

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1968U.S. and Spanish Joint Report on Exchange
of Fisheries Enforcement Officers - May 1968

by O. Rodriguez Martin and J.B. Skerry

Arrangements were made for enforcement officers of the United States and Spain to conduct joint fisheries inspection on vessels of their respective nation.

All boarding and inspection at sea was conducted from the U.S. Coast Guard vessel Acushnet. The Spanish vessels boarded on Banquereau Bank, Subarea 4 Vs and the U.S. vessels boarded on Georges Bank, Subarea 5Z, were inspected for compliance with the current ICNAF regulations of the Subareas. A minor infraction was found on one Spanish and one U.S. vessel; remedial action was immediately taken in each case. It was noted by the officers that there were no objections by the trawler captains to inspection of all of the trawl nets and gear, the storage areas or the fish hold. It was further noted that the U.S. requires a trawler to haul back its trawl net for immediate inspection. This affords the officer the opportunity to inspect the cod end for obstructive devices as it is hauled on board.

Dockside inspections of fishing vessels took place in Gloucester, Boston and New Bedford, Massachusetts. Cod ends were measured using both the U.S. spring-loaded ICNAF gauge and the Soviet version of the ICNAF gauge using the 5 kilogram weight. The procedure of certifying a new-dry-before use cod end was demonstrated.

It was the opinion of the inspection officers that more time at sea would have been useful. Aside from that point, each officer felt that the discussions concerning the ICNAF regulations and international inspection coupled with the boarding operations and the dockside work was all of great value towards a better understanding of enforcement procedures followed by both nations.