

G. GEORGE V. A. 1916

In these seven samples the percentage of deviation from the average of 57.8 were as follows: 5.8, 0.6, 1.3, 4.5, 2.9, 7.0, 3.4. Similar results have also been obtained from other sources, (also from this year).¹

It is difficult to explain this close correspondence in any other way than this: that the different year-classes of the spawning herring must be so evenly mixed that samples containing a few hundred (even forty-four) individuals will suffice in many cases to give approximate information of the percentage of each year-class represented in the stock. The data illustrated by fig. 14 will also give a convincing impression

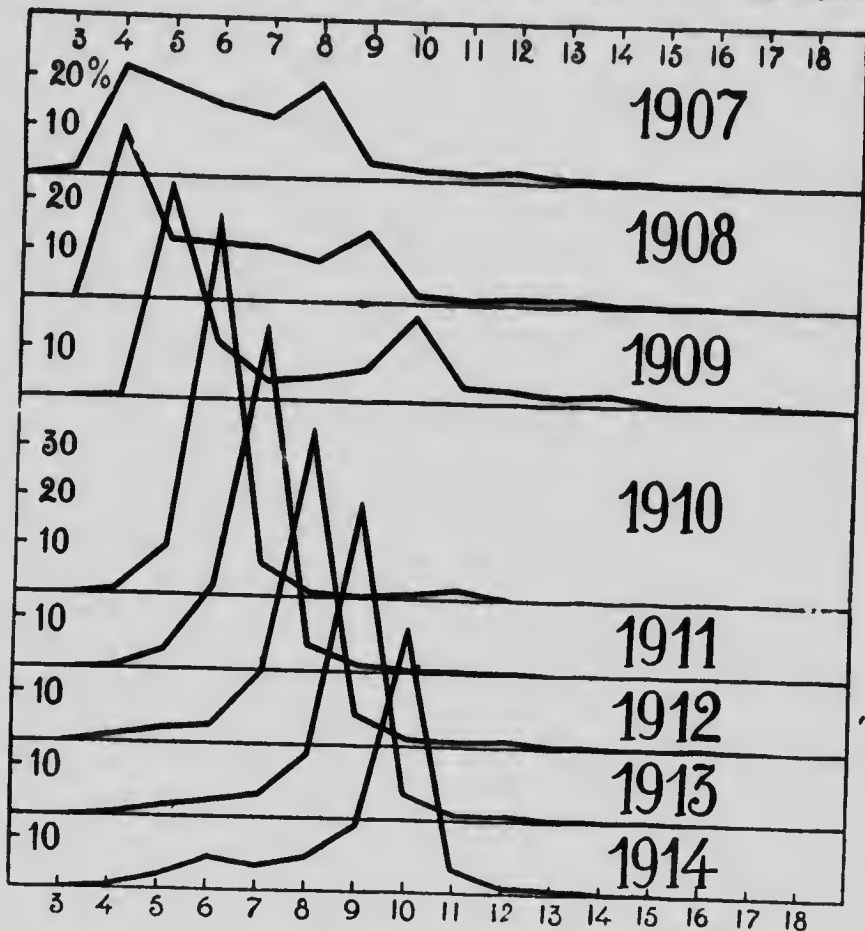


Fig. 14. Composition in point of age of Norwegian spring herring for the years 1907-1914; average of all samples examined in each year. For 1914 only samples from February included.

of the validity of the method. It seems impossible to explain the fact that the investigations through nine consecutive years have given the preponderance of one and the same year-class, if the method of investigation were unable to yield a representative picture of the composition of the stock.

The discussion of these results has been necessary for the following review of the preliminary investigation, which circumstances have allowed me to make regarding

¹ According to information sent me from Mr. Einar Lea.