

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3641
(A.a. 4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 75/23

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

Note by US Commissioners on mackerel conservation in
Subareas 3-5 and Statistical Area 6

The United States has noted with concern the reports of substantial catches of age 1 mackerel (less than 25 cm total length) during the first quarter of 1975 as indicated by Res.Doc. 74/40, and by on-board inspections by US enforcement personnel. The United States has also noted the conclusion of the Assessments Subcommittee that the mackerel stock in Subareas 3-6, "...as predicted for 1976, will be comprised mainly of very young fish (age 2 and younger), and thus, there is the possibility of substantially increased fishing mortality on those age-groups, resulting in a loss in yield-per-recruit."

Accordingly, it is the view of the United States that the Commission should approve, in accord with the recommendation of the Assessments Subcommittee, a minimum size limit of 25 cm (total length) as a supplement to the TAC regulation for mackerel in Subareas 3-6 in order to effectively minimize the capture of 0 and 1-year-old mackerel.