

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N621

NAFO/FC Doc. 82/IX/5

Fourth Annual Meeting - September 1982

Canadian Information Concerning Minimum Mesh Size Regulation
in Canadian Fisheries Waters

Pursuant to Article XI paragraph 3 of the Convention, Canada wishes to inform the Commission of measures taken to standardize minimum mesh sizes for the fishery in Canadian Fisheries Waters. Contracting parties are asked to note that new measures, which are now in place require that all towed gears used in the fishery for groundfish are subject to a minimum mesh size of 130 mm irrespective of material except when fishing for redfish in Divisions 3NOP and Subarea 4 and for silver hake.

At the second annual meeting in September 1980, Canada introduced a proposal in FC. Doc. 80/111/2 (revised) recommending that similar measures be introduced in the regulatory area. Adoption of such a measure would avoid complications and possible violations when vessels move from the Regulatory Area to the Canadian Zone particularly in the fishery for species which overlap both areas.

A decision has not yet been reached on the proposal but it should be noted that implementation of a uniform 130 mm mesh regulation by the Commission would eliminate the possible need for vessels to use trawls of different mesh size when fishing for species which overlap both the Regulatory Area and Canadian Fisheries Waters, if they intend to fish in both zones.