

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

Proceedings of Sixth Special Commission Meeting,
Bergen, Norway, 13-18 January 1975

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International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3438
(B.e.75)

Proceedings No. 2

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Report of Joint Meetings of Panels 2, 3 and 4

Thursday, 16 January, 1000 hrs
Friday, 17 January, 0930 hrs

1. The Joint Meeting of Panels 2, 3 and 4 was opened by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr E. Gillett (UK). Delegates of all Member Countries, except Bulgaria, Italy and Japan, and an Observer from FAO were present (Appendix I). The Chairman introduced the Minister of Fisheries for Norway, Mr Eivind Bolle, who addressed the delegates (Appendix II). The Chairman thanked Mr Bolle for his kind words of encouragement for the future and of recognition of the past good efforts of the Commission.
2. Chairman. Mr E. Gillett (UK) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Joint Meetings of Panels 2, 3 and 4.
3. Rapporteur. The Executive Secretary, Mr L.R. Day, was appointed Rapporteur.
4. Agenda. The Agenda was adopted as circulated (Appendix III).
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES). The Chairman of STACRES, Dr A.W. May (Canada), was requested to present the report of meetings of STACRES held 13-15 January 1975 at the request of the Commission to review the latest information on the capelin resource and fishery in Subareas 2 and 3 and to recommend TACs for 1975 (Proc. 1 - also Summ.Doc. 75/5). Dr May summarized the report which highlighted the trends in the international fishery which began in 1972 with a total catch of 71,000 tons and reached a total of over 270,000 tons in 1974 under catch quota regulation. Stock composition and estimates of stock size for the northern (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K) and southern (Div. 3LNOPs) groups of capelin were discussed and advice on previous (1974) and future (1975) management of the capelin resource was presented. Plans for future research to provide more precise advice on management of capelin and on the effects of capelin fisheries on other species, particularly cod, were put forward.

The Chairman thanked Dr May and the members of STACRES for their continuing good efforts on behalf of the Commission.

The Joint Panels agreed to recess to provide an opportunity for the delegates to read and study the advice of the scientists in regard to capelin management.

6. Conservation requirements for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3¹. Following the recess, the Chairman requested the delegate of Canada to introduce the revised Canadian proposal for TACs and allocation of capelin stocks in Subareas 2 and 3 (Comm.Doc. 75/1 Revised). The delegate of Canada said that the STACRES advice of 200,000 tons as the TAC for 1975 for the capelin in the southern area (Div. 3LNOPs) was acceptable, provided no more than 10,000 tons were taken in Subdiv. 3Ps and 50,000 tons in Div. 3L in order to protect the inshore spawning migrations. In the northern area (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K), he said Canada could not accept the STACRES TAC of 300,000 tons and proposed 250,000 tons which he pointed out was double the allowable catch for 1974. Lack of evidence on the effect that reduction in the abundance of capelin would have on the predators, particularly cod which was a very important Canadian fishery, and on the seriousness of the risk involved was put forward in support of the proposed figure of 250,000 tons. He pointed out that the suggested TACs did not include the small amounts taken by the Canadian coastal fishermen outside the Convention Area in Subarea 2 and Div. 3K, 3L and Subdiv. 3Ps.

The delegate of USSR pointed out that the advice of STACRES was based on the results of intensive scientific research in 1974 and that the USSR was prepared to accept the advice of STACRES for a TAC of 300,000 tons in the northern area (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K). He also requested elucidation of, and more time to study, the Canadian proposal restricting the capelin fishery in Div. 3L to an area offshore from straight lines drawn offshore along the east coast of Newfoundland. He also wanted more explanation for the Canadian proposal which lowered the TAC to 250,000 tons from the 300,000 tons suggested by STACRES in the northern area (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K).

¹ The following comments on this item were received by cable from the Japanese delegate: "On the ground that due consideration should be paid on the special needs of "Others" in allocating TAC of capelin which is known to be at a very productive level, at least 10 percent of the TAC should be allocated to "Others". Therefore, we found Canadian proposal (Comm.Doc. 75/1) acceptable."

(a) TAC for capelin in the southern area (Div. 3LNOPs)

At the request of the Chairman, the Panels agreed to discuss the TAC for the southern area while delegates considered the problems in the northern area. The delegate of Denmark stated preference for the system adopted at the January 1974 Meeting (January 1974 Mtg.Proc.No. 5, Appendix I) which allowed for the entry of other countries into the fishery and, thereby, prevented a monopoly. The delegates of Poland and Portugal supported the advice of STACRES and the Danish position. The delegate of France could agree to the Canadian proposal for the capelin in the southern area and, particularly, with the TAC for the Subdiv. 3Ps (St. Pierre and Miquelon) component of 10,000 tons.

The Chairman recognized general agreement among the delegates for an overall TAC of 200,000 tons and component TACs of 10,000 tons in Subdiv. 3Ps and 50,000 tons in Div. 3L.

(b) National allocations of TACs for capelin in the Subdiv. 3Ps, Div. 3L and Div. 3NO components of the southern group

Attention was directed to page 2 of the revised Canadian proposal (Comm.Doc. 75/1 Revised) and the allocations as proposed by Canada. The delegate of Poland noted that no specific quota had been allocated for the Polish fishery in the southern area and requested a total of 10,000 tons for 1975 (2,500 tons in Div. 3L and 7,500 tons in Div. 3NO). The delegate of Portugal requested that, if the proposal of Denmark would not be adopted, Portugal be given a specific quota in the southern area of 4,000 tons for 1975 (1,000 tons in Div. 3L and 3,000 tons in Div. 3NO). The delegate of FRG pointed out that the Danish proposal for use of the January 1974 system of allocation for "Others" would alleviate the difficulty of trying to get agreement with so many claims for specific quotas. The delegate of Spain required a specific quota of 10,000 tons in both the northern and southern fisheries. The delegate of France reported present interest only in the fishery in territorial waters of St. Pierre and Miquelon in Subdiv. 3Ps, but stated that France was interested in capelin as a possible fishery resource in the future, and would, therefore, like some provision for "Others" to be able to enter the fishery as the Canadian proposal provided. The delegate of GDR preferred the January 1974 system and, if not acceptable, GDR would need a specific quota. The delegate of Romania requested an opportunity to fish in the "Others" category. The delegates of Canada, Norway and USSR agreed that they could accept the proposed Canadian specific allocations for them in Subdiv. 3Ps, Div. 3L and Div. 3NO.

Following considerable discussion of the allocation to "Others" in the three components of the southern group, the delegates of countries who claimed specific quotas because of historic performance agreed, along with the other delegations, that countries other than Canada, Norway and the USSR should each be entitled to take 5,000 tons from Subdiv. 3Ps, Div. 3L and Div. 3NO combined, of which not more than 1,000 tons would be taken by all such countries together from Subdiv. 3Ps or 5,000 tons from Div. 3L. The Panels noted that countries fishing under "Others" in Subdiv. 3Ps and Div. 3L must notify the Commission Secretariat of their catches in 100-ton increments.

