

THIRD ANNUAL MEETINGREPORT ON POTENTIAL SITE FOR HEADQUARTERS

by the Executive Secretary.

1. Introduction.

According to the Convention (Article II.4) the headquarters of the Commission shall be in North America.

In order to facilitate connections between headquarters and persons and institutions working with fisheries' matters in the Convention Area, the site of the headquarters ought to be in the area bordering the Convention Area.

In case the Commission, as foreseen in the Convention (Article VI, 1a), should have to carry out its own independent research work, headquarters ought to be established at the coast near to the Convention Area.

From these two considerations it is obvious that headquarters should be somewhere along the coast between New Haven, Connecticut and St. John's, Newfoundland.

Within this region the site for headquarters should be chosen after due consideration of the following requirements:

1. Adequate office space: 3-4 smaller and 1 bigger room; the smaller rooms should serve as individual office rooms, the bigger as library, as working place for multigraph machine etc., and occasionally as meeting room for smaller boards.
2. Good housing and living conditions for staff members with families (schools, hospital, social and cultural life).
3. Easy connections with persons and institutions working with fishery matters of the Convention Area.
4. Possibility for holding Annual Meetings at or close to headquarters.
 - a) a bigger hall (70-80 persons) and a couple of smaller ones at disposal for a week once a year
 - b) hotel- or other accommodations for 70-80 persons
 - c) good connections with other places in U.S.A. and Canada as well as in Europe.
5. Possibility for staff members of cooperation with persons and institutions dealing with fishery- and marine research work (use of library, exchange of opinions, "general atmosphere").

Point 1 (office space) would seem to be the first and most important one to consider. However, on second thought this is hardly the case. Suitable office rooms could be found and arranged for by the Commission or its secretariat in any place fulfilling requirements 2 to 5. These requirements, however, are outside the influence of the Commission and cannot be changed and remedied by anything the Commission could do. Therefore, in asking our choice, we have to consider first and foremost these points.

2. Survey of contents of offers or invitations received.

This survey is based on information stated in the invitations received from the various places and on observations made by the Executive Secretary during visits to the various places during the period October 1952 to February 1953.

Offers have been received from the following places:

in Canada: St. John's, Newfoundland; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Montreal and Quebec.

in U.S.A.: Kingston, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; Gloucester, Massachusetts; Durham, New Hampshire and Brunswick, Maine.

The offers from St. John's and Halifax were already dealt with at the Second Annual Meeting (cfr. Meeting Document XIV and XVII) (Appendix 1).

St. John's, Newfoundland.

The offer emanates from the Provincial Government and the Memorial University.

The office space offered in the King George V Building is adequate to our needs, 4-5 rooms, needing however some repairs (not to be paid for by the Commission). In the same building a couple of bigger rooms to be used at the annual meetings are available.

The office space offered in the Colonial House would hardly serve our needs; it is spread over 2-3 floors, and the rooms can, as the caretaker told, only be insufficiently heated.

Hotel accommodation for participants to annual meetings are available in a hotel of the first order.

The only approach to St. John's (apart from a long and tedious railway journey) is by air. However, owing to bad weather conditions (fogs) departures and arrivals of planes can frequently be delayed for days.

Expenses for living and other expenses are about 15-20% higher than in most other places in Eastern Canada. The rent-free offer of office space is, as I was told, to be considered as a compensation to the Commission for the increased expenses involved through having headquarters at St. John's.

Persons from other places estimate St. John's less desirable to live in on account of its isolated situation and specific climate (frequent fogs). It is, of course, impossible to judge the fairness of such an estimate, but its mere existence must be paid attention to in considering the establishment of headquarters in St. John's.

The Memorial University and the Newfoundland Fisheries Research Station offer excellent possibilities for cooperation with research-bodies and biologists.

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The offer emanates from Dalhousie University and the Municipality of the City.

The office space offered in a building in the University Campus is adequate, and would after refurnishing and partitioning make excellent office rooms. The offices are offered at a nominal rent, 50 dollars a month was suggested.

Rooms for the annual meetings are available in the same or in other buildings on the campus.

The necessary hotel accommodation can easily be provided.

As to accessibility Halifax to a certain extent has the same defect as St. John's; rather frequent fogs that at intervals may cause considerable delays of flights to and from the city. In such cases one would depend upon the railway to St. John, N.B., a trip which lasts about a day.

Apart from the said foggy weather and the less easy accessibility Halifax offers pleasant living conditions for staff members.

The Atlantic Fisheries Experimental Station and the Biological Laboratories at the Dalhousie University give satisfactory conditions for cooperation with biologists and research institutions.

Halifax, as well as St. John's, has the advantage of being an important fishing port.

