

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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EEC Proposal Concerning the Establishment
of a NAFO Annual Scientific Programme

by

the EEC Delegation

At the 1986 Annual Meeting the Community requested that the Fisheries Commission consider the most appropriate means of improving scientific knowledge on the status of the fish stocks in the Regulatory Area and to that end proposed that a Working Group be established. No decision has regrettably been taken by the Fisheries Commission on this proposal.

In view of the importance of this issue for the management of the fish stocks occurring in the Regulatory Area, the Community hereby submits a proposal for the consideration of the Fisheries Commission on the establishment of a NAFO Annual Scientific Programme.

NAFO Annual Scientific Programme

1. An annual scientific programme shall be drawn up by NAFO's Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting. This programme shall define, inter alia, the specific scientific objectives for the coming year and the means by which they are to be attained.

The administrative arrangements for the implementation of the programme shall be determined in accordance with points 3 and 4 below.

2. Specific Scientific Objectives

2.1 The Fisheries Commission, acting on recommendations from the Scientific Council, shall set the specific scientific objectives to be pursued during the following year for those stocks which require priority attention. These objectives shall define, inter alia, the stocks concerned, data required and the period of investigation.

3. Means

3.1 Data should be collected according to instructions from the Scientific Council.

- (a) by the crews of fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area on the basis of standard forms elaborated by the Scientific Council, if the data is capable of being collected by scientifically untrained persons

and/or

- (b) by scientifically qualified personnel (hereinafter referred to as "scientists") to be placed on board fishing vessels

3.2 The Fisheries Commission shall recommend, taking account of (a) and (b) above, and in order to accomplish the scientific programme:

- the total number of fishing vessels that should be involved

and/or

- the total number of scientists that should be involved

3.3 Each Contracting Party's involvement in the programme shall, insofar as possible, reflect the fishing effort of that Party on those stocks under investigation, although any Contracting Party may participate in the programme.

4. Administrative Arrangements

4.1 Contracting Parties shall notify NAFO, at the latest six weeks after the Annual Meeting, of the number of vessels and/or scientists (including scientific qualifications) it foresees will take part in the programme in the coming year. NAFO shall distribute these communications for the information of Contracting Parties.

4.2 In the event that a Contracting Party is disposed to accommodating scientists of other Contracting Parties on board its vessels for the purposes of the programme, it shall inform NAFO at the latest ten weeks after the Annual Meeting.

NAFO shall distribute these communications to Contracting Parties. Within four weeks of this communication, Contracting Parties shall inform NAFO whether it would wish its scientists to avail of this opportunity.

Should such placement arrangements occur, the Contracting Party of the vessels concerned shall determine, in advance, on which vessels the scientists are placed, the maximum duration of their stay, and the timing of such placements. In order to minimize interference in the fishing operations, the presence of scientists shall be limited to one per vessel.

The costs relating to transport to and from the vessels on which the scientists are placed, and accommodation, meals and communications costs on board, shall be borne by the Contracting Party of the scientist and be reimbursed directly to the vessel owner.

4.3 The NAFO Secretariat shall, on the basis of the information received under 4.1 and 4.2 from Contracting Parties, notify all Contracting Parties of the vessels and scientists participating in the programme.

4.4 The notes taken by scientists working under such a programme shall not be subject to inspection by any NAFO inspector.

5. Evaluation

5.1 Data collected under the annual scientific programme shall be communicated to NAFO by the authorities of the Contracting Parties three months in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Scientific Council in June, and if 4.2 applies to the responsible institute of the Flag State of the vessel on board of which the data have been collected.

5.2 The Scientific Council shall then evaluate the results of the programme and submit a report to the Fisheries Commission. This report shall incorporate the Scientific Council's recommendations for the annual scientific programme to be adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its next Annual Meeting.