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**International Commission  
for the  
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries**



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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1970

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

EIGHTH MEETING

PRESS NOTICE

1. The Eighth Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 6th to 11th May, 1970. The 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 Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and O.E.C.D.

2. Salmon

The Commission agreed by a majority, measures to protect salmon from the developing high sea fishery. The measures include a closed season from July 1st to May 5th, two closed areas off the Norwegian coast, a minimum size (60 cm), a minimum mesh of nets (160 mm), and regulations regarding the gear to be used. These measures will, unless objected to, come into force on January 1st 1971, and are subject to review in case of substantial changes in the position or after two years.

3. Herring

North Sea Herring

The Commission took note of the report of an Ad Hoc Study Group which had met twice during the year, and discussed a number of short-term measures that were proposed for the conservation of the

stock in the absence of the generally preferred solution, a restriction on catches. The Commission agreed by a majority to introduce for the year beginning March 1st 1971 a close season in the North Sea and Skagerrak during May and from 20th August to 30th September, with provision for the exemption of by-catches of herring and of small quantities for human consumption.

#### Atlanto-Scandian Herring

The Commission took note of a report of an Ad Hoc Study Group on the Atlanto-Scandian stock, but failed to reach agreement on the introduction of conservation measures proposed by the Group. It was however noted that the three countries mostly concerned had plans to meet again in the autumn to discuss a limitation of the catch on a basis outside the terms of the Convention and to continue their work for the conservation of this stock.

#### Dunmore East Herring

The Commission discussed a memorandum by the Irish delegation on the state of the Dunmore East stock of herring in the Celtic Sea, and agreed to set up an Ad Hoc Study Group on this stock which will meet in Dublin at the invitation of the Irish Government.

4. The Commission agreed an amendment to Recommendation (1), which would have the effect of extending the regulations concerning the mesh of nets to include Danish seine nets or similar nets towed or hauled through the sea, as opposed to the nets hauled at the bottom of the sea which are the only nets covered by the present Recommendation.

5. The Commission agreed to change the boundary between two of its Regions so as to remove the area bounded by latitudes  $62^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $64^{\circ}\text{N}$  and longitude  $4^{\circ}\text{W}$  and the Norwegian coast from Region 1 to Region 2. The effect will be to allow the continuation of a Norwegian fishery for coalfish with smaller mesh nets than those that are permitted in Region 1.

6. Following a report from the Liaison Committee, which made it clear that there would not be any difficulties raised for protected species, the Commission agreed to amend Recommendation (2) by adding saury to the list of species exempted from the mesh regulations.

7. The Commission agreed to a proposal by the French and Spanish delegations to make a Recommendation banning trawl fishing in two areas in the Bay of Biscay which were important nursery grounds for hake.
8. The Commission considered a Norwegian memorandum on the state of the mackerel stocks in the Skagerrak and the North Eastern North Sea, and agreed to ask I.C.E.S. through the Liaison Committee to study the state of this stock and the necessity for conservation measures.
9. The Commission considered a report by an Ad Hoc Study Group on the conservation of stocks by catch and effort restriction in the North East Arctic. The Ad Hoc Study Group was asked to continue its work.
10. The Commission agreed to add to its powers by adding to the list of measures in Article 7(1) of the Convention, in accordance with the procedure foreseen in Article 7(2) the power to make recommendations regulating the amount of total catch and the amount of fishing effort for particular stocks, areas, and periods. This addition to the Commission's powers will require ratification by legislatures of Member States.
11. The Commission reviewed progress on the introduction of the Joint Enforcement Scheme, and noted that several countries that were unable to join the Scheme when it came into force on January 1st 1970 were now well advanced in their plans for participation. Details of the administration of the Scheme were agreed.
12. The Commission will meet in London from 3rd to 8th May 1971.

Office of the Commission

London, S.W.1.

12th May, 1970