



Serial No. 1696
(A.c.1)

ICNAF Comm. Doc. 66-8

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Fourth Meeting

Press Notice

1. The Fourth Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission¹ was held in Edinburgh between 10th-13th May, 1966. Mr. A. J. Aglen (U.K.) presided. Delegations attended from all member Governments, namely:

Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, 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 considered proposals for increasing the minimum mesh size in the North Western part of its area and agreed that the new minimum sizes for trawl nets which will operate in the North Eastern area from 1st January, 1967 should be applied to the North Western part from 1st June, 1967.
3. The Commission considered the second report of the Special Committee on International Control and expressed their appreciation of the extensive preparatory work that had been done on proposals for international inspection to ensure the enforcement of the Commission's conservation measures. There was general agreement in the Commission that it was desirable to introduce a system of international control without delay but there were still a number of detailed questions to be settled. The Commission regarded it as important to make progress with the examination of these details and it was therefore agreed to hold a special meeting of the Commission in London later this year expressly for the purpose of settling these outstanding questions.
4. The Commission had a useful preliminary discussion of the general principles of the regulation of fishing effort which may prove necessary to supplement conservation measures now employed and agreed that member countries should study the matter further and submit views to the Commission in order to permit further discussion at the meeting of the Commission in 1967. It was also agreed that there should continue to be close liaison with the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations which are also studying this subject.
5. On the question of conservation of herring stocks in the Convention area, the Commission agreed that further investigation was required before measures could be decided on for arresting the decline in the Downs stock in the North Sea. They therefore requested the Liaison Committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to advise on a programme of experiments to determine the causes of the decline and whether proposals to prohibit herring fishing for a month each year both on the spawning grounds off Sandettie and on the related young herring fisheries at the Bløden would be likely to benefit the stock.

¹ ICNAF Observer: Mr. G. Möcklinghoff

6. The Commission elected as its next President, Mr. D. Olafsson (Iceland). Monsieur J. Rouge (France) was elected First Vice-President and Mr. A. S. Gaidoukov (U.S.S.R.) Second Vice-President.
7. The Commission had received the resignation of their Secretary, Mr. J. S. W. Henshaw and appointed Mr. F. H. Goodwin (United Kingdom) in his place.
8. The Commission unanimously expressed their appreciation of the hospitality afforded to them in the United Kingdom. They accepted with thanks an invitation from the Government of France to hold their next regular meeting in Paris beginning on 9th May, 1967.

Office of the Commission

Edinburgh

13th May, 1966