(c) TAC and allocation for capelin in the northern area (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K)

The Chairman noted that the revised Canadian proposal considered a TAC of 250,000 tons with 10,000 tons allocated to Canada to be appropriate (Comm.Doc. 75/1 Revised). The delegate of USSR favoured acceptance of the STACRES TAC of 300,000 tons and proposed allocation of

Canada	10,000 tons
USSR	250,000 "
Others	40,000 "
TAC	300,000 tons

The delegate of Canada pointed out that STACRES had only cited a 500,000-ton TAC (300,000 tons in the northern area and 200,000 tons in the southern area) for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 as a "suggested maximum adjustment" of the TAC for capelin. He pointed out that there had been classic cases of overfishing in the last few years in Subareas 2 and 3 with total effort increasing and total catch decreasing, resulting in great difficulties for the Canadian fishermen. Canada was very sensitive to any further threat to the declining cod stocks due to greatly increased catches of capelin, the major food item for their maintenance. Canada now believes that the situation in the fisheries in Subarea 3 is just as serious as in Subarea 5, due to the lack of reporting of by-catches and catches, and failure to abide by the catch quota. Canada intends to propose drastic measures for the reduction of fishing effort in Subarea 3 before the 1975 Annual Meeting. Therefore, the Panels should agree to TACs below suggested maxima. The delegate of USA supported the Canadian conservative TAC and pointed out that the small amounts of data available to STACRES to the present cannot give firm estimates. Yet, the Commission has consistently adopted the STACRES maximum estimate or one which was higher. Thus, the Commission is continually, in effect, presiding over overfishing and needs to consider adherence to the principles of conservation.

A proposal by the Chairman that the January 1974 system for "Others" be used for satisfying the rights of "Others" in the northern area suggested 150,000 tons for USSR and 10,000 tons each for countries not given a specific quota. The delegate of USSR reiterated a need for 250,000 tons, while the delegate of Poland

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required 30,000 tons. The delegates of most other countries could accept the Chairman's proposal.

Following a recess during which delegates considered the problem informally, Panels 2 and 3 agreed to a suggestion by the Chairman giving the following solution for quota regulation of the capelin fishery in the northern area (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K):

that the USSR be allocated	160,000 tons
Others, a maximum of	10,000 each.

Further, Panels 2 and 3 agreed that, at the 1975 Annual Meeting, there should be a review of the status of the fisheries by those countries fishing without a specific 1975 quota and possible allowable catch adjustments considered, should some of those countries report that they anticipate not using their allocation.

(d) Closed area for capelin fishery in Div. 3L of the southern area

The Chairman drew attention to the report prepared by the STACRES (Proc. 1 - also Summ.Doc. 75/5), in response to a request from the Joint Panels to consider the advice it might give relative to a Canadian proposal (Comm.Doc. 75/1 Revised) for a closed area regulation with respect to the capelin fishery in Div. 3L. The advice given was that the closed area in Div. 3L could be effective in diverting fishing from Div. 3L to the capelin concentrations in Div. 3NO, thus giving additional protection to that component of the Div. 3L capelin migrating to spawn inshore in close association with cod which are highly dependable on capelin as food. Following discussion of the precise location of the closing line by the Canadian and USSR delegations, Panel 3 agreed to the following joint proposal:

that the capelin fisheries in Division 3L of Subarea 3 of the Convention Area be restricted to an area offshore from the straight lines joining the following coordinates:

46°12'N	,	54°24'W
46°12'N	,	52°52'W
46°42'N	,	52°22'W
47°28'N	,	52°00'W
48°20'N	,	52°00'W
49°15'N	,	52°54'W.

7. Consideration of the resolution on enforcement of the Commission's fishery regulations was requested by the Chairman. The delegate of USA explained that, as a result of many serious violations of the international fishery regulations in Subareas 4 and 5 following the Annual Meeting in June 1974, the USA presented proposals at the November 1974 Meeting in Miami designed to strengthening enforcement and to prevent further failures of the Commission management system. As a result, a resolution was passed (November 1974 Mtg.Proc., Appendix XIV, page 37) in an attempt to ensure full and efficient action to conserve the fisheries in Subareas 4 and 5 and Statistical Area 6. He noted that the US allegations at the November 1974 Special Commission Meeting (Summ.Doc. 75/1) of 75 Spanish freezer vessels fishing in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 in 1974 (Comm.Doc. 74/41) were incorrect as there were only 40 as claimed by Spain (Comm.Doc. 74/44). He explained that the USA was ready to document clarification and apologies to the Spanish Government and to the Commission. He emphasized, however, that this did not detract from the overall pattern of poor enforcement and control and urged the adoption of a resolution by this meeting, similar to that adopted for Subareas 4 and 5 and Statistical Area 6 to cover Subareas 2 and 3 where similar difficulties were being encountered. The delegate of Denmark felt that problems of this kind should not be dealt with in a panel-by-panel fashion but he had no objection to the procedure if others agreed. He felt that the Panels might be wasting time in considering a further resolution now as the item could be taken by the STACTIC Meeting in March 1975. The delegate of USA recognized the questions raised but considered the matter of too great urgency to neglect the possibility of taking action at the November 1974 Meeting and, indeed, would have considered the November 1974 Meeting a failure had it not agreed to positive action on this matter. The delegate of Canada expressed sympathy for the Danish delegate's position but agreed with the US delegate that the problems in Subareas 2 and 3 required some similar action to be taken. He supported the need for a resolution covering Subareas 2 and 3 which would lend moral support to attempts to improve the enforcement program of the Commission. The Chairman pointed out that he was satisfied the November 1974 resolution was within the competence of the Panels 4 and 5 to decide as there was only a request to Member Countries to give more attention to the need for giving better effect to the regulations. The delegate of Portugal suggested that it might serve the same purpose to take note of the resolution adopted by Panels 4 and 5 and ask those members of Panels 2 and 3 to accept the resolution as applicable to Panels 2 and 3. The delegate of USA strongly favoured a separate resolution in order to clearly and forcefully bring to the attention of all the need for early and effective action. He felt a resolution would highlight and strengthen the need for action to rectify matters. He concluded that the effect of the November resolution had been very successful in stimulating better enforcement and cited an informal demonstration by the delegate of Spain of a greatly strengthened and improved Spanish enforcement program to be effected immediately.

Following further discussion, Panels 2 and 3, in joint session with Panel 4, agreed to adopt the Resolution Relating to the Enforcement of the Commission's Fishery Regulations in Subareas 2 and 3 (Appendix IV).

8. Further consideration of closed area/season requirements for haddock in Div. 4X of Subarea 4¹. The delegate of Canada referred to the Canadian proposal contained in Comm.Doc. 74/40 which was agreed to, only in part, by the November 1974 Meeting. He felt that Member Countries had now had more time to study the proposal for extension of the closed area to 67°W and the closed season to include June and its effect on their fisheries. The delegate of USSR explained that the extension proposed would seriously affect the USSR chances of taking their 1975 quotas of silver hake and argentine. He proposed that as a compromise the Panels might consider modification of the by-catch allowance for haddock in Div. 4X (November 1974 Mtg. Proc., Appendix XI, page 34) by changing the amounts from "5,000 lb or 2,268 kg, or 10% by weight" to "5,510 lb or 2,500 kg, or 1% by weight" and asking STACRES to look at the problem at its April 1975 Meeting and provide advice to the Commission at its 1975 Annual Meeting. The delegate of USA, in supporting the USSR amendment, pointed out that such a compromise would put the haddock by-catch regulation in Div. 4X in line with the regulation in Subarea 5 adopted at the November 1974 Meeting (November 1974 Mtg.Proc., Appendix XII, page 35) and that the USSR proposal for scientific study by STACRES prior to a decision would provide a better resolution of the by-catch problem. The delegate of Canada pointed out that a 1% by-catch regulation for haddock in Div. 4X would be very difficult for Canada and that the whole problem needed further study by STACRES at its April Meeting, as suggested by the USSR. Accordingly, Panel 4, in joint session with Panels 2 and 3, therefore agreed

that STACRES undertake a study at its April 1975 Meeting in order to advise on the resolution of the Div. 4X haddock problem by a USSR proposal for an incidental catch or by a Canadian proposal for extension of the closed area and season, and submit a report on this matter to the 1975 Annual Meeting.

