



Serial No. 2737
(A.a.4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 72/13

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1972

CANADIAN PROPOSAL
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES BY QUOTA FOR STOCKS OF AMERICAN
PLAICE IN DIVISIONS 3L AND 3N.

In both Divisions 3L and 3N American plaice landings were reasonably stable during 1954-62. The fishery was almost solely Canadian. However, after 1962 landings from both Divisions increased rapidly rising to a peak of 52,000 tons in 1969 in 3L, and to a peak of 35,000 tons in 1966 in 3N. The latter is less certain because the portion of the catch taken by European vessels in recent years, except for 1970, has been recorded merely as flounder.

The fishery has remained mainly Canadian in Division 3L. After 1966, however, countries other than Canada caught large quantities of plaice in Division 3N.

Recent assessment of these fisheries considered by the Assessment Subcommittee at the 1971 Annual Meeting of ICNAF and 1972 Mid-Term Assessment Meeting indicated the level of fishing mortality in recent years to be within 80% to 90% of the maximum yield per recruit and that further increases in fishing effort would neither result in significant long-term increases in yield per recruit nor would it be economically profitable. The Subcommittee indicated that the catch for Division 3L should not exceed 35,000 to 40,000 tons, and for Division 3N should probably not exceed 20,000 tons.

Canada proposes that the 1972 meeting of ICNAF consider limiting the catch of American plaice in Division 3L to 40,000 metric tons and in Division 3N to 20,000 metric tons.

It is further proposed that this quota be allocated as follows: 40% in proportion to catches by member countries in the most recent three years for which figures are available; 40% in proportion to catches in the preceding ten years; 10% to the coastal state; 10% to provide for non-members and new entrants.

