

Northwest Atlantic



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Report to the Fisheries Commission on Proposals by STACTIC
to Increase Surveillance and Control Within the Regulatory Area

At the Fisheries Commission meeting held on 12 September 1990 the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroes and Greenland) voiced concern that from the reports of the Scientific Council of the catches of cod being taken in Division 3M that the moratorium on cod in 3M was not working. The Denmark representative proposed that STACTIC be tasked to look at ways to improve surveillance and control within the Regulatory Area which would reflect short-term as well as long-term improvements. In addition the cost of recommended improvements should be determined. The Chairman of the Fisheries Commission so tasked STACTIC to present their recommendations to the Fisheries Commission on 12 September 1990.

As a result of the tasking outlined above STACTIC met at 1800 on 12 September and developed the following recommendations:

That the Contracting Parties take immediate steps to ensure that inspection presence in the Regulatory Area be increased and those Contracting Parties with inspection vessels in the Regulatory Area coordinate their efforts in order to optimize the vessels' deployment.

That a working group be struck with a view to examining additional control measures. The following areas in particular were identified:

The development of a hail system. This would require all Contracting Party vessels intending to operate in the Regulatory Area to report entering the Regulatory Area and when moving between sub-areas/divisions. These reports could be made to the Secretariat of NAFO or the appropriate authorities of Contracting Parties.

The EEC representative presented a working paper on the methodology for the transmission of information. This would require an amendment to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

That an International Observer Scheme be looked at for implementation within the Regulatory Area. Canada has submitted a working paper on the development of an International Observer Scheme for the Regulatory Area. This is not viewed as a short-term solution and everyone agreed that there may be legal as well as logistic complications in implementing such a program, but all agreed that such a proposal should be reviewed.

- c) The development and introduction of an electronic tracking system for all Contracting Party fishing vessels operating within the Regulatory Area. The EEC indicated they were in the process of conducting an in-depth study of a satellite tracking system and would be prepared to present a paper at the conclusion of their study. This again is not viewed as a short-term solution.
- d) The requirement for vessels and gear to be marked for easy identification should be introduced. The EEC presented a working paper outlining how vessels and gear should be marked when in the Regulatory Area. The working paper outlines the amendment required to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures to implement this requirement.
- e) The introduction of a licensing system for all Contracting Parties vessels operating in the Regulatory Area. The Canadian representative suggested a licensing system would be ideal because it provides control as well as can be used as a deterrent as it can be rescinded for infringements.

The Norwegian delegate and the EEC delegate remarked that the list of vessels sent to the Executive Secretary of vessels planning to fish in the Regulatory Area has become just a compilation of all that Contracting Parties vessels. They would like to see this list be more meaningful.

It was impossible for STACTIC in the time frame given to report back to the Fisheries Commission to develop the detailed implementation of any of these possible measures outlined under paragraph 2 above. The proposed Working Group would have to work out the details for implementation which may imply an increased responsibility for the Secretariat and associated costs both to individual Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. It is requested that the Fisheries Commission indicate the time frame which they would like these "short-term" tasks completed. This will provide the Chairman of the Working Group to establish meetings to meet the deadline imposed.

The recommendations presented here if adopted will not completely address the concerns of the Fisheries Commission. All Contracting Parties expressed their concern for the problem posed to conservation in the Area by the continuing presence of Non-Contracting Party fishing vessels which requires urgent attention.