Québec.

On 11 November 1952, the Commission received an invitation from Université Laval, Québec, to establish headquarters at that University. (Appendix 2).

Following that invitation, which did not include any specification of what was offered, I visited Université Laval in February and had conversations with Mr. Martin and Mr. Dolbec, both from Service des Relations Extérieures de l'Université Laval.

Université Laval is establishing a new campus in the outskirts of the City. Two buildings have up to now been erected in this campus, and the Commission is offered office space in one of these buildings belonging to the Faculté d'Arpentage et de Génie Forestier.

The space offered includes a bigger room (22 x 25 feet with 3 windows) and a smaller one (8 x 22 feet, one window). If needed one other smaller room could be supplied not connecting with the others but on the same floor. The bigger room could be partitioned into smaller rooms if needed.

The library of the University would be at the disposal of the staff at headquarters. The members of the Secretariat would get the same facilities and prerogatives as the members of the University staff.

The Commission is supposed to pay rent for the offices according to the scale in use for general office-renting in Québec.

Satisfactory rooms for our annual meetings would be available partly in the same building and partly in other buildings of the University.

The City of Québec of course has excellent hotels and thus no difficulties should be met in accomodating the participants of our annual meetings.

Québec has a local airport (not for international flights). The journey to Montreal by rail or by bus takes ca. 4 hours.

Housing and living conditions for the staff would no doubt be satisfactory. The only possible objections would arise from the rather severe winters in that area and (for part of the staff) from the fact that Quebec is only to a minor degree an English speaking community. However, the fact that French is the pre-dominant language in Québec may in some aspects be an advantage.

No special sea fisheries - or marine research institutions are connected with Laval University, and hardly any fishery within the Convention Area is carried out from Québec.

Montreal.

Following an exchange of letters between Dr. Dunbar, Department of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal and Dr. W.R. Martin (initiated by the Commission's Chairman) the Commission on 15 September 1952 received an invitation to consider Montreal as a possible site for headquarters. The invitation came from the Mayor of Montreal, C. Houde (Appendix 3).

As a consequence of this invitation Mr. Baraibar and I had a meeting in October with the Mayor of Montreal and with Co-Director Geo. S. Mooney. Later Mr. Baraibar was in touch with Mr. Mooney and other persons, and in February I met Mr. Baraibar and Mr. Mooney for further considerations.

The attached appendix 4 shows the offer from the City of Montreal as it now stands.

Neither the City nor any of the two universities, McGill and Université Montreal, are in a position to offer any office space. We should thus have to rent our office rooms independently. Mr. Mooney, however, promised to help us in finding the right rooms and assured us that they could doubtlessly be found in one of the streets bordering the McGill University Campus and at a rent of about \$180-200 monthly including heating.

Both the two universities are prepared to offer library facilities and rooms for the annual meetings.

The hotels of Montreal can of course easily house the participants to our annual meetings.

Montreal is easily accessible. It has an international airport, oceangoing passenger ships enter its harbour regularly (apart from the few winter months when the St. Lawrence River is ice-bound). Montreal is reached by a railway journey of 11 hours from Boston.

No special sea fisheries or marine research institutions are found in Montreal, and no fishing activities are carried out from Montreal in the Convention Area.

Housing and living conditions for the staff would be about the same as in Québec. As to languages Montreal is bilingual, however with a slight predominance of the English language.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston. (Appendix 5)

From the State of Rhode Island an offer was extended on 23 September 1952 to the Commission to establish its headquarters at the Rhode Island University near Kingston. Dr. W.R. Martin and I visited the place in November.

Office space is offered at the Narragansett Marine Laboratory situated at the coast some 6-7 miles from the University Campus. At the present no adequate office rooms are available, but subject to approval of government authorities a new wing to the laboratory is planned. Suitable quarters for our headquarters could be provided in that wing according to our own wishes.

Rooms for annual meetings could be found in buildings on the University Campus.

Accommodation for the participants to the annual meetings could be found from June to early September in the dormitories of the University or through the whole year in hotels and inns in Kingston village some 7 miles away from the University. As the hotels and inns are rather small, no doubt some difficulties will be found in housing participants to the meeting.

Housing for staff members would have to be provided in the village of Kingston some 7 miles from the office in the Biological Laboratory.

Kingston can be reached by train from Boston in ca. 3 hours and from New York in ca. 6 hours.

The Narragansett Laboratory with its library would be at the disposal of headquarter's staff; as it is especially fitted for marine research the facilities it could offer us would be absolutely satisfactory.

Boston.

An offer from Harvard University was considered also at the

First Annual Meeting, this offer has now been re-extended.