The delegate of Canada then pointed out that the proposal for closed season and area for haddock in Div. 4X adopted at the November 1974 Meeting (November 1974 Mtg.Proc., page 22) should, to be effective from February to May 1975 inclusive as required by the proposal, have a resolution requesting Member Countries to voluntarily enforce the proposal as at 1 February 1975.

Accordingly, Panel 4, in joint session with Panels 2 and 3,

agreed to recommend to the Commission

a Resolution Relating to the Implementation of Proposal (5) from the November 1974 Special Commission Meeting (November 1974 Mtg.Proc., Appendix IX, page 31) for International Regulation of the Fishery for Haddock by Closed Area in Division 4X of Subarea 4 in the Convention Area (Appendix V).

9. Further consideration of conservation requirements for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3. The Chairman drew attention to a draft proposal for international regulation of the capelin fisheries in Subareas 2 and 3 based on the discussions and decisions recorded in Section 6 above. Following full discussion, Panels 2 and 3, in joint session with Panel 4, unanimously

agreed to recommend

that the Commission transmit to the Depositary Government, for joint action by the Contracting Governments, proposal (1) for international regulation of the fishery for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 (Appendix VI).

The Panels noted that, under this proposal, Canada and Norway could fish 10,000 tons of capelin each in 1975 as "Others" from the northern stock (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K), and that Norway and USSR did not intend to fish capelin in Subdiv. 3Ps in 1975. The Panels again drew attention to the agreement (see Section 6(c)) that, at the 1975 Annual Meeting, there would be a review of the status of the fisheries by those countries fishing without a specific 1975 quota in the northern stock (Subarea 2 + Div. 3K) and possible catch adjustments considered, should some of those countries report that they anticipate not using their allocation. The Panels noted that Governments fishing under the "Others" allocation in Div. 3L or Subdiv. 3Ps must report catches in 100-ton increments to the Executive Secretary who will close the fishery, whereas Governments fishing under the special allocation for "Others" in Subarea 2 and Div. 3K and in Div. 3NO will be responsible for recording their catches and reporting to the Executive Secretary when they reach their allocation.

10. USSR proposal for meeting of NEAFC and ICAAF on practical matters of fishery regulations and international control in the North Atlantic, Leningrad, USSR, 3-7 March 1975. The Chairman requested the delegate of USSR to introduce their proposal (Appendix VII). A strong plea was made by the USSR delegate for Member Countries of the ICAAF Panels to accept this invitation, a similar one of which had been presented to the NEAFC. He pointed out that it was very important to respond to the invitation at an early date as possible with information about the composition of the delegations, intended travel route and date of arrival so that necessary hotel accommodation and issuing of visas can be facilitated. Details were to be forwarded to:

¹ The following comments on this item were received by cable from the Japanese delegate: "We should like to go along with the majority view of the Panels in regard to the extension of area. However, with regard to the closure period, we are not in favour of further extension of the period since such extension will unduly affect our argentine fishery."

Mr R.G. Novochadov
Chief of Foreign Department
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Following this the Chairman of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), Mr W.G. Gordon (USA), presented provisional arrangements for a meeting of STACTIC (Appendix VIII) at the time of this proposed NEAFC-ICNAF meetings in Leningrad in March 1975. A provisional agenda with a request for comments or additions was presented in the appendix. The Panels concurred in the proposals and considered the dates of 3 March to mid-day 5 March 1975 suitable for the STACTIC meeting, while noting that NEAFC would require the afternoon of 5 March 1975 for a meeting of the NEAFC Enforcement Committee, after which the joint NEAFC and ICNAF deliberations would take place on 6 and 7 March 1975.

11. Report of STACRES. The Chairman drew attention to the Report of STACRES (Proc. 1 - also Summ.Doc. 75/5) and an addendum and moved its adoption. The Report and addendum were accepted.

12. Reports of Proceedings of the Joint Meetings of Panels 2, 3 and 4. Draft reports prepared by the Executive Secretary covering the proceedings of the meetings of 16 January and of the morning of 17 January were adopted.

13. Other business. The Observer from FAO, Mr L.K. Boerema, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to attend the meeting which had great importance for the FAO program in world fisheries. He congratulated the Commission and Panels for their successful efforts and wished them continued success.

The delegate of USA announced that the June 1974 proposals from the Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada had entered into effect, in accordance with present Commission procedures, on 11 January 1975.

The delegate of USA informed the meeting that the US Senate had passed a 200-mile legislation for USA in November of 1974. However, the Congress was over in December and the legislation was not acted on. The new Congress has promised to start action in February. The Executive Branch of the US Government opposes such legislation and looks to positive action from ICNAF to counter such legislation being passed before the Law of the Sea Conference can reach positive conclusions.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the Norwegian Government representatives for the excellent facilities, accommodation and hospitality, the meeting participants for their good cooperation and successful efforts and declared the Sixth Special Commission Meeting of Panels 2, 3 and 4 adjourned at 1630 hrs, 17 January 1975.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975List of Participants

(Head of Delegation underlined)

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SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Address by Mr Eivind Bolle, Minister of Fisheries for Norway,
ICNAF Meeting, Grand Cafe og Selskapslokaler, Bergen, 16 January 1975

"Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"On behalf of the Norwegian Government, I take great pleasure in welcoming to Norway the representatives of the Member Countries of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, Panels 2-4.

"As you will be aware, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission concluded its extraordinary meeting in Bergen yesterday. As far as I know, this is the first time the two Commissions for the fisheries in the northern Atlantic have held meetings in the same place and in the same week. This is an event in itself, an event for which the Norwegian Government is glad to stand host.

"This is the first time ICNAF holds an extraordinary meeting here in Norway. I think, however, that I may remind you, on the occasion of its opening, that the Commission has held one of its Annual Meetings in Norway. This was in 1960, and the meeting was held right here in Bergen. I should like to extend a special welcome to those of you who were also present on that occasion.

"Fishing is one of the oldest industries in Norway. The wealth of fish along our coasts and in nearby waters formed the most important basis for coastal settlements. The fisheries are still a vital industry in Norway, in large coastal areas the most important, and we consider it essential to maintain the industry at the highest possible level, not only of regard for the national economy, but also - and not less important - out of regard for the very foundation of the livelihood of the coastal population.

"Although it is fishing in our own and adjacent waters that is of the greatest importance, fishing grounds in distant waters have also attracted enterprising Norwegian fishermen, just as the fish in our waters have attracted the fishermen of other countries. In the Northwest Atlantic Norwegian fishermen have fished cod off West Greenland since the early 1920's. Later came the cod fishery off Labrador and Newfoundland. Norwegian sealing on Newfoundland has traditions going back to the 1930's. The most recent Norwegian fishery in the Northwest Atlantic is the capelin fishery, which started in 1973 after 2-3 years of preliminary research.

"The fisherman must be prepared to meet the challenge of the sea and the competition at the fishing grounds, where experience and efficiency, in conjunction with the best possible equipment, are the decisive factors.

"The technical development in vessels and gear in recent years has increased catching capacity, and the problem that now faces us is that of hindering over-exploitation of valuable fish stocks.

"With this goal in view, Norway has always considered the work of the international fishery commissions for the northern Atlantic as very important, and it has been our policy to support the efforts of the commissions to evolve suitable control regulations on a scientific background.

