

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1968North-East Atlantic Fisheries CommissionSixth MeetingConclusions and Recommendations<sup>(1)</sup>Article 16 (1) of the Convention(a) Mesh Size for Whiting in the Irish Sea

The Commission extended until 31st December, 1971 the concession that vessels based on and landing their catches in ports in the area in the Irish Sea between parallels 54° 30' and 50°N latitude and west of 5° 15' W. longitude may carry on board and use, for the purpose of catching whiting, nets not having in any part meshes of less than 60 mm. notwithstanding Recommendations (1) and (2)(b). It was agreed that Recommendation 2(A) should be renewed accordingly.

(b) Use of Chafers

The Commission recalled that arrangements for the approval of chafers or covers attached to the upper side of the cod-end of trawl nets set out in Recommendation 3(b) were to continue until 31st December, 1969. It reminded member countries of the need to report to the Liaison Committee by mid-December each year information on the types of topside chafers in use in the Commission area and of their effects on cod-end selectivity with particular reference to the design of, and mesh size in, the chafers.

(c) Extension of the List of Species in Recommendation 2

The Commission agreed that Polar cod should be added to the list of species in Recommendation (2), and it asked ICES to advise whether it would be safe to add saury and silver smelts to the list. The text of the Resolution adopted is at Annex A.

<sup>(1)</sup> NEAFC document NC 6/98. Reproduced by permission of NEAFC

(d) Minimum Net Mesh Size and Size Limits for Fish in Region 3

The Commission agreed that, as from 1st January 1969, in Region 3, the minimum fish sizes should be raised to 30 cm. for hake and 24 cm. for sole; and that the minimum net mesh sizes should be 60 mm. for single twine synthetics, 65 mm. for double twine synthetics and 75 mm. for manila and sisal.

International Control

The Commission reaffirmed the Recommendation adopted at the Fifth Meeting and agreed that the statement at Annex B should be included in the report of the present meeting.

General Principles of Regulating Fishing Intensity

The Commission considered further the problems involved in regulating fishing intensity, and agreed that these could best be studied in the context of a concrete situation. The Resolution at Annex C was adopted.

Further Research at Iceland

The Commission considered the Icelandic proposal for closure to trawling of an area off the north east coast of Iceland and the report of the Reykjavik Working Group held in January 1968, and requested ICES to initiate a comprehensive programme of research. The Resolution at Annex D was adopted.

Conservation of Hake

The Commission took note of the comments on this matter in the Liaison Committee report and, in particular, its indication of the urgency of the problem. It was noted that more scientific information and statistical data was required before detailed assessments of the effect of fishing on the stocks could be made and that, while more sophisticated statistics were being obtained, countries should submit even incomplete information to the Liaison Committee - e.g. the number of vessels engaged on the hake fishery.

### Conservation of Herring Stocks

The Commission noted from the Liaison Committee Report the progress made in formulating and carrying out the programme of research to identify factors affecting the stocks in the north, central and southern North Sea. It urged member countries concerned to help ICES by providing the data it required for its investigations. It again stressed the urgency attaching to this matter.

### Mesh Size in Trawl Nets used in Catching Coalfish in Region 1

The Commission noted a memorandum submitted by the delegation of Norway about the difficulties created for the Norwegian fishery for coalfish and agreed to consider this matter fully at a future meeting in the light of scientific advice. The Resolution at Annex E was adopted.

### Contribution to ICES

The Commission agreed to include a regular contribution of £4,150 to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in its budget for the year ending 30th June 1969. It also agreed that an additional payment of £1,777 should be made to the Council in the year ending 30th June, 1968.

### Finance

The Commission adopted the Provisional Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 1968 and the Budget for the year ending 30th June 1969 (Annex F).

### Arrangements for the Seventh Meeting

The Commission agreed that its next meeting would be in London between 7th and 12th May 1969.

### Press Notice

The Press Notice at Annex G was issued on 14th May.

