

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Canadian comments on Schedule IV of the
Conservation and Enforcement Measures
stipulating the Authorized Mesh Size of
Nets

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Part V Schedule IV of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (FC Doc. 82/VI/1) which specifies the authorized mesh size of nets. Schedule IV stipulates that the authorized mesh size for various groundfish species in the Regulatory Area is 130 mm for trawl nets made of manila. Note 2 of Schedule IV states "when trawl nets made of materials other than manila, or seine nets, are used the appropriate mesh size shall be as shown below:

(a) trawl nets of materials other than manila 120 mm"

The attention of the Commission is drawn to the wording of the relevant Regulation which previously applied to the ICNAF Convention Area. That regulation provided for a minimum mesh size of 120 mm (4 3/4 in.) for "such part of any trawl net as is made of hemp, polyamide fibres or polyester fibres" and a minimum mesh size of 130 mm (5 1/8 in.) for "such part of any trawl net as is made of manila or any other material not mentioned above".

It would appear that in drafting Part V Schedule IV of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures the Working Group on Conservation and Enforcement Measures inadvertently dropped the reference to "or any other material not mentioned above". This drafting change would result in a significant change in the mesh size regulation in effect in the Regulatory Area.

Also, in Schedule IV the regulated mesh size for Redfish appears to be incorrectly formulated.

To restore the original intent of the mesh size regulation, Canada proposes that Schedule IV be amended as per the attached proposal.

PROPOSED AMENDED

SCHEDULE IV

Authorized Mesh Size of Nets

Area	Regulated Species	Mesh Size (see note)
a) Regulatory Area	Atlantic cod, <i>Gadus morhua</i> L. Atlantic haddock, <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> (L.) Atlantic halibut, <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> (L.) Witch, <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i> (L.) Yellowtail flounder, <i>Limanda ferruginea</i> (Storer) American plaice, <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i> (Fab.) Greenland halibut, <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> (Walb.) Pollock (saithe), <i>Pollachius virens</i> (L.) White hake, <i>Urophycis tenuis</i> (Mitch.)	130 mm
	Short-finned squid, <i>Illex illecebrosus</i> (LeSueur)	60 mm
b) Subarea 3 (except in statistical Div. 3N, 3O and 3P)	Redfish, <i>Sebastes</i> , sp.	130 mm

NOTE: Other than for short-finned squid, *Illex illecebrosus*, when trawl nets made of hemp, polyamide fibres, or polyester fibres, or seine nets are used, the appropriate mesh size shall be as shown below:

- (a) trawl nets made of hemp, polyamide fibres or polyester fibres 120 mm
- (b) seine nets 110 mm