"The work of the commissions has not been without problems, problems that it has taken time to solve. It is for this reason that a certain impatience has been noted in the fishery industry in Norway. It has been felt that the different control measures, and their results, have been long in coming, and the industry has looked about for other methods, which might give effective results rather more quickly.

"I think, however, that I may say the work of this Commission, since its appointment, has shown that it is possible to achieve results. There is every reason to believe that fishing prospects would have been considerably poorer without the control measures which have been put into effect.

"In this connection, I must emphasize how vital it is that the control measures are properly enforced. In my opinion, the Commission is following the right line when it lays weight on the necessity of following up the control measures with inspection, control and report schemes, with a view to preventing contraventions and the exceeding of quotas.

"I must also stress the great value of the international cooperation in fishery research which the Commission has built up and developed, and which has made it possible to base the various regulation measures on scientific analyses.

"ICNAF has succeeded in implementing a number of measures restricting the catches of important fish stocks in the area covered by the Agreement. At the Annual Meeting in Halifax in June last year, and at the Meeting of Panels 4 and 5 in Miami in November, agreement was reached on the various quota and other control measures for 1975. The only regulated fish stock for which total quotas and quota allocations have not yet

been fixed is capelin in Subareas 2 and 3. The main purpose of this meeting is to regulate this year's capelin fishery, and thus complete the regulation scheme for 1975. It is my hope that it will be possible, in the course of these few days, to work out a quota arrangement which each Member Country can accept, and which will give sufficient protection for capelin stocks, and thus, indirectly, for the important stocks which feed on capelin.

"I should like to congratulate the Canadian delegation for the initiative taken to prevent a too heavy exploitation of this capelin stock before it is too late. Norway is fully prepared to cooperate in the establishment of satisfactory protective measures, in our common interest.

"I wish the Commission every success in its work now and in the future, and at the same time, express my hope that the delegates will enjoy their stay here in Bergen, and will find working conditions during the meetings satisfactory.

"Mr Chairman, I thank you."

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Special Joint Meeting of Panels 2, 3 and 4

Agenda

1. Opening by Commission Chairman, Mr E. Gillett (UK)

Address of Welcome by the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries, Mr Eivind Bolle

2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of Chairman
4. Report of Meeting of STACRES, 13-14 January 1975
5. Conservation requirements for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 (*Comm.Doc. 75/1; June 1974 Meeting Proceedings Nos. 8, 9, 14*)
6. Further consideration of closed area/season requirements for haddock in Div. 4X of Subarea 4 (*Comm. Doc. 74/40; November 1974 Meeting Proceedings, Appendix IX, page 31*)

NOTE: A Canadian proposal (*Comm.Doc. 74/40*) presented to the Fifth Special Meeting of the Commission (Joint Meeting of Panels 4 and 5) held at Miami, Florida, 12-15 November 1974, to extend the area closed to demersal fishing and the closure period to protect the haddock stock in Div. 4X of Subarea 4, resulted in a recommendation to the Commission from the Panel that Proposal (5) including a smaller closed area and a shorter season than proposed by the Canadian delegation, be adopted (*November 1974 Meeting Proceedings, Appendix IX, page 31*). The Canadian delegation requested that Panel 4 should give further consideration to the size of closed area and period of closure as proposed in *Comm.Doc. 74/40*, at the Sixth Special Commission Meeting in Bergen.

The Canadian delegation also gave notice that it would be presenting a resolution to Panel 4 at the Sixth Special Commission Meeting which would request voluntary acceptance on 1 February 1975 of an agreed closed area/season regulation for haddock in Div. 4X of Subarea 4.

7. Consideration of the Resolution on Enforcement of the Commission's Fishery Regulations (*November 1974 Meeting Proceedings, Section 34, page 12*).

NOTE: At the Fifth Special Meeting of the Commission (Joint Meeting of Panels 4 and 5) held at Miami, Florida, Panels 4 and 5 adopted a Resolution Relating to the Enforcement of the Commission's Fishery Regulations (*November 1974 Meeting Proceedings, Appendix XIV, page 37*). At the request of the US delegate to the Meeting, it was agreed that an item should be added to the agenda of the Sixth Special Commission Meeting in Bergen which would suggest that a similar resolution be adopted by Panels 2 and 3.

8. Other Business
9. Approval of Meeting Report
10. Adjournment

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

(1) Resolution Relating to the Enforcement of the Commission's Fishery Regulations in Subareas 2 and 3

Panels 2 and 3, in joint session with Panel 4,

Having Examined the resolution on enforcement adopted by Panels 4 and 5 in November 1974 (Fifth Special Commission Meeting Proceedings, page 37);

Recognizing that the problems described in that resolution and the action requested in consequence are also relevant to Subareas 2 and 3;

Resolve that that resolution should be regarded as generally applicable to Subareas 2 and 3; and

Request Commissioners and Member Governments concerned with those Subareas to take corresponding action.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

(2) Resolution Relating to the Implementation of the Proposal for International Regulation of the Fishery for Haddock by Closed Area in Division 4X of Subarea 4 of the Convention Area

Panel 4, in joint session with Panels 2 and 3, recommends the following resolution for adoption by the Commission:

The Commission

Recognizing that the proposal for the closed area designed to achieve the conservation and optimum utilization of the stock of haddock in Division 4X of Subarea 4 has been adopted on 15 November 1974 (November 1974 Meeting Proceedings, Appendix IX, page 31);

Taking into Account that under Article VIII of the Convention, as amended, these proposals would not enter into force until six months after the date of the notification from the Depositary Government transmitting the proposals to the Contracting Governments, which could not occur before late July 1975, at the earliest;

Bearing in Mind that the regulation is intended to come into force on 1 February 1975 and remain in force throughout 1975, it would, therefore, not come into effect during the period of closure and that Contracting Governments have received the proposal from the Executive Secretary in late November following its adoption at the Fifth Special Commission Meeting, thereby providing each country with adequate notice of the new regulation;

Having Considered that the purpose of the Convention is to promote the conservation and optimum utilization of the fish stocks on the basis of scientific investigation, and economic and technical considerations and that this purpose cannot be successfully achieved unless the proposal referred to above is applied from 1 February 1975;

Recognizing that in order to achieve the purposes and objectives of the Convention, fishing activity in Division 4X of Subarea 4 must be conducted in accordance with this proposal from 1 February throughout 1975;

1. Invites the attention of Governments to the above matters;
2. Stipulates that the proposal referred to above should apply in 1975;
3. Requests Governments whose vessels conduct fishing operations in the area to implement the proposal on 1 February 1975;
4. Expects that members of Panel 4 will conduct their fishing operations in accordance with the proposal beginning on 1 February 1975, unless any of the members on the Panel notifies an objection to the Depositary Government prior to that date.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

(1) Proposal for International Regulation of the Fishery for Capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 of the Convention Area

Panels 2 and 3, in joint session with Panel 4, recommend that the Commission transmit to the Depositary Government the following proposal for joint action by the Contracting Governments:

"A. That the national quota allocation for 1975 of capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 of the Convention Area shall be in accordance with the following table (all amounts shown are in metric tons):

Species or stock	Stock region	Canada	Norway	USSR	Others
Capelin	Subarea 2 + Division 3K	-	-	160,000	10,000 each
	Subdivision 3Ps ^a	9,000 ^b	0	0	5,000 each
	Division 3L ^a	10,000 ^b	7,000 ^b	28,000 ^b	
	Divisions 3NO	11,000	53,000	62,000	

^aNot more than 1,000 tons may be taken in aggregate from Subdivision 3Ps by countries not mentioned by name, or more than 5,000 tons in aggregate from Division 3L.

