its range in the eastern Pacific (British Columbia waters) the cod inhabits much

warmer water than in the apparently more productive regions of western Alaska to Kamchatka. Possibly as a consequence of these warmer conditions, growth rate is much more rapid; maturity is reached at a much earlier age; and lifespan is relatively short. There are more pronounced fluctuations in the year-to-year average catch per unit of effort.

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