

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3251  
(A.a. 4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 74/16

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1974

Canadian proposal regarding the herring size and limit exemption in Subareas 4 and 5 of the Convention Area

At the Fourth Special Commission Meeting in January 1974, a "Proposal for Amendment to the International Size Limit Regulation of the Fishery for Herring in Subareas 4 and 5 of the Convention Area", was adopted. (Proceedings No. 3, Appendix II, page 21) This regulation limits a vessel's catch of herring less than 9 inches (22.7 cm) during the year to not more than 10% by weight, or 25% by count.

Since many vessels now fishing in the Convention Area process herring for either human food or industrial purposes, it is often impossible to determine either the species or the size of many of the fish caught. /

Furthermore, the present system providing for exemptions on an annual basis permits vessels to mount intensive short-term effort on under-size herring under the assumption that enough large herring will be caught later in the season to comply with the exemption limit. These factors make it almost impossible for the herring size regulations to be enforced through the Joint Enforcement Scheme.

Canada, therefore, proposes that at its 1974 Annual Meeting the Commission consider amending this regulation to make it apply to any herring on board a vessel which can be identified as to the species and size at the time of inspection and thus make the regulation enforceable on an equitable basis.