

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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FIRST ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1979

Canadian proposal for a resolution concerning
the establishment of a Scientific Observer Scheme

The Fisheries Commission

Noting the adoption by the Scientific Council of a report supporting the establishment of an international scientific observer program with respect to fisheries in the Convention Area;

Considering that it would be desirable to improve scientific knowledge of the status of fish stocks in the Regulatory Area, through the establishment of an international scientific observer program;

Hereby Resolves that Parties whose vessels have been conducting fisheries in the Regulatory Area, within the framework established by multilateral fisheries conventions applicable to this Area, be called upon to develop an international scientific observer program, commencing in 1979, on a voluntary basis. The following guidelines are recommended for the establishment of such a program through bilateral discussions:

1. Parties interested in participating in this program would develop mutually satisfactory arrangements on a bilateral basis in order to facilitate the implementation of this program;
2. At the request of the authorities of a Party participating in this program, in accordance with logistic arrangements made on a bilateral basis, the participating Party to which the request is addressed would arrange to have vessels under its jurisdiction that have been identified in these arrangements, and are operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area, accept on board scientific observers designated by the requesting Party. [All necessary details will be worked out with the masters of the vessels participating in this program];
3. Transportation of scientific observers to and from fishing vessels will be the responsibility of the observers' authorities, and may be effected by inspection vessels designated under the ICNAF or NAFO Schemes of Joint International Enforcement, or directly between fishing vessels. Arrangements, including those concerning the transportation and boarding of observers, shall be organized so as to minimize interference with fishing operations, and in no case shall a fishing vessel be obliged to change its course pursuant to this program. Arrangements will be made for messages to be sent and received on behalf of the observer using the vessels' radio equipment and operator. Any expenses involved in such communication will be borne by the observers' authorities;
4. The masters of fishing vessels receiving scientific observers will ensure that such observers are granted full cooperation upon boarding, including accommodation and meals;
5. Scientific observers participating in the program will carry insurance satisfactory to the Parties concerned, either at their own expense, or as provided by their own authorities;
6. The participating Parties will establish, on a bilateral basis, the terms of reference for the scientific observers placed on board vessels pursuant to bilateral arrangements. The scientific observers will provide to the relevant masters, a copy of such records prepared by the observers, that the masters wish to retain;
7. The scientific observers will submit at the first opportunity, through their authorities to the authorities of the flag states of the relevant fishing vessels, a copy of all scientific data records;
8. The Parties to the bilateral arrangements will have the responsibility to transmit the scientific data, in a form satisfactory to them, to NAFO or ICNAF, as appropriate.

The Fisheries Commission requests that the General Council transmit this resolution to Parties to the ICNAF Convention which are not Parties to the NAFO Convention.

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