

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Canadian Proposed Request to the Scientific Council
re Mesh Size

Further to FC Working Paper 91/5, specifically question (a), would the Scientific Council advise if the proposal below is consistent with their conclusions on the question (a) specified.

Recommendations:

- (1) That Part II, B.2 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures be amended to read as follows:

A Contracting Party shall prohibit vessels of that Party from taking in the Regulatory Area:

- (a) groundfish and elasmobranch species with trawl nets having in any part of the net meshes of a size less than 130 mm;
- (b) short-finned squid, *Illex illecebrosus* (LaSueur), with trawl nets having in any part of the net meshes of a size less than 60 mm;

as measured wet after use by inserting into the meshes the appropriate gauge as described in Schedule V.

- (2) That Part II, B.3 be amended as follows:

In order to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted primarily for other species and which take small quantities of groundfish and elasmobranch species incidentally:

- (a) a Contracting Party shall permit vessels of that Party fishing primarily for other species to take groundfish and elasmobranch species with nets having a mesh size less than specified in paragraph 2, provided that no vessel has groundfish and elasmobranch species on board which taken together are in amounts in excess of 2,500 kilograms for each or 10 percent by weight for each, of all fish on board, whichever is greater;
- (b) where, during the first 48 hours of fishing in the Regulatory Area or since previously off-loading, a vessel is found to be taking groundfish and elasmobranch species at a rate that would result in excessive amounts, the inspector shall note this fact on the Report of Inspection and bring it to the attention of the master.

- (3) That Part II, B.3 and Schedule IV, Part V entitled "Authorized Mesh Size of Nets" be revoked.