^bAny part of these allocations not taken may be added to the allocation for Divisions 3NO.

"B. That the Regulation for Management of International Quota Regulations, effective 11 January 1975, shall apply to the above allocation subject to the following:

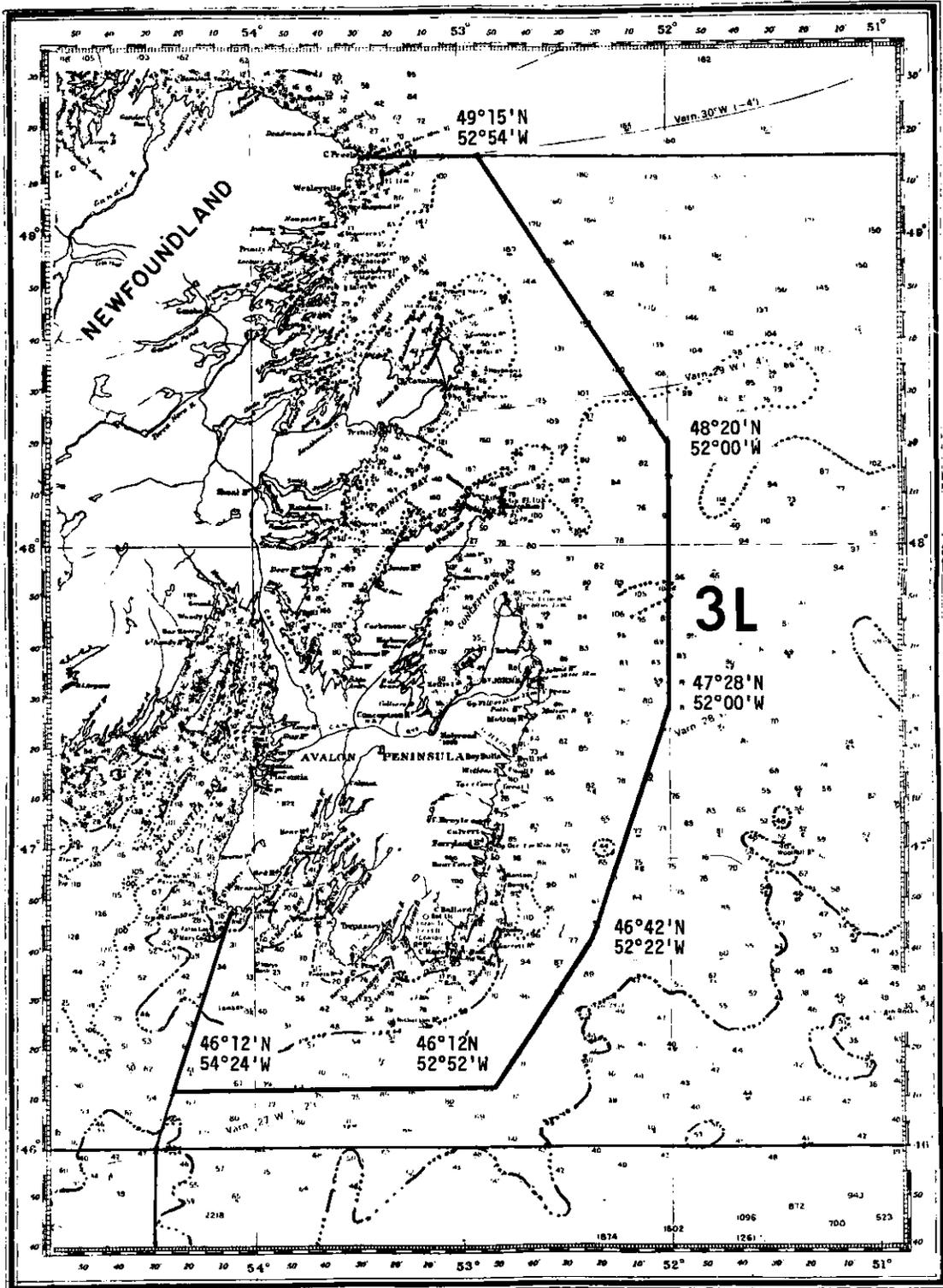
- i) sub-paragraph 2(b) shall apply to Governments fishing under the special allocation for "Others" in Subarea 2 and Division 3K, and in Divisions 3NO; each such Government shall promptly notify the Executive Secretary if persons under its jurisdiction engage in a fishery for capelin;
- ii) sub-paragraph 2(c) shall apply to Governments fishing under the "Others" allocation in Divisions 3LN or Subdivision 3Ps.

"C. That the capelin fisheries in Division 3L of Subarea 3 of the Convention Area be restricted to an area offshore from the straight lines joining the following coordinates:

46°12'N , 54°24'W
 46°12'N , 52°52'W
 46°42'N , 52°22'W
 47°28'N , 52°00'W
 48°20'N , 52°00'W
 49°15'N , 52°54'W."

Note: The attached chart illustrates the area affected by this proposal.

Chart illustrating the area affected by Proposal (1) for International Regulation of the Fishery for Capelin in Subareas 2 and 3 of the Convention Area



SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Statement by the Soviet delegation
re Joint Meeting of NEAFC and ICNAF, March 1975

The Soviet delegation has been authorized to confirm its previous proposal to hold in the USSR the meeting on practical matters of fishery regulations and international control in the North Atlantic.

The meeting is scheduled to be convened in Leningrad at the beginning of March 1975.

As the above-mentioned item of the meeting lies within the competence of both Commissions - NEAFC and ICNAF - and it would be advisable to develop the common principles and unified scheme of joint enforcement, the Soviet delegation considers it appropriate for the meeting to be split into two stages, namely:

1. The meetings of the two Committees on Joint Enforcement of NEAFC and ICNAF are to be held separately starting from the second half of 3 March and continuing the whole days of 4 and 5 March.
2. Both days - 6 and 7 March - are for the joint meeting of both Committees whose agenda is to be agreed between both Chairmen.
3. The agreed recommendations should be presented at the Annual Meetings of NEAFC and ICNAF for formal approval.

We shall inform the Secretariats of both Commissions in the near future of the exact place in Leningrad where the meeting will take place and of the names of the hotels to be chosen by participants.

The Soviet delegation requests Member Countries to accept their invitation and to provide information about the composition of their delegations, intended route of travel and date of arrival as soon as possible. This will enable arrangements to be made for the necessary hotel accommodation and for delegates to be met at Leningrad Airport. Early submission of this information will also facilitate the issue of entry visas by the USSR Embassies.

The Soviet delegation would be grateful if the above details, as well as proposals for the agenda, could be forwarded to:

Mr R.G. Novochadov
Chief of Foreign Department
USSR Ministry of Fisheries
12 Rozhdestvensky Boulevard
Moscow K-45, USSR

CABLES: NOVOCHADOV, MINRYBKHOZ SSSR
MOSCOW K-45, USSR.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Proposed Meeting of Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), March 1975

Provisional Arrangements

The Soviet delegation has proposed that a joint NEAFC-ICNAF meeting to deal with practical matters of fishery regulation and international control in the North Atlantic be held in Leningrad, USSR beginning in early March 1975. They also suggested that separate meetings of the two Committees on International Control be held just prior to the joint meeting (see Appendix VII).

