

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

SIXTEENTH REGIONAL TECHNICAL MEETING ON FISHERIES

(NOUMEA, NEW CALEDONIA, 13-17 AUGUST 1984)

A NEW LONGLINE FISHERY IN NEW CALEDONIA

prepared by

J.P. HALLIER

ORSTOM Fisheries Scientist
Noumea, New Caledonia

--

Abstract

A longline fishing compagny, which production is sold on the japanese sashimi market, started to operate in New Caledonia waters last November 1983 using a first vessel bought in Japon. Activities were expanded in June 1984 when a second vessel was put into fishing operation.

From November 1st 1983 to July 19th 1984, 221 tonnes of fish were caught during 145 fishing days with a total of 323 910 hooks being set, which represents 2234 hooks per fishing day. Distribution of the fishing effort is given in figure 1.

This effort is comparable to the one performed by the japanese longliners in the South-West Pacific.

A total of 7342 fish were caught which correspond to :

- 51 fish per fishing day
- 1.5 tonnes of fish per day
- 2.3 fish per 100 hooks

and 68 kg of fish per 100 hooks.

Catch distribution appears in figure 2.

Albacore is the main species by number and by weight followed by yellowfin and striped marlin (Table 1). Albacore are more abundant during southern hemisphere winter and striped marlin more numerous during the hot season (figure 3).

Yields distribution by 1° square are given in figure 4, while seasonal variations of yields for several species are on figure 5.

Fishing effort, catches and yields achieved as today are similar to those obtained by the japanese longline vessels which traditionally fish in this region of the south-west Pacific. Fish quality meets consumer support on the sashimi market.

