

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1965Report of North-East Atlantic Fisheries CommissionThird Meeting

by G. Mocklinghoff
ICNAF observer

1. The Third Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission was held in Moscow between 11th and 14th May, 1965. Delegations attended from 13 of the 14 Member Governments, namely:-

Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iceland, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Observers represented the United States Government, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

2. The Commission agreed that in part of the Convention Area south of 48° North, from 1st January, 1966, for a trial period of three years:-

- (a) the minimum size of mesh of nets applicable should be 60 mm;
- (b) minimum lengths of 24 cm and 21 cm should be prescribed for hake and sole respectively; and
- (c) the species *Discoglossa* (or *Dicologoglossa*) *Cuneata* should be added to the list of species which may be fished for with nets containing meshes of less than the prescribed minimum size.

3. The Special Committee on International Control, established at the Second Meeting in 1964, reported on the results of its deliberations, and the Commission resolved that Contracting States should, within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, inspect foreign vessels to ascertain whether they were complying with the Commission's recommendations and report the result of the inspection to the Flag State and the Commission. They also agreed that the Committee should continue its work during the ensuing year with a view to studying the possibility of introducing a system of international inspection on the High Seas from 1st January, 1967.

4. The Commission agreed that until 31st December, 1968, Contracting States could authorise use of top-side chafers which did not obstruct or otherwise affect the selectivity of the mesh in the codend. The scientific evidence on which the authorisation was based would be furnished to the Commission which would circulate the evidence to Contracting States.

5. The Commission agreed:-

- (a) that the minimum mesh size in the northern part of the Convention Area east of the meridian of Greenwich should be increased by 10 mm from 1st January, 1967.
- (b) that as from 1st January, 1967, the minimum mesh size around the Faroe Islands should be increased by 20 mm and that a further increase of 10 mm should come into operation on the 1st January, 1970. The area in which these provisions would apply

(over)

was defined as being that contained by a line drawn east from 10° west longitude along the parallel of 63° north latitude to 4° west longitude, then south to 60°30' north latitude, west to 5° west longitude, south to 60° north latitude, west to 15° west longitude, north to 62° north latitude, east to 10° west longitude and then north to 63° north latitude.

- (c) that from 1st January, 1969, the minimum sizes of fish prescribed for the northern part of the Convention Area should apply to the area around the Faroe Islands.

6. The Commission agreed to extend the present provisions on industrial landings until 1st January, 1970.

7. The Commission agreed that the minimum size for dab (*Limanda limanda*) should be reduced from 20 cm to 15 cm but that annual reports showing the composition of by-catches of the dab fishery should be submitted.

8. The Commission agreed that until 31st December, 1968, vessels based on and landing their catches in ports in the area in the Irish Sea between the parallels of 54°30' and 53° north latitude and west of 5°15' west longitude could, for the purpose of catching whiting, carry and use nets of a minimum mesh size of 60 mm.

9. The Commission had received the resignation of their Secretary, Mr. A. K. H. Atkinson and appointed

Mr. J. S. W. Henshaw (United Kingdom) in his place

10. The Commission unanimously expressed their appreciation of the hospitality afforded to them by the Soviet Government in acting as hosts for the Third Meeting. They accepted with thanks the invitation of the Government of the United Kingdom to hold their Fourth Meeting in Edinburgh on 10th May, 1966, and following days.

Office of the Commission
Moscow
14th May, 1965