In view of these developments, the Chairman of STACTIC has suggested the following agenda for the STACTIC Meeting:

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Standardization of logbook entries
5. Review of all Commission conservation regulations and their adherence and enforceability
6. Consideration of national systems of licensing or registration for fishing in specified ICNAF Area
7. Consideration of licensing or registration of scientific research vessels while operating in the ICNAF Area
8. Consideration of implementing the deployment of national observers (specialist on fishing) on board fishing vessels
9. Development of proposals for consideration by the Commission at the Annual Meeting, June 1975
10. Other Business
11. Approval of Meeting Report
12. Election of Chairman
13. Adjournment

NOTE: Additional agenda items for the agenda would be welcomed from Member Governments.

In view of the lengthy and complex nature of agenda items, it is suggested that the meeting of STACTIC convene on Monday, 3 March 1975 at 1300 hours and continue through noon, Wednesday, 5 March 1975. The NEAFC Enforcement Committee will meet on the afternoon of Wednesday, 5 March 1975.

The Chairman of STACTIC would be grateful if comments on the above details as well as additional proposals for the agenda could be forwarded to:

Mr William G. Gordon
National Marine Fisheries Service
14 Elm Street
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
USA.



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Proceedings No. 3

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Special Meeting of Panel A (Seals)

Bergen, Norway, 18 January 1975

1. Opening. The Chairman, Mr K. Vartdal (Norway), opened the meeting at 1030 hrs, 18 January 1975, and welcomed delegates from the Panel Member Countries - Canada, Denmark and Norway - and an Observer from FAO (Appendix I).
2. Rapporteur. The Executive Secretary was appointed Rapporteur.
3. Agenda. The provisional agenda as circulated was approved with the deletion of the word "new" from Item 6 (Appendix II).
4. Panel Membership. There were no changes in Panel Membership.
5. Report of Scientific Advisers to Panel A. The Chairman of the Scientific Advisers, Dr A.W. Mansfield (Canada) reviewed the Scientific Advisers Report (Appendix III) which dealt primarily with a review of the biology of the hood seal and proposed research for 1975 on the Davis Strait hood seal herd. Both Norway and Canada stressed that the Davis Strait expedition was a 1-year scientific program. There being no other comments, the Report was adopted and the Scientific Advisers thanked for their efforts.
6. Conservation measures for harp and hood seals. The Panel members agreed with the advice of the Scientific Advisers that the TAC for harp seals on the "Front" and in the "Gulf" and for hood seals on the "Front" in 1976 should remain unchanged and should be considered as provisional. Although further assessments can be made at the meeting of the Scientific Advisers in June of 1975, further data which would change the provisional conclusions for 1976 are not likely to be forthcoming.
7. Proposed Davis Strait hood seal expedition. The Chairman of the Panel drew attention to the plans proposed by the Scientific Advisers for this 1-year scientific program on the Davis Strait hood seal herd and asked for comments.

The delegate of Norway saw the need to make it clear the offer of a Norwegian ship for this expedition had conditions: (1) the maximum of 3,000 hood seals to be killed for scientific study would be understood to come from the 1975 hood seal quota, but Norway felt that the total of 4,000 hood seals needed for research purposes and to help defray the expenses of the use of a Canadian and Norwegian commercial vessel for the expedition would be too much to take from the "Front" hood seal quota; (2) that if Norway was not allowed to take moulting harp seals to fill her quota after the closure date of 24 April, her vessel would not, for economic reasons, be able to participate in this expedition.

The delegate of Denmark reviewed the program and its implications for the Greenland hood seal fishery and regretted that, in view of the suddenness with which the program had been developed, Denmark would not be able to participate in 1975, though she would consider joining an expedition in 1976 if the program was postponed (Appendix IV).

The delegate of Canada said that he would like to see the research go forward but appreciated the Danish difficulties. The basic problem seemed to be that the Commission in June 1974 had agreed to the prohibition of a Davis Strait whelping hood seal fishery and it was, therefore, difficult to carry out the proposed program as there would be strong objection from USA and other interests. He felt it would be wise to postpone the project to 1976 and to take care at the 1975 Annual Meeting to have the program properly documented so it would be fully understood by everyone. In the meantime, the Danish authorities could assess the Greenlanders' reaction.

The delegate of Norway supported the Canadian proposal to postpone the program to 1976.

The delegate of Denmark thanked the other delegates for their wise decision and agreed to give positive consideration to a research program which, even in 1976, was early as regards budgeting.

The delegate of Canada said that Canada would probably proceed with the aerial reconnaissance as a useful step and would look forward to the Scientific Advisers continuing to develop plans for a program for consideration at the 1975 Annual Meeting.

8. Future research required. No further suggestions for future research were made in addition to those presented in the Report of the Scientific Advisers.

9. Other business. There was no other business to consider.

10. Panel Report. The Panel agreed that the Report would be prepared by the Rapporteur and circulated to the heads of delegations for approval as soon as possible.

11. Adjournment. The Chairman thanked the delegations for their consideration. He felt that it was wise to be careful and that a good decision had been taken in the interest of all. The Panel adjourned at 1215 hrs, 18 January 1975.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975Special Meeting of Panel A (Seals)List of Participants

(Head of Delegation underlined)

CANADA

Commissioners:

Mr K. Henriksen, H.B. Nickerson & Sons Ltd., P.O. Box 130, North Sydney, N.S.
Dr A.W.H. Needler, Huntsman Marine Laboratory, Brandy Cove, St. Andrews, N.B.

Advisers:

Mr D.R. Bollivar, Atlantic Coast International Activities Branch, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 550, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S7
 Mr J.W. Carroll, Resource Management Branch, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ont.
 Mr L. Hume, P.O. Box 764, Dartmouth, N.S.
 Dr A.W. Mansfield, Arctic Biological Station, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 400, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q.
 Dr A.W. May, Newfoundland Biological Station, 3 Water Street, St. John's, Nfld. A1C 1A1
 Dr D.E. Sergeant, Arctic Biological Station, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, P.O. Box 400, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q.
 Dr M.P. Shepard, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, EMR Tower, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ont.
 Mr G.C. Slade, Dept. of Fisheries, 4th Floor, Viking Building, St. John's, Nfld.
 Mr H.V.E. Smith, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, Pleasantville, St. John's, Nfld.
 Mr E.B. Young, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Fisheries and Marine Service, Environment Canada, EMR Tower, 580 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ont.

DENMARK

Commissioners:

Mr Sv.Aa. Horsted, Grønlands Fiskeriundersøgelser, Jaegersborg Allé 1B, 2920 Charlottenlund
Mr K. Løkkegaard, Ministry of Fisheries, Borgergade 16, 1300 Copenhagen

Advisers:

Mr P. Kannevorff, Grønlands Fiskeriundersøgelser, Jaegersborg Allé 1B, 2920 Charlottenlund
 Mr F.O. Kapel, Grønlands Fiskeriundersøgelser, Jaegersborg Allé 1B, 2920 Charlottenlund

NORWAY

Commissioners:

Mr K. Raasok, Ministry of Fisheries, Oslo
Mr H. Rasmussen, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen

Advisers:

Mr E. Aas, Ministry of Fisheries, Oslo
 Mr A. Aasbø, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen
 Mr T. Benjaminsen, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
 Mr B. Bergflødt, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
 Mr N. Bølset, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo 1
 Mr I. Christensen, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
 Mr S. Engesaeter, Economic Section, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen
 Mr H. Erstad, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen
 Mr J. Hamre, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
 Mr O.H. James-Olsen, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen
 Mr P. Karlsen, 6062 Brandal

Mr P. Kibsgaard-Petersen, Association of Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners, P.O. Box 122, N-6001 Aalesund
Mr Ø. Moberg, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen
Mr I. Nes, Norwegian Seamen's Union, Oslo 1
Mr T. Øritsland, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
Dr B. Rasmussen, Institute of Marine Research, Nordnesparken 2, P.O. Box 2906, 5011 Bergen
Mr C. Rieber, G.C. Rieber & Co., P.O. Box 990, Bergen
Mr H. Røkenes, Norwegian Fishermen's Association, 9412 Mehus
Mr K. Vartdal, Directorate of Fisheries, P.O. Box 185-186, 5001 Bergen

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Special Meeting of Panel A (Seals)

Agenda

1. Opening by the Chairman, Mr K. Vartdal (Norway)
2. Rapporteur
3. Agenda
4. Panel memberships
5. Review of Report of Meeting of Scientific Advisers
6. Conservation measures for harp and hood seals with particular reference to the hood seal stocks in Davis Strait
7. Future research required
8. Date and place of next meeting of Panel A and Scientific Advisers
9. Other business
10. Approval of Panel Report
11. Adjournment

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975Report of Scientific Advisers to Panel A (Seals)

Wednesday, 15 January, 0900 hrs

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Dr A.W. Mansfield (Canada).

