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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1972

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission,
Tenth Meeting, Press Notice
15 May 1972

The Tenth Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 8th to 12th May, 1972. The President, Mr A.S. Gaidoukov (USSR) 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 Governments of Canada, of Japan and of the United States of America, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, the European Economic Community, FAO and OECD.

2. Election of President

The Commission elected Mr G. Mocklinghoff (Federal Republic of Germany) as their President for the next three year term, 1972-1975.

3. Salmon

The Commission agreed, by a majority, a Recommendation which further supplemented the measures protecting salmon from the high sea fishery. The Recommendation prohibits fishing for salmon outside national limits in an area around Iceland, and adds a provision for review from time to time by the Commission.

4. Herring

North Sea Herring. The Commission approved, with two abstentions, an amendment to a Recommendation the effect of which is to apply restrictions on the catch of herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak in 1973. Member States of the Commission are under this Recommendation prohibited from fishing for herring in the area concerned during the period 1st February to 15th June, 1973, but may in order to avoid special difficulties claim exemption for fish for human consumption or bait not exceeding 2,500 tons. Alternatively Member States may now catch herring for human consumption or bait during February and March 1973 up to a limit of their catches for those purposes in any of the years 1969 to 1972: if this right is exercised then their catch for the period 1st April to 15th June 1973 will be limited to 1,250 tons. The Commission also noted the measures reported by Member States for preventing abuse of these exemptions.

Atlanto-Scandian Herring. The Commission noted that the three countries principally concerned with the Atlanto-Scandian herring had agreed to meet later in the year to discuss measures for further restrictions on the catch of Atlanto-Scandian herring.

Celtic Sea Herring. The Commission approved a proposal to establish a study group to report to the next meeting of the Commission on Celtic Sea herring, with a view to providing the basis on which catch and effort limitation measures could be introduced.

General. The Commission agreed that Member States should be called on to provide statistics of catches which would help to distinguish between fish for human consumption and other uses.

Catch and Effort Limitation

The Commission welcomed the information that all Member States except one were able to agree to the activation of Article 7(2) of the Convention under which the Commission may institute limitation of catch and fishing effort, and noted that no difficulty was expected by the outstanding Member Country over enactment of the necessary legislation prior to signifying formal agreement to the Commission.

Protected Species. The Commission approved a review of the current regulations which specified minimum fish sizes, and of the need to apply the regulations to further species.

North East Arctic Cod Fishery. The Commission received a report on progress with tripartite discussions undertaken by the three countries principally concerned in the North East Arctic cod fishery, Norway, USSR and the United Kingdom, with a view to agreement on a scheme of catch restriction. It was noted that discussions would be resumed.

6. International Control

The Commission welcomed participation by one further Member Country in the Scheme of Joint Enforcement of Commission regulations and considered the plans submitted to the Commission setting out the measures of enforcement to be taken by Members.

7. The Commission considered the report of a meeting of inspectors and administrators concerned with the Scheme of Joint Enforcement and arising from this approved the formation of a new Enforcement Committee under the chairmanship of the Commission's First Vice President, with a general responsibility for reviewing operation of the enforcement scheme.

8. The Commission took note of a report from ICES on the depleted state of mackerel stocks in the Skagerrak and the North East North Sea, and of the further studies which ICES were undertaking. A report was also received of the measures taken by Norway to control fishing for mackerel in the Norwegian Sea.

9. The Commission asked that ICES should continue studies of flatfish stocks, with particular reference to the effect of beam trawls with heavy chains and of an increase in the minimum size for plaice.

10. The Commission approved by a majority the continuation for a further three years of permission to attach chafers or covers to nets in order to prevent wear and tear.

11. The Commission also approved the continuation until the end of 1973 of the prohibition of trawling in the Bay of Biscay. The Commission noted that the extension would allow scientific research into hake stocks to be completed and reported at their next meeting.

12. The Commission will next meet in regular annual session on 9th May, 1973, in London.

Office of the Commission
London, S.W.1.

Canada																		
Period	Territorial Waters	Con-vention Area	Den.	Fran.	Ger(FR)	Ice.	Italy	Japan	Nor.	Pol.	Port.	Rom.	Spain	USSR	UK	USA	Total Con-vention Area	Total member
<u>1958-67</u>																		
Av. catch %	29172	4286 13.58	(1423) 4.51	6399 20.28	14 0.04	-	-	-	(726) 2.30	3 0.01	1898 6.01	-	14727 46.66	67 0.21	2016 6.39	1 +	31560 99.99	60747 15
<u>1968-70</u>																		
Av. catch %	21474	6997 13.64	(1795) 3.50	2168 4.23	-	-	-	-	(2927) 5.71	2 +	69 0.13	-	30253 58.98	7024 13.69	55 0.11	-	51290 99.99	72764 -
<u>1958-66</u>																		
Av. catch %	-	4362 6.09	(1628) 2.28	1363 1.91	256 0.36	6 0.01	-	-	(572) 0.80	99 0.14	9029 12.60	-	38344 53.51	14551 20.31	1426 1.99	1 +	71637 100.00	71644 7

Average plaice catches and percentages by country for Divisions 3L and 3N.
Proportions of plaice in unspecified flounder catches by European countries
estimated as indicated in footnote.

Period	Canada	Fr(SP)	UK	USA	Pol.	Rom.	USSR	Non- Member	Ger(FR)	Total
<u>3L</u>										
<u>1958-67</u>										
Av. catch	17008	603	114	-	740	-	806	15	18	19304
%	88.10	3.12	0.59	-	3.83	-	4.18	0.08	0.09	99.99
<u>1968-70</u>										
Av. catch	43002	239	43	+	144	-	419	17	-	43864
%	98.03	0.54	0.10	+	0.33	-	0.96	0.04	-	100.00
<u>3N</u>										
<u>1958-67</u>										
Av. catch	11208	274	5	-	17	-	1298	1	-	12803
%	87.54	2.14	0.04	-	0.13	-	10.14	0.01	-	100.00
<u>1968-70</u>										
Av. catch	10491	26	-	-	-	313	8130	-	-	18959
%	55.34	0.14	-	-	-	1.65	42.88	-	-	100.01

Footnote: 3L

France (St. P & M) - All unspecified flounder assumed plaice.
European countries - Proportion of plaice in unspecified flounder catches
calculated on basis of proportion of plaice in
Canadian flounder landings.

3N

France (St. P & M) - All unspecified flounder assumed plaice.
European countries - Proportion of plaice in unspecified flounder catches
calculated on basis of proportion of plaice in
1970 USSR flounder landings.