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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1972  
CONSERVATION OF SCALLOPS IN SUBAREA 5

Memorandum by the United States

At the 21st Annual Meeting of the Commission, the Scientific Advisers to Panel 5 drew attention to the need to consider management measures for scallops, noting that scallops are being harvested at sizes that do not permit the maximum potential yield. The Assessment Subcommittee has pointed out that considerable benefits would be obtained by allowing scallops to mature in view of their rapid growth rate and low natural mortality. The Subcommittee has also noted that while scallop landings have been relatively stable since 1965, the catch-per-unit-of-effort has been declining.

Accordingly, the United States asks Panel 5 and the Commission to consider regulatory measures that will facilitate achievement of maximum sustainable yield from scallops. These might include controlling access of scallop fishing gear to grounds where small scallops predominate, establishing a minimum size of scallops retained and perhaps such direct limitations on catch as may be determined appropriate in the light of the latest scientific information that will be available at the time of the 1972 Annual Meeting.