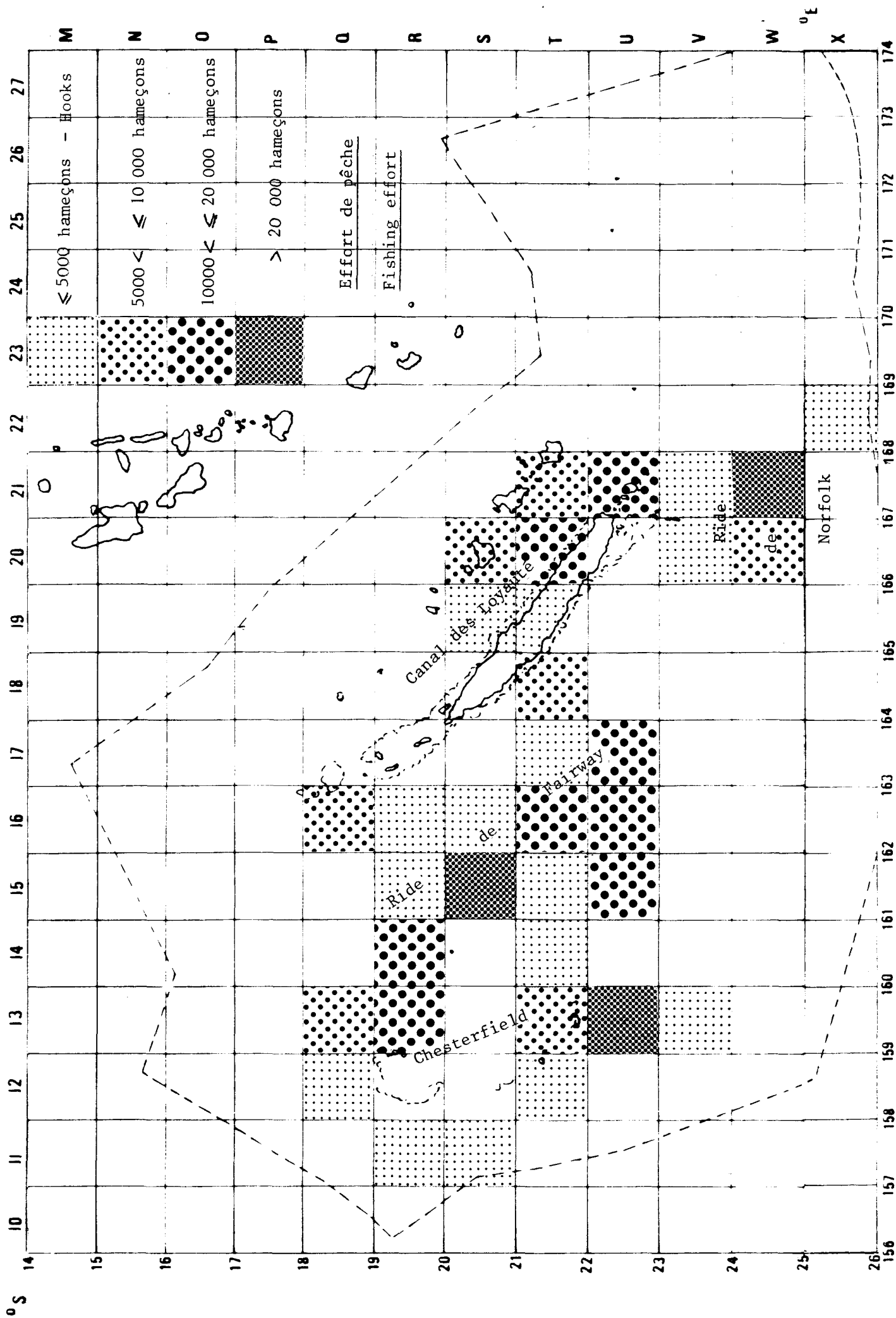


Figure 1 : Zones de pêche et effort de pêche. - Distribution of fishing effort.

