

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR



THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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## ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1974

Canadian proposal for quota regulation in Subareas 2 to 4  
to be considered at January 1974 Meeting of Commission<sup>1</sup>  
(distributed at Special Commission Meeting, October 1973)

Canada accepts the conclusions of STACRES that in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 the sum of the TAC's for individual stocks overestimates the MSY of the fish stocks in the area, and that a two-tier quota system with an overall quota substantially less than the sum of the TAC's is essential to maximize fisheries yield from the area. Implementation of this system could result in substantial diversion of effort to the northern Subareas.

However, species diversity and hence by-catch problems decline from south to north. Furthermore, species quotas in Subareas 2 to 4 have been set close to the levels recommended by biologists although there are a few notable exceptions, e.g., redfish in Div. 3M, cod in Div. 3NO, and silver hake in Subarea 4. While biological interactions are poorly understood, the Commission has acted positively and taken a suitably cautious approach to development of new fisheries on prey species as evidenced by proposed capelin regulations - a recognition of the biologists' concern over the inter-relationship of production in capelin and cod, which is probably the major interaction in the northern areas.

For these reasons, we believe that the present system of individual species quotas may suffice for the time being in regulating the fisheries in Subareas 2 to 4 at the level of the maximum sustainable yield, although other measures may well become necessary in the near future. However, this implies that all stocks subject to directed fisheries are also subject to quota regulation and this is not currently the case.

Therefore, Canada proposes that the following stocks be brought under quota regulation in 1974 and that quotas and allocations be set for them at the January 1974 meeting and implemented as quickly as possible by voluntary action as in the case of regulations arising from the October 1973 Special Commission Meeting:

Redfish	- Subarea 2 and Div. 3K
Greenland halibut	- Subarea 2 and Div. 3KL
American plaice	- Subarea 2 and Div. 3K
American plaice	- Div. 3M
American plaice	- Subdiv. 3Pa
Roundnose grenadier	- Subareas 2 and 3
Cod	- Div. 4T and Subdiv. 4Vn
Cod	- Div. 4X offshore
Argentines	- Subarea 4

Canada further proposes that no country should initiate directed fisheries for previously unexploited species without informing the Commission of its intention and its expected catches so that the Commission can take action to establish pre-emptive quotas, if necessary, thus controlling the development of the fishery.

Mr Chairman, the present statement should be minuted in the Proceedings of the October 1973 Special Commission Meeting and taken as notice, so that the 60-day requirement will be satisfied.

<sup>1</sup> Presented to the Special Commission Meeting, FAO, Rome, January 1974 as Comm.Doc. 74/1.