The office space offered by Harvard is in a room (20 x 24 feet with 3 windows) in the Museum Building, where the space needed for headquarters could be partitioned off from the rest of the room. When I visited Harvard in November it was obvious to me that the office space - even if we could get the whole room - would hardly be sufficient for our needs. In conversations with Professor Romer and with Mr. Bailey I mentioned this, and they promised to consider the possibilities for offering more adequate office space. However, on my second visit to Harvard I was told that they were so crowded in the Campus that it was impossible for them to offer more space, and Professor Romer told me that it would be very difficult for him to spare more for us than half of the abovementioned room.

This means that the Commission, if choosing Boston, would have to rent its own office rooms independent of the University.

Harvard University offers to the Commission full and free use of its library as well as opportunity to make use of their laboratories with equipment.

Further rooms for the annual meetings could be made available in various buildings on the Campus.

In a letter to me of 12 February 1953 Mr. Bailey states that the offer of free use of library and of rooms for the annual meetings also is effective in case the Commission sets up its headquarters outside the University. (Appendix 6)

In Boston, of course, there will be no difficulties in getting hotel accommodation for the participants to the annual meetings.

Boston connections with other places are of the finest order. Major airlines provide several flights daily from West-European capitals to Logan International Airport at Boston. By train Boston is ca. 4 hours from New York and about 11 hours from Montreal.

The great fishing port in Boston makes contacts with the fishery of the Convention Area and with fishing industry easy.

Housing and living conditions for the staff members would be satisfactory.

University of New Hampshire, Durham.

In a letter to Mr. Sargent from the President of the New Hampshire University, Mr. Robert F. Chandler, the Commission was asked to consider the possibility of establishing its headquarters at the University of New Hampshire. (Appendix 8)

I visited the place in February. Through a conversation with Mr. Chandler it became clear that the Commission should have to pay part of the funds involved in the building of a new sea-laboratory and then to share a corresponding part of that building to be used as offices.

The Commission would be offered the use of the library of the University, as well as of the rooms necessary for our annual meetings.

Durham University is situated 3-4 miles from the town Dover, its hotels would hardly be able to furnish the necessary accommodation for participants to the annual meetings.

As the Commission does not have funds as those necessary for building I did not follow this case further.

Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Following an offer (21 November 1952) by the Mayor of the City of Gloucester for the Commission to establish its headquarters in that City I visited Gloucester in February and had conversations concerning the matter with the Mayor.

Gloucester is a city of some 25,000 inhabitants, it is partly a summer resort and partly a fishing center with a considerable fishing fleet of its own and with various fishing plants.

The City offers to the Commission the use of adequate rooms in the High School or in other public buildings for our annual meetings.

Office rooms are not offered but would have to be rented independently by the Commission. Together with the Mayor I inspected some rooms in a modern building on the Main Street. After some repairs and a little refurnishing they would be adequate to our use even in case of some expansion of the staff. They could be rented for a sum of \$85 a month, including heating. (Appendix 7)

As there is no University nor fisheries research institutions in Gloucester no possibility of using an adequate library is present.

Hotel accommodation was rather restricted - apart from summer hotels outside the city. I was, however, told that no difficulties would arise in accommodating 70-80 persons in the hotels.

The approach to Gloucester is via Boston which is about 1 1/2 hours by train.

As to living conditions for staff members it can only be stated that the city has the advantages as well as the disadvantages of every smaller place.

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine

In a letter from Professor A.H. Gustafson to the Commission's Chairman, the Commission is asked to consider the possibility of establishing headquarters at Bowdoin College. (Appendix 9)

Following this letter I visited Bowdoin College in February and had conversations with Mr. James M. Moulton, Instructor in Biology and with the President of the College, Dr. Coles.

I was shown various buildings on the Campus where office rooms for headquarters could possibly be made available.

For the Annual meetings various lecture rooms were available provided that the meeting took place in summer, when no courses were held.

The Commission would have free use of the various libraries of the College. As, however, Marine Biology is not especially taught at the College, I am afraid that our needs for specific literature could hardly be satisfied.

Brunswick has about 2,000 inhabitants. It would no doubt be difficult to accommodate in a proper way the participants to the annual meetings in the hotel. Accommodation could however be provided in the dormitories of the College.

Brunswick is situated at a branch on the main railway from Boston to the Maritimes. The railway travel from Boston takes about 5 hours.

Brunswick, as well as Durham, are small towns only, and living conditions as far as attractions, shopping and the so called higher cultural life would only offer restricted possibilities.



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Executive Secretary.

NOTE:

The appendices referred to in the above are attached to the original report submitted to the Special Committee. They are available for consultation at the Secretariat office.



