

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Twelfth Meeting

Press Notice

The Twelfth Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in Bonn from 26th June to 2nd July, 1974. The President, Mr G. Mocklinghoff (Federal Republic of Germany) was in the Chair. Delegations attended from all the original Member States, namely:-

Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

In addition the Commission welcomed for the first time a delegation from the German Democratic Republic which had just acceded to the Convention.

Observers represented the Government of the United States of America, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, FAO, OECD, ICNAF and the European Economic Community.

2. North Sea Herring

The Commission approved by a majority a resolution in the following terms:-

"The Commission:-

Having regard to the objection lodged by Norway to the recommendation for regulation of herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak from 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975 and the reasons therefore set out in the Norwegian memorandum of 29 March 1974;

Having regard to the conditional objection lodged by Poland to that recommendation;

Resolves:-

(1) to make intensive efforts to secure agreement on a TAC for 1975-76 which will allow a faster recovery of the stock than the TAC proposed for 1974-75;

(2) to take due note of the views of the Norwegian and Polish delegations which are reflected in paragraph 5 of the recommendation for 1974-75, and which are shared by a majority of member states, that the national allocations for 1975-76 and future years should take more account of historical factors.

Appeals to the Norwegian delegation and the Polish delegation to seek the withdrawal of their objections."

The Commission warmly welcomed the subsequent statements by the Norwegian and Polish delegations that, in the light of this appeal, their Governments had withdrawn their reservations on the recommendation passed by the Commission the previous month, and noted that this would now enable the regulation to come into effect immediately.

3. Cod Stocks in the North East Arctic

The Commission heard statements from the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and the USSR pointing out that the continuation of the tripartite agreement between these states depended upon the catches by non-signatories remaining below a certain level. Realising the importance of conserving the cod stocks in this area, the Commission approved a resolution put forward by these three Governments in the following terms:-

"1. Having regard to the urgent need to protect the stocks of Arctic cod, the Commission request Member Countries not signatories to the Agreement between the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to use their best endeavours to ensure that fishing by their vessels for cod in the North-East Arctic Area (statistical areas I and II of ICES) during 1974 ceases after 31 July 1974.

"2. The Commission also invites all Member Countries:-

- (a) to provide by 15 July statistics of the total catch of cod taken by their vessels in the Area from the beginning of 1974 to the end of June, and thereafter provide statistics for each month by the middle of the following month;
- (b) to indicate by 15 July whether, and to what extent, their fishing vessels will comply with the request in paragraph 1.

"3. The Commission undertakes to convene, as soon as possible, a special meeting of all Member Countries with a view to concluding a new Agreement for the regulation of the fishing of North-East Arctic (Arcto-Norwegian) cod for 1975 under its Convention."

4. Sole and Plaice Stocks in the North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel and Irish Sea

The Commission considered the state of the stocks of sole and plaice in these areas and agreed that catch limitation schemes should be introduced for the calendar year 1975. Following a discussion of the allocations for each Contracting State concerned in the fishery it was agreed that the President would forward certain proposals and that Contracting States should be invited to vote upon these by post within the next two months.

5. Herring Stocks off the West Coast of Scotland

The Commission considered the state of the stock and the possibility of introducing a catch regulation scheme and supplementary measures such as the closure of spawning grounds and a restriction on the minimum size of herring to be caught within that area. It was agreed that in the light of the discussions the President would put certain proposals to Contracting States who would again be requested to give their views by means of a postal vote within the next two months.

6. Atlanto-Scandian Herring

The Commission approved a recommendation extending for a further year to the end of 1975 the existing recommendation prohibiting fishing for Atlanto-Scandian herring in ICES Statistical Areas I, II and V(b) subject to a reduction from 20% to 10% in the right of all Member States to exempt a quantity of herring for human consumption or bait corresponding to their catch in 1969 of small and fat Atlanto-Scandian herring.

7. Mesh Sizes in Region 1

The Commission approved by a majority a recommendation which, as from 1st January, 1976, extends by 10 mm the minimum sizes of trawl and seine nets permitted in the waters in Region 1.

8. Chafers

The Commission approved by a majority a recommendation which, as from 1st January, 1976, confines the use of top-side chafers to those commonly known as the "Polish" type. This recommendation also specifies that, as from that date, bottom chafers must be fastened only along the forward and lateral edges of the cod-end.

9. Industrial Landings

The Commission approved by a majority a recommendation whereby from 1st January, 1975, 25% of each total landing or part landing from certain mixed fisheries which is not intended for human consumption in the form of fish, may consist of species for which the Commission have already recommended minimum sizes. The Commission also extended for a further year from that date the existing recommendation limiting to 10% the weight of such landings which may consist of undersized fish of these protected species.

10. Sardine Stocks off the Coast of Portugal

The Commission passed a recommendation removing sardine stocks off the coast of Portugal from those mixed fisheries where derogations apply from the Commission's main recommendation governing the minimum mesh sizes of nets. The Commission also agreed that the minimum size for sardine caught in that area should be set at 12 cm measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin, and that ICES should be requested to carry out an assessment of the stock with particular reference to the level of catches needed to sustain the maximum yield from the stock.

11. Statistical Information

The Commission approved a resolution requiring Contracting States to notify the Commission each month of their catches of species regulated by quota recommendations or by other quota agreements which have been reported to the Commission.

The Commission also approved a resolution requesting ICES to supply as far as possible before each meeting of the Commission catch data for the previous ten years.

12. Joint Enforcement

The Commission considered a proposal by its Enforcement Committee to amend certain details of the existing Joint Enforcement Scheme in the light of experience over the last few years. Contracting States agreed to communicate their views in sufficient time to allow the new scheme to come into operation on 1st January 1975 in the event of all Contracting States agreeing to it.

The Commission also noted that the Government of the USSR had decided to withdraw its objection to the inspection of catches and gear below deck.

13. Future Meetings

The Commission expects to meet in special session from 4th-8th November, 1974 in Hamburg and to hold its regular annual meeting between 21st-27th May, 1975 in London. In addition an invitation was received from the Government of the USSR for a special meeting in the Soviet Union early in 1975 to consider, in conjunction with Member States of ICNAF, any outstanding enforcement problems and the overall state of fish stocks in the North Atlantic.

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Office of the Commission  
Bonn