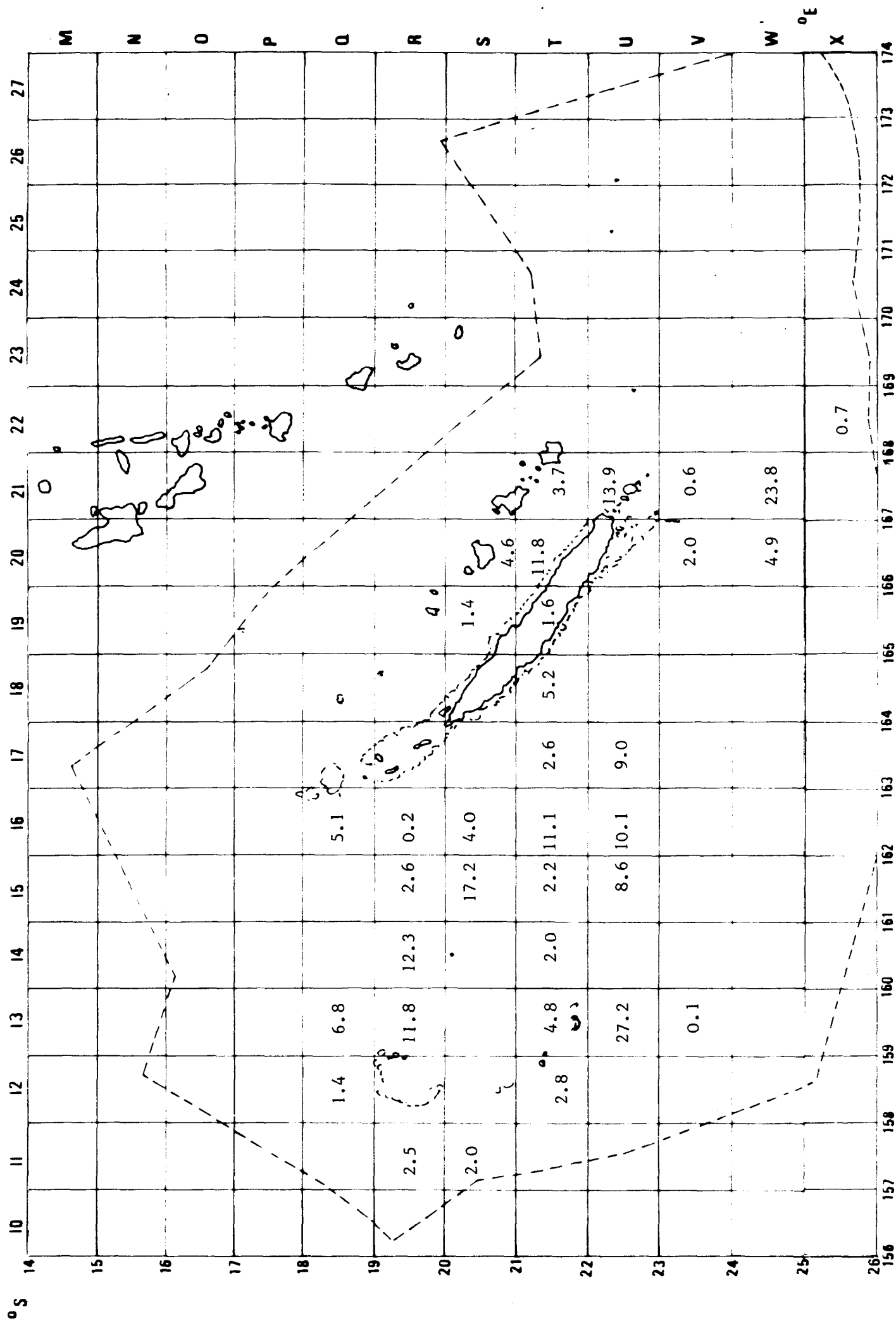
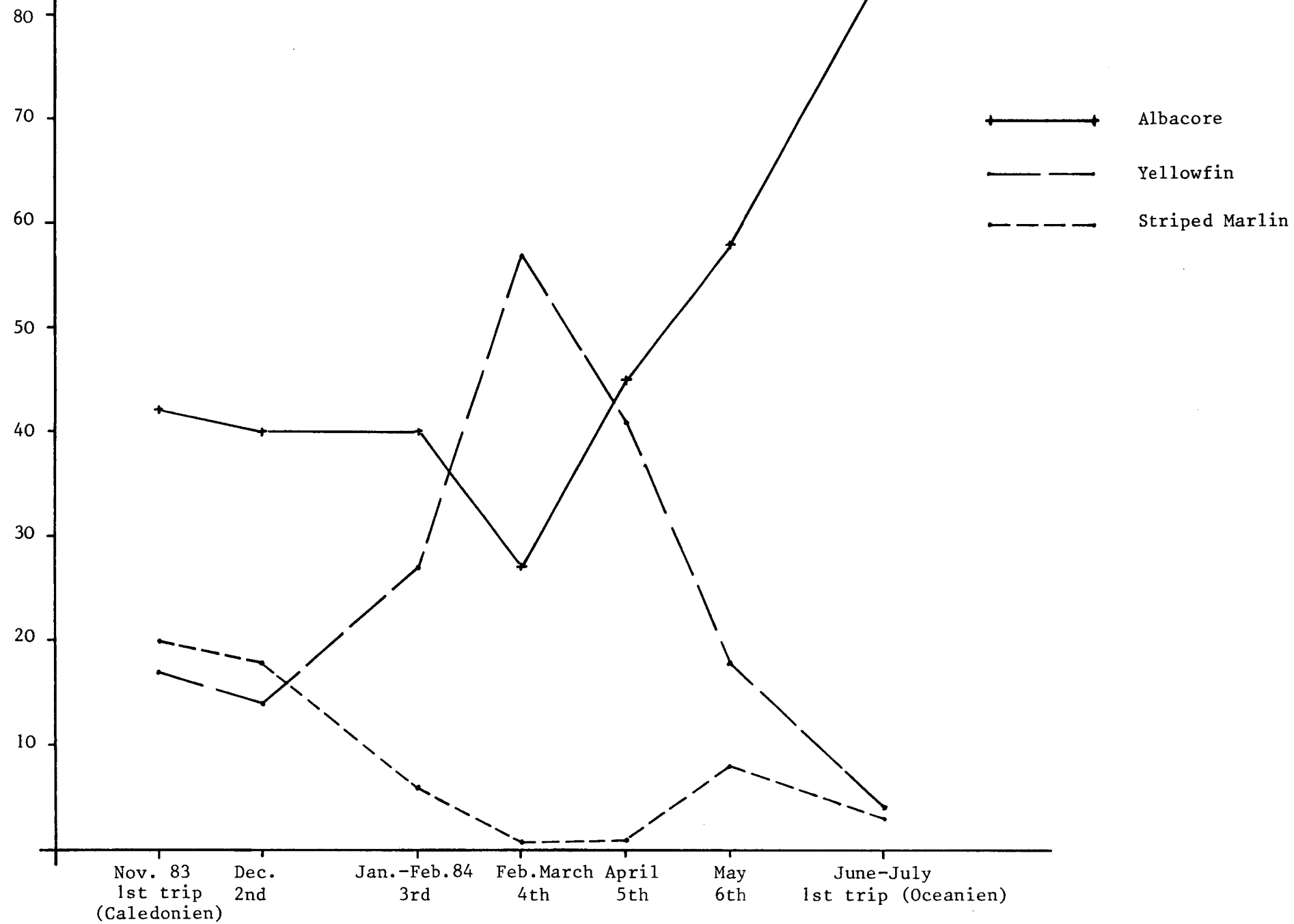


