

II. 3. 2 Situation of the Resources.

According to the Chilean Fisheries Development Institute, IFOP, sardine biomass grew significantly since 1974, peaking in 1984. After that year, IFOP concluded that sardine species showed signs of overexploitation, and has recommended to the Undersecretariat of Fisheries periodic fishing bans on the industry. As it was mentioned elsewhere, the landing of sardine in the northern region fell 48%. This situation reaffirms the diagnosis of overexploitation, reflected in, a clear damage to the demographic structure (the class over VII have vanished from the stocks), a contracted biomass and very weak recruitments.

Mackerel and anchovy are the other main species supporting the pelagic industry. Jack mackerel and anchovy landing have shown signs of instability in the north. Landing of anchovy fell 51%, due to the high overexploitation of this resource, not permitting the recovery of the spawning stock, plus an unsuccessful recruitment in 1990.

The Southern pelagic fishery (VIII Region), is dominated by the mackerel, which constitutes 75% of the landing. According to IFOP, the mackerel biomass now faces overfishing. This overfishing is produced not only by the Chilean fishing fleet alone, but also by Russian factory vessels fishing just outside the VIII Region Economic Zone.

Another interesting resource is the swordfish, with landing of 4,800 tons in 1990. The official figure for 1990 should be similar to that of 1989, showing 2.1% increase in the exports.

The forecast for 1991 is a decrease in the landing of sardines, and the mackerel will keep its level or will show a slight increase, due to the increase in effort. The anchovy landing will be dependant on the strength of the recruitment.