Participants: Canada - Dr A.W. Mansfield, Dr D.E. Sergeant, Mr E.B. Young
Denmark - Mr Sv.Aa. Horsted, Mr P. Kannevorff, Mr F.O. Kapel
Norway - Mr T. Øritsland, Mr T. Benjaminsen, Mr B. Bergflødt, Dr B. Rasmussen, Mr L. Sørensen
FAO - Mr L.K. Boerema

2. Rapporteur. Mr E.B. Young (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.
3. Agenda. The agenda, as proposed by the Chairman, was adopted after slight revision (Annex 1).
4. Review of the biology of the hood seal, and proposed research for 1975. Although Canada and Norway had learned much about the general life history of this species, good estimates of the size of the Jan Mayen and "Front" herds were lacking, owing to the scattered nature of the seals in the breeding and moulting patches. However, some indication of the size of the Jan Mayen stock had been obtained from survival of young after catches of various magnitudes.

Evidence from tagging and craniology has indicated that the Jan Mayen and "Front" stocks may be separate, but one seal tagged at the "Front" had been taken near Angmagssalik on the east coast of Greenland, suggesting that some mixing may occur in the moulting area in Denmark Strait. Recent tagging of 101 seals in this area by Norway may help resolve this problem in the future.

The importance of the Davis Strait herd to catches on the "Front" and in West Greenland had resulted in agreement by the Scientific Advisers to Panel A at their meeting in June 1974 that a coordinated research program should be carried out. However, since there had been no time at the meeting to develop this, the matter had been taken up by correspondence. As a result, a proposal for a cooperative study had been prepared by Canada and was presented at the present meeting for discussion.

During review of this proposal, the following one-year scientific program was considered for 1975:

1. An aerial survey to be carried out by Canada to take place on or about 18 March to locate the patch. Another flight would be made by a Canadian aircraft equipped with a vertical camera to estimate the number of seals in the patch.
2. An expedition by ship to secure an age sample of about 1,500 adult seals, to tag a suggested minimum of 1,000 pups, and to take measurements and samples such as skulls and reproductive organs to provide further information on the discreteness of stocks. Such a program would necessitate the taking of a maximum of 3,000 seals.

Norway had offered to provide a suitable vessel for such an expedition, if the catch of seals could be used to defray the costs of the voyage, and had invited Canada and Denmark to participate. Since there would be an advantage in using two vessels to locate the seal herd in Davis Strait and to render each other assistance in case of emergency, Canada had offered to provide a second vessel and had suggested taking half the required samples. However, in order to make the two voyages economically feasible, it would be necessary to allow each vessel to take 2,000 seals.

It was pointed out by Norway that, in order to participate in such an expedition, a permit would be required that would allow the Norwegian vessel to continue to take moulting harp seals at the "Front" after 24 April in order to fill its individual quota. This would also provide an opportunity for Norway to obtain a late-season sample of moulting harp seals.

Although all the Scientific Advisers agreed that the research program was important, some concern was expressed that a take of 4,000 seals in Davis Strait might affect catches in West Greenland more strongly than if the same number were taken on the "Front".

Also, Denmark regretted that, in view of the suddenness with which the program had been developed, she would not be able to participate in 1975, though she would consider joining an expedition in 1976 if the program were postponed.

5. Review of research on harp seals in 1974, and proposed research for 1975. In 1974 Canada conducted further aerial surveys, marking experiments and analysis of age samples, and helped develop a new and promising aerial survey technique using ultra-violet photography (Res.Doc. 75/1).

If possible, this method will again be used in 1975 to survey harp and hood seals in the "Gulf" and on the "Front". Branding of moulting pups will also be carried out in the "Gulf" in order to provide further data on homing and mortality rates.

Norway presented a large amount of tabulated data on the age composition, production and survival of "Front" harp seals which suggested that former estimates of production may have been low.

In 1975 Norway will collect samples of harp seals on the "Front" for data on distribution, age and growth.

Denmark presented a review of available data on the age composition of harp seal catches in western Greenland. Analysis of other samples, already obtained, will be presented at a later meeting.

Further sampling will be carried out in Greenland in 1975.

6. Conservation measures for harp and hood seals in 1976

(a) Harp seals

Neither aerial photographic survey nor age frequency analyses have provided sufficient information for precise assessment of the effect of the present catches on survival of recent year-classes. However, the age samples show in a general way that survival has been excellent since the quota of 150,100 was established, and that previous estimates of production and sustainable yield may have been on the low side.

Further analyses of the data now available may permit a more precise estimate of the present sustainable yield. However, until further assessment of the data has been made, the Scientific Advisers

recommend

that the TAC for harp seals on the "Front" and in the "Gulf" should remain unchanged.

(b) Hood seals

The biology of the hood seal was reviewed and it was agreed that the present TAC of 15,100 may be below the sustainable yield. Analysis of samples now in hand will provide a firmer basis for reconsideration of the TAC in the near future, but until this has been accomplished, the Scientific Advisers

recommend

that the TAC for hood seals on the "Front" should remain unchanged.

7. Date and place of next meeting. The Scientific Advisers agreed that their next meeting should be held at the time of the Annual Meeting.

8. Other business - publication of sealing statistics and routine biological data. At its Annual Meeting in 1974, ICES adopted a resolution (C.Res.1974/1:1) that since there was a need for publication of routine biological data and current assessment of seal stocks, such routine biological data and reports should be submitted annually for publication in "Annales Biologiques".

The various ways in which seal data might be published by both ICES and ICNAF were discussed, but general agreement could not be reached on which would be the most appropriate.

9. Adjournment. There being no further items on the agenda, the meeting adjourned.

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Scientific Advisers to Panel A (Seals)

Agenda

1. Opening by Chairman, Dr A.W. Mansfield (Canada)
2. Selection of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of the biology of the hood seal, and proposed research for 1975
5. Review of research on harp seals in 1974, and proposed research for 1975
6. Conservation measures for harp and hood seals in 1976
7. Date and place of next meeting
8. Other business
 - Publication of sealing statistics and routine biological data
9. Adjournment

SIXTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - JANUARY 1975

Statement by the Danish delegation to Panel A, Bergen, 18 January 1975

The report presented to ICNAF last year by Canadian scientists (Res.Doc. 74/116) on the discovery or rediscovery of whelping herds of hood seals in the Davis Strait was received with great interest by all members of this Panel, not least by us since these herds were observed rather close to West Greenland.