Figure 2 : Catch distribution (in tonnes)

Figure 3 : Relative importance of several species

% of total number of fish caught



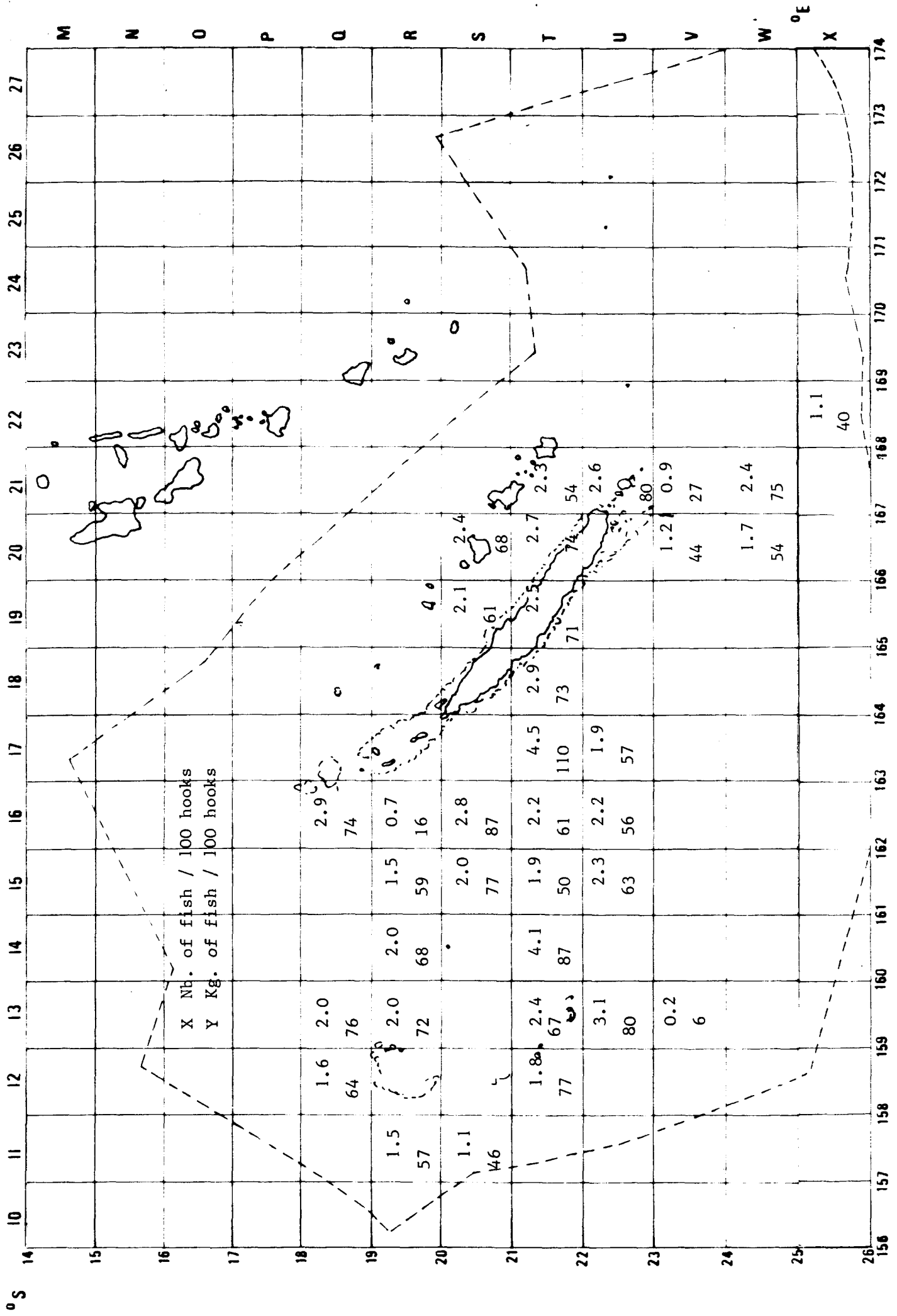


Figure 4 : Longline fishing yields

Figure 5 : Yields for several species

