

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N2573

NAFO/FC Doc 95/4

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FISHERIES COMMISSION - JUNE 1995

FISHERIES COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

The Fisheries Commission, with the concurrence of the Coastal State, requests that the Scientific Council, as regards points 1 and 2 at a meeting in advance of the 1995 Annual Meeting, provide scientific advice in response to the following issues:

1. A minimum fish size for Greenland halibut

Provide advice on the minimum fish size for Greenland halibut in SA 2+3, in terms of round (total) length, corresponding to 25% retention by the existing legal minimum mesh size for trawls.

2. TAC's for Greenland halibut in SA 2+ Div. 3K and Div. 3LMNO

The Fisheries Commission has subdivided the 1995 TAC for Greenland halibut in SA 2+3 into two TAC's for SA 2 + Div. 3K and Div. 3LMNO. In responding to the Commission's request for advice for the management of Greenland halibut in SA 2+3 for 1996, the Scientific Council should recommend an overall TAC for SA 2+3 and provide advice on dividing the overall TAC into two TAC's for SA 2 + Div. 3K and for Div. 3LMNO.

3. Further measures to protect juvenile fish of regulated species, e.g. area/seasonal closures

Taking into account available information on the geographical and seasonal distribution of regulated species of various sizes, identify, where practical and sufficient information is available, seasonal and area fishery closures which would reduce the proportion of juveniles of regulated species in commercial catches.

4. Optimal minimum fish sizes

Taking into account the implications on conservation of the stocks and long-term harvest of alternative sizes at first entry into the fishery, recommend optimal (in terms of maximum yield per recruit) minimum fish sizes for regulated species in the NRA, and advise on the corresponding minimum mesh sizes for trawls and other gear.

5. Minimum mesh size in the Capelin fishery

Provide advice on the usefulness of a minimum mesh size in the trawl fishery for Capelin.