

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSIONSEVENTH MEETINGPRESS NOTICE

1. The Seventh Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 7th to 12th May, 1969. In the absence through illness of Mr. David Olafsson /Iceland/, the First Vice-President, Mr. A.S. Gaidoukov /U.S.S.R./ presided. Delegations attended from all Member States, 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 Government of Canada, the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and O.E.C.D.

2. The Commission considered the developing deep-water fishery for salmon in the Convention area, which was described in a memorandum presented by the United Kingdom delegation as a potentially serious threat to salmon stocks. By a majority, the Commission made a Recommendation to Member Governments that fishing for salmon outside national fishery limits should be prohibited in the Convention area.

3. The Commission reaffirmed its decision to bring the Scheme of Joint Enforcement, which provides for international inspection at sea to improve the enforcement of conservation measures, into effect on 1st January 1970, and agreed the final details for implementing the Scheme. It was noted that not all countries would be in a position to participate in the Scheme at that date, because of delay in their national legislature, and urged that these countries should put themselves in a position to participate by 1st, July, 1970.

4. The Commission considered the outcome of an ad hoc meeting of countries concerned to study the problems involved in the regulation of fishing intensity in terms of a concrete situation. The area chosen had been the North East Arctic, where the need for reduction of effort to conserve cod and haddock stocks had been shown. The Commission noted with approval the lines on which the study group were working, and asked the countries concerned to meet again to work out the details of a quota scheme.

5. The Commission considered whether the regulation of the use of topside chafrers set out in Recommendation 3 /b/ should be continued, and decided to authorise for the future the use of only three types, the so-called ICNAF, multi-flap and Polish chafrers.
6. The continuing decline in herring catches was discussed. The Commission set up separate ad hoc Study Groups of scientists and administrators to consider the North Sea stock, with stocks directly or indirectly affected, and the Atlante-Scandian stock, as a matter of urgency in the light of the serious scientific reports received. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea was requested to continue its scientific studies.
7. The Commission considered a report by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea /I.C.E.S./ on saury and silver smelt, with a view to deciding whether to include these species in the list to which Recommendation /2/ applied. It agreed that more data were needed as the basis for decision, and referred the matter back to I.C.E.S.
8. Another report from I.C.E.S. dealt with the Norwegian coalfish fishery in Region 1, for which an exemption from the minimum mesh size /130 mm./ pertaining to that area was sought. On the basis of the report the Commission agreed that the minimum mesh size could, without damage to other fisheries, be decreased to 80 mm. It asked I.C.E.S. to consider the implications of changing the boundaries between Regions I and II so that the 80 mm. mesh size applied in the area of the coalfish fishery.
9. The Commission extended the currency of Recommendation /5/, which allows 10% of protected species to be landed with an industrial catch, to 1st January, 1974.
10. The Commission extended the currency of Recommendation /6/, which makes an exemption from mesh regulations for a whiting fishery of importance to the Danish industry in the provision of fodder for fur and fish farms, until 1st January, 1980.
11. The Commission received a report from I.C.E.S. on the changes in abundance in the North Sea of cod, haddock, whiting, plaice and sole, and noted that there was shown to be an increase in the total yield over the post-war period, and a tendency to an increase in abundance. It asked I.C.E.S. to continue these studies.
12. The term of office of the President having expired, the Commission elected Mr. A.S. Gaidoukov /U.S.S.R./ to be President, Mr. G. Mücklinghoff /Federal Republic of Germany/ to fill Mr. Gaidoukov's former office of First Vice-President, and Captain J. C.E. Cardese /Portugal/ to fill the vacant Vice-Presidency.
13. The Eighth Meeting of the Commission will take place in London from 6th to 11th May, 1970.

Office of the Commission
London, S.W.1.
12th May, 1969