Office of the Commission

Reykjavik

14th May, 1968

Extension of the List of Species Specified in  
Recommendation (2)

The Commission resolves that Recommendation (2) shall be amended as follows:-

After the words "horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*)" there shall be inserted the words "Polar cod (*Boreogadus saida*)"

The Commission further resolves that ICES should be requested to consider the proposed addition of saury (*Scombrox. saurus*) and silver smelts (*Argentina silus* and *Argentina Sphyraena*) to the list in Recommendation (2) and to advise at the next meeting of the Commission whether the development of fisheries for these species would endanger the stocks of any protected species which may be found in association with them.

Scheme of Joint Enforcement

Statement to be included in the Report of the Meeting

1. The Commission adopted the Recommendation shown at Annex A and agreed that the Recommendation should take effect on 1st January 1970. [NOTE: This Recommendation will be the same as that adopted at the Fifth Meeting and set out in Annex A to the President's report of that meeting.]
2. The Commissioners agreed that subject to the approval of their respective Governments, which would be notified to the Commission, and without prejudice to the rights of Contracting States under the provisions of paragraph 9(ii) of the Scheme:-
  - (a) as between the USSR and other Contracting States the provisions of the Scheme relating to inspection of gear below deck and of catch would not be operative.
  - (b) as between Poland and other Contracting States the provisions of the Scheme relating to inspection of gear or catch below deck would not be operative; and
  - (c) as between Sweden and other Contracting States the provisions of the Scheme relating to inspection of gear or catch below deck would not be operative until 1st January 1972 or such earlier date as the Government of Sweden may notify to the Commission.

Regulation of Fishing Intensity

After further consideration of the problems involved in the regulation of fishing intensity, the Commission concluded that, to make further progress, these problems would need to be studied in the context of a concrete situation.

Noting from the Report of the Liaison Committee that in the North East Arctic the reduction in effective fishing intensity which has already taken place on the cod and haddock stocks, if maintained, will lead to some recovery of the stocks, and that additional gains could be obtained by further restriction of fishing effort,

the Commission concluded that this would be a suitable area to select for study of these problems and invited the countries concerned in these fisheries to meet with a view to working out ~~the~~ details of a scheme to restrict fishing mortality rates of the component stocks in this area to their present combined level, unless otherwise agreed and to report the results to the Commission at its next meeting.

Further Research at Iceland

With reference to the proposal for closure to trawling of an area off the North East coast of Iceland and to the report of the Reykjavik Working Group held in January 1968, the Commission resolves to request the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to make arrangements to initiate, as soon as practicable, and to co-ordinate the following additional research:-

1. To study further by all means available the size and age composition of cod and haddock stocks around Iceland and in adjacent waters.
2. To identify the origin and proportion of recruitment from different areas, particularly Greenland, to the Icelandic spawning cod fishery.
3. To study by co-ordinated tagging experiments the dispersal and survival of immature and spawning fish.
4. To identify, if possible, discrete racial characteristics and to estimate by this means the proportions of the different races within the spawning stock of cod.
5. To determine by exploratory fishing, echo surveys, etc. the importance of the areas north of Iceland and any other areas not at present fished as a source of recruits to the spawning stock of cod or in other ways

with a view to preparing for consideration at the 9th Meeting of the Commission new estimates of the effects of changes in fishing effort on the yields of the Icelandic cod and haddock stocks.

Mesh Size in Trawl Nets used in Catching Coalfish  
in Region 1

The Commission takes note of the memorandum submitted by the delegation of Norway about the difficulties created for the Norwegian fishery for coalfish in an area between latitudes 62 and 64°N and east of 4°E by the decision taken at the Third Meeting to increase the minimum mesh size for trawl nets in Region 1. It agrees to consider this matter fully, at a future meeting, in the light of scientific advice.

The Commission resolves that, meanwhile, ICES should be requested to examine information to be submitted by the Norwegian delegation together with any relevant information which other delegations may be able to provide and to report to the Seventh Meeting of the Commission on:-

- 1) the relationship between the stocks of coalfish within the area of the proposed exemption and those in adjacent areas of the north east Atlantic
- 2) the relationship between coalfish and other associated species in this area, and
- 3) the effect upon the stocks of coalfish and associated species of exempting the fishery in this area from the provisions of Recommendation 1(a)(1).



NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION  
Budget for the Year Ending 30th June, 1969

ANNEX P

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
(a) Salaries of Secretary, administrative, clerical and typing staff, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry's overhead expenses.	2,000	-	-	Contributions	584	-	-
(b) Stationery, Printing and Postage	302	-	-	Belgium	584	-	-
(c) President's Travelling, Subsistence and Expenses	300	-	-	Denmark	584	-	-
(d) Expenses of Meeting of the Commission	2,000	-	-	Federal Germany	776	-	-
(e) Contribution to ICES	4,150	-	-	France	392	-	-
				Iceland	392	-	-
				Ireland	584	-	-
				Netherlands	584	-	-
				Norway	584	-	-
				Poland	776	-	-
				Portugal	584	-	-
				Spain	776	-	-
				Sweden	584	-	-
				USSR	776	-	-
				UK	776	-	-
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					£8,752	-	-
					<hr style="width: 100%;"/>		

Office of the Commission  
 Reykjavik  
 May, 1968

4. The Commission considered a proposal for closure to trawling of an area off the North East coast of Iceland and took note of the recommendations of a special Working Group which had met in Reykjavik last January. It asked the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to initiate without delay and co-ordinate a comprehensive programme of research designed to provide new estimates of the effects of changes in fishing effort on the yield of Icelandic cod and haddock stocks so that the Commission may consider at a future meeting whether conservation measures are required.
5. The Commission noted preliminary advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea on the decline of hake catches in the central part of its area and stressed the urgency of the problem. It urged member countries concerned to provide statistics as a basis for assessment of the need for conservation measures in the area.
6. The Commission discussed the use of topside chafers and stressed the need for its members to provide information on the design and mesh size of topside chafers in use. It agreed to keep this matter under review.
7. The Commission extended until 31st December 1971 the concession that vessels based on and landing their catches in ports in the area in the Irish Sea between the parallels of  $54^{\circ}30'$  and  $53^{\circ}$  N. latitude and west of  $5^{\circ}15'$  W. longitude may, for the purpose of catching whiting, carry and use nets with a minimum mesh size of 60 mm.
8. The Commission gave further close consideration to the conservation of herring stocks in its area and noted the progress made in formulating and performing a programme of research to identify factors affecting the stocks in the north, central and southern North Sea. It stressed the urgency of this matter and called upon member countries concerned to assist by providing ICES with the scientific data it required for its investigations.

9. The Commission added Polar cod to the list of species which may be caught with small mesh nets. It also asked the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to consider and report whether it would be advisable to add Saury and Silver Smelts to the list.
10. The Commission agreed that as from 1st January, 1969, in the part of the Convention area south of  $48^{\circ}$  N, the minimum fish sizes should be raised to 30 cm. for hake and 24 cm. for sole and that the minimum net mesh size should be 60 mm. for single twine synthetics, 65 mm. for double twine synthetics and 70 mm. for manila and sisal.
11. The Commission learned of difficulties facing the Norwegian fishery for coalfish and, to permit consideration of the problem at its next meeting, requested the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to examine scientific data and submit advice on the relationship between the stocks of coalfish in the area of the fishery with stocks in adjacent waters and with associated species in the area.
12. The Commission took note of the resignation of M. Rougé (France) from the post of First Vice President and expressed its great appreciation of the services he had rendered during his period of office. Mr. A. S. Gaidoukov (USSR) was elected First Vice President and Mr. G. Möcklinghoff (Federal Republic of Germany) was elected Second Vice President.
13. The Commission unanimously expressed its very warm appreciation of the generous hospitality extended to them by the Government of Iceland. The next meeting will be held in London between 7th and 12th May, 1969.

Office of the Commission

Reykjavik

14th May, 1968