

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Decision of the Fisheries Commission
on the Establishment of an Annual Scientific Program

After considering the Report of the *ad hoc* Working Group which was established to prepare a proposal on the need for improving scientific knowledge of the fish stocks in the Regulatory Area, the Fisheries Commission adopted the following:

1. The Fisheries Commission has decided on the establishment of an Annual Scientific Program in order to improve scientific knowledge on the status of the fish stocks in the Regulatory Area. This Program, which shall be adopted by the Fisheries Commission on the basis of the recommendations from the Scientific Council, shall determine those stocks which require priority attention.
2. With a view to the establishment of the first Annual Scientific Program at the 1988 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission hereby requests the Scientific Council to prepare a report for that meeting. This report should analyse the level of scientific information available on the stocks in the Regulatory Area, identifying the shortcomings in available data. This analysis should also include comments on how such information was collected for each fleet component and whether it meets the level required for the purposes of the assessment of the stocks. The report should furthermore review the means available for collecting the necessary data, including the implications involved in each approach.
3. A working group shall draw up for the consideration of the Fisheries Commission at the 1988 Annual Meeting the requirements for the implementation of the relevant scientific research and sampling activities.
4. The results of the Annual Scientific Program shall be evaluated by the Scientific Council which shall submit a report of its findings to the Fisheries Commission. This report shall incorporate the Scientific Council's recommendations for the subsequent Annual Scientific Programs.