In the Meeting of Scientific Advisers to this Panel last June when the report was discussed, we all agreed upon the need for knowing more about these herds, and there was a general feeling that a coordinated research program was needed to gain further knowledge.

When the existence of the hood seals in the Davis Strait was brought to the attention of the Panel last June, it was agreed to recommend "that Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit the killing of the newly rediscovered herds of whelping hood seals in the Davis Strait from vessels of over 50 gross tons".

I do not recall any serious discussion on this paragraph of the ICNAF seal regulations now in force. Indeed, looking back upon discussions in this Panel through several years, its members have been able to reach agreement upon regulations relatively easily compared to other Panels of the Commission.

Denmark has generally been very silent in these discussions, but this is not to say that we do not have a considerable interest in the Panel's regulations. We also felt a considerable interest in the protection of the Davis Strait herds. In fact, this was one of the positive things which the Greenland representative brought home from the Annual Meeting last year.

I would like here to confirm our interest in achieving further knowledge of the hood seals in Davis Strait. Also, that we think that a coordinated research program should be discussed. We have participated with great effort and interest in several joint ICNAF surveys, and we are certainly prepared to consider coordinated research or joint surveys also on seals.

The plans brought forward by Canada and Norway at this meeting for action in two months from now on do, however, put us in a difficult position, not so much seen from a strict scientific point of view as from other points of view. For some of these viewpoints, we have simply not been given time to consider the matter. This is not said as a convenient standard phrase but as a matter of fact, due among other things to our understanding of the Panel's own recommendations for meetings to be held this year. May I, for example, refer you to the Meeting Proceedings of the June 1974 Annual Meeting, page 196, second paragraph, where the Panel Advisers agreed that data from current analyses should be reviewed at an interim meeting of the Scientific Advisers to assist in quota recommendations for 1976, a meeting which, further down the same page, under the numbered paragraph 9, should be held not earlier than January 1975, but well in advance of the next meeting of the Panel which, according to the numbered paragraph 8 on page 194, was planned to be in conjunction with the June 1975 Annual Meeting of the Commission.

We were, therefore, not surprised to receive plans for a meeting of the Scientific Advisers at the occasion of the planned Joint Meeting of Panels 2-4 here in Bergen this January, but until very late last year we were not aware that the main intention was to discuss plans for research in Davis Strait in 1975, and we were highly surprised and puzzled when we got to learn Item 6 on the agenda of this meeting of the Panel itself.

This may explain to you my words that we have not been given time for thorough consideration of the matter in question.

As to the plan itself, we have had copies of part of the first approach by correspondence between Canada and Norway, but no indication of final plans or the intention to carry them out in 1975, with the additional remarks received verbally here that it could be difficult to get the same opportunities for research in a later year.

These are not fair conditions for planning what I understand by coordinated research, but I wish to emphasize that this is not the background for what I am going to say. I wish to emphasize that we appreciate both the Canadian and the Norwegian effort in the proposed research, as well as their effort in previous years' research, and the invitation to participate, and my forthcoming remarks are not saying that, from a pure research point of view, the plans are not good, and even the proposed saving of animals somewhere else may not be criticized very much from an overall conservation point of view.

But, nevertheless, there are complications for us.

The Panel Advisers are of the opinion that an age sample of older animals would be very valuable and that such a sample should consist of about 1,500 animals. This, unfortunately, seems to necessitate the killing of about the same number of pups. We do not disagree that these may be the present conditions for obtaining such an age sample.

It is furthermore planned that, in order to defray costs, another thousand animals could be taken, so that the total take of animals by two vessels may be close to 4,000 individuals. This is a figure comparable to, or even exceeding, the total annual catch of hoods by Greenlanders, and clearly a question of justification for the research take arises.

Although we agreed that there is a need for further knowledge of the herds in Davis Strait, we find it very difficult to justify the planned take as a pure research program, especially when not only the method of sampling but also the financing of the operation necessitate a considerable surplus take beyond that regarded as a scientific optimum. We would have found it much easier to justify it as research if the take of animals was set at a level determined by careful scientific analyses. This would, of course, raise the question about the costs to be covered but that could be considered, although it would require time.

We realize, therefore, that the proposed plans may be the only practical way of obtaining an age sample if one wishes to do so now. We are also aware that Canada and Norway plan to spare a corresponding amount of animals in the catch at Newfoundland, and this does, of course, help to justify the plans especially if there is an intermixing of animals between the two areas. It may, however, well be so that the take of animals in the protected herds in Davis Strait have a higher adverse effect on the occurrence of hoods at West Greenland than a corresponding catch at Newfoundland would. We do, therefore, not feel that the plans are fully justified through such an arrangement, from a Greenland point of view, although it is helpful. May I add here that even if the planned take was only at the scientific level, we still think that a saving of a corresponding number of animals somewhere else should be considered.

May I also point out that the adverse effect of a possible take in Davis Strait on Greenland catches might be compared not only in terms of numbers of animals but also in terms of rational utilization of each animal.

The plans as they stand do, also, raise a legal problem, insofar as they would necessitate an agreement to allow for a catch in a stock now protected. As I said earlier, this protection was felt very important by the Greenlanders and any re-arrangement of the regulation, even if they were only for one year, necessitates time for mutual considerations between Danish and Greenlandic authorities. This has simply not been possible. We are, therefore, not in a position here and now to make re-arrangement of our agreement to protect the Davis Strait hoods.

I feel I have already taken too much time, but I would like to mention some concerns which I feel as a scientist working in Greenland. Greenland offers enormous opportunity for science of many kinds but one of the traditions in science, especially in the one with which I am concerned, is that you do inform the local people of plans and results. I think I can say that we have established a very good relationship between science and the public in Greenland. Indeed, many of our data and results are heavily dependent on the collaboration with fishermen, hunters and other people there. Also, in the very proposal put forward here you should not forget that the validity of the results of the tagging experiment, which we consider of the highest priority, is heavily dependent upon Greenlanders' wholehearted willingness to return possible recaptures. I feel we run some risk by rushing out in an experiment as proposed without having had due time to explain and to get support behind the experiment in Greenland.

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Addendum 1

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

Sixth Special Commission Meeting
Bergen, Norway, 13-18 January 1975

Supplement to Report of Proceedings

by

the Executive Secretary, ICNAF

1. On 17 January 1975 at the Sixth Special Commission Meeting, January 1975 (Summ.Doc. 75/6), a two-thirds majority of the Commissioners representing Panels 2 and 3 agreed to recommend that the Commission transmit to the Depositary Government a proposal for international regulation of the fishery for capelin in Subareas 2 and 3. Also, the Commissioners representing Panel 4 unanimously agreed to present to the Commission for adoption a resolution (2) requesting early implementation by 1 February 1975 of a November 1974 proposal for haddock fishery regulation by closed area.
2. On 27 January 1975, the Executive Secretary forwarded the proposal and resolution to the Head of Delegation of each of the Contracting Governments, requesting that he register his vote on the proposal and resolution as soon as possible by cable with the Executive Secretary, in accordance with Commission Rule of Procedure 2.4. The covering letter further advised that, in accordance with Article II(7) of the Convention, a decision of the Commission would be taken by a two-thirds majority (12) of the votes of the Heads of Delegations of the seventeen Contracting Governments.
3. On 24 February 1975, the Commission by a two-thirds majority vote adopted the resolution and agreed to transmit the proposal to the Depositary Government for joint action by the Contracting Governments.
4. On 25 February 1975, the Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Chairman of the Commission, transmitted to the Depositary Government the January 1975 proposal, in accordance with Article VIII(6) of the Convention.

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