



FIRST MEETING - WASHINGTON, D. C. - APRIL 2, 1951

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SUMMARY REPORT
(MINUTES)
OF THE
SECOND MEETING OF
PANEL, SUB-AREA 5

TIME: Monday, April 9, 1951, 2:20 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room C, Shoreham Hotel
ACTING CHAIRMAN: Bernhard Knollenberg (United States)

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): I understand that, in the absence of Mr. Sargent, I am to act today as Chairman of Sub-area No. 5, and I think the only thing that seems to be before us is the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. At least, that seems to be the first order of business.

Dr. Needler.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): Well, Mr. Chairman, I am not very clear on the rules of proper procedure in this Commission. In other words, I am not sure whether the Committee on Research and Statistics reports to the Commission or the Panel.

However, waiving that point for the time being, the report of the Committee, in an altered form, is before you as Document 38, and the Committee's recommendations appear on pages 2, 3, and 4. Only pages 3 and 4 refer to the matters with which this Panel is concerned.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Yes, that would be the only part of the report.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): And I believe that everyone present has already heard this part read this morning, and I can only say that I am prepared to collaborate to the best of my memory and ability if any questions arise from it.

The principal points are:

(1) that before we can confidently predict what result in size of stock would come from the minimum mesh size, we would need better information, especially on natural mortality;

(2) that the Committee believed that it would be desirable and safe, as far as the fishery was concerned, to have an experiment in which a minimum mesh size was set which would allow those small haddock which are not now used to escape, with as little effort as possible on the catch of those which are used; and

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(3) it was recommended that a group of scientists, from the United States and Canada, interested in this subject consider the problem and summarize our present position as far as available information is concerned, and make a recommendation regarding the mesh size; and a recommendation was needed in the way of a research program to make the experiment effective in yielding further information, in other words, to assess the result of the experiment.

I don't believe I have anything more to say, Mr. Chairman, at the moment.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Is there any remark you wish to make?

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Nothing, as far as I am concerned.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Do any of the observers care to add anything?

DR. WOOD (UNITED KINGDOM): No, I think not.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Dr. Martin?

DR. MARTIN (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ELECT): No, I have nothing.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): As far as the United States is concerned, the report and recommendations of the Committee are entirely acceptable.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): I assume we can consider the meeting adjourned.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): Mr. Chairman, there is one point that might be worth discussing. It is a small, practical point, the timing of this review by the scientists.

We have had some preliminary discussion already as to when we might start the review, hoping that we might get together about the end of this month or the beginning of the next. We believe that there will be some time needed for an analysis of the more important parts of the information which are now available, and we should then have a later meeting, sometime before the next meeting of the Panel.

Now, I think that there is enough data on hand to mean that the later this second meeting of the group is held, within reasonable limits--I am considering a period of less than a year--the better the report will be. And, consequently, I am just wondering whether, at the present time, there is anything that could be said on the timing.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): That is a point I was thinking of bringing up. I should like to see this Panel agree to hold its next meeting in not more than about six months, at which time, although you may not be entirely through your analysis, at least you may have sufficient information to present that we may be able to consider the matter more definitively about that time.

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DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): When did you say?

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Within six months, let's say.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): Within six months. I would imagine that the law of diminishing returns would be beginning to set in then, and that perhaps the analysis of our present position, at least, might be fairly good by that time, although it wouldn't be complete. Of course, if it involves actual processing of data, such as making age determinations or something of that kind, there will be more time involved than that limited time.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): I realize there are many data and that any complete analysis compilation is going to take a lot of time. But I talked to Dr. Walford, (U.S.) and I have the impression he thinks that within a very few months we can have more than we have now; and, at least, a better indication of where we are going, and a better indication of what the mesh opening actually should be than we have at the present time.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Is it the thought that the meeting, if there were such a one, would be at St. Andrews, or where would the logical place be?

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): I would say, Mr. Chairman, as far as the determination of the place of the next meeting is concerned, I would leave it pretty largely up to the Chairman of the Panel to determine, after consultation with the Canadian members of the Panel and the Executive Secretary, and to fix both the time and place. I would be agreeable to that. It ought to be somewhere accessible to all of us.

DR. BATES (CANADA): There is no doubt the Chairman will be attracted by the beauties of Canada in August or September, and might make a proposal to come up there.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Are you referring now to the Acting Chairman or the Chairman?

DR. BATES (CANADA): The Chairman of the Panel. If, however, he prefers to have it in the United States, the Canadian members will see no objection to it.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): My only thought was that if it is going to be in six months, I suppose St. Andrews would be a difficult place because of the hotel situation.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): It will be satisfactory up to about the 10th of September.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Well, a more practical consideration for suggesting it be within six months is this: As it now appears, I shall have to go to the ICES meeting, and probably the Acting Executive Secretary will.

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That meeting is, I believe, around the first of October, isn't it?

So I would like to see the next Panel meeting out of the way before we leave for the ICES meeting. Some of the things we discuss then may have a bearing on the assignment that Dr. Martin and I have, to consult with representatives of ICES and FAO, especially on questions of statistics.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Have you any thoughts on timing or other items, Dr. Finn?

DR. FINN (FAO): No, I don't think I have, sir. It will largely depend upon the evolution of methods of cooperation.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN (MR. KNOLLENBERG): Are there any other things to come before the meeting?

(No response.)

Well, if there are none, I assume we are adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 2:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.)

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