

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR



THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1973Scheduling the consideration of conservation measures for Northwest Atlantic herring stocks

Memorandum by US Commissioners
(as presented to the Special Commission Meeting - January 1973)

At the 1971 ICNAF Annual Meeting, consideration was given to a number of proposals designed to halt further declines in the various Northwest Atlantic herring stocks. At that time, however, the majority of Member Nations decided that additional time would be required to complete more intensive studies of sustainable yields and to examine the implications of the various quotas which had been proposed. Subsequently, it was decided to convene a Special Mid-Term Meeting of the Commission in January 1972 at which time agreement was reached on Northwest Atlantic herring quotas for 1972. The upcoming Special Session of the Commission was scheduled in order to set the quota levels for 1973 in accordance with requirement laid down in paragraph 5 of the 1972 Quota Regulations.

In proposing at the 1971 Annual Meeting that this initial Special January Session be held, the United States argued that the condition of the herring stocks required urgent action, and that lack of agreement on appropriate quota levels at the 1971 Annual Meeting should not be allowed to postpone regulatory action for another full year. That problem was resolved through the 1972 Special Meeting, which led in turn to the 1973 Special Meeting we are now facing.

It is evident that the scheduling of a Special Session of ICNAF involves both added costs and other burdens for the Commission and individual Member Nations. Conservation measures for herring have now been instituted and it is the view of the United States that it is no longer necessary to consider regulatory measures for this resource at a time separate from that for other species. Scientists have indicated that sufficient data will be available by the time of the ICNAF Annual Meeting in June 1973 to determine appropriate quota levels for the following year.

Consequently, the United States proposes that the upcoming Special Session of the Commission recommend that herring catch quota levels for 1974 required to achieve objectives determined at the forthcoming meeting be set at the 1973 regular Annual Commission Meeting, and that the scientific data required to formulate these quotas be considered at the regular session of STACRES scheduled for that time.

