

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Note by US Commissioners on International Inspection

On numerous occasions, and most recently in Comm.Doc. 74/25 presented at the 1974 Annual Meeting, the United States noted that reliance on the Commission's quota system requires both sophisticated techniques of international enforcement and detailed and accurate catch records. Accordingly, substantial improvements were proposed by the United States in the Commission's Joint International Enforcement Scheme at the June 1973 and 1974 Annual Meetings and the January 1973 and 1974 Special Meetings. These were designed to remedy what the United States viewed as serious shortcomings in the Commission's Scheme and thereby provide for complete and equitable enforcement of Commission regulations. While improvements have been approved in the Scheme, these in all cases have fallen short of those desired by the United States.

The United States is deeply concerned by indications from reports of surveillance and inspections that certain Member Nations have engaged in overfishing of catch quotas, violated Commission mesh regulations, failed to report catch totals to the Secretariat when fishing under the "Others" allocation and failed to record amount of by-catch, discards, and fishmeal. It is the view of the United States that such occurrences require as a minimum that Member Nations give consideration on an urgent basis to substantive modifications in the Commission's Joint International Inspection Scheme which will provide significant and immediate progress in minimizing such occurrences and restore that credibility in the Commission's regulatory scheme which has been seriously damaged as a result of recent events, including further consideration of action to be taken by an inspector upon discovery of a violation.

