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Canadian views on enforcement problems in effort limitation scheme

It is Canada's view that it is essential to the proper management of the groundfish stocks in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 that the Proposal for International Regulation of Fishing Effort for Groundfish in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 of the Convention Area adopted by ICNAF in Montreal be effectively enforced. Canada recognizes that, as in the case of species quota allocations, primary responsibility rests with each individual Commission Member for ensuring adherence to the effort limitation scheme by persons under its jurisdiction. Unfortunately, it has been Canada's experience through the Scheme of Joint International Enforcement that many Member Countries are not maintaining the necessary degree of control over vessels of their flag and hence the effectiveness of many of the Commission's management measures has been significantly reduced. This situation greatly concerns Canada because the effort limitation scheme will, in its view, require a higher degree of control than have management measures previously adopted by ICNAF. Canada, therefore, believes that the Commission should take all possible steps to enable the Scheme of Joint International Enforcement to assist all Member Countries to implement the effort limitation scheme effectively. Consequently, the Proposal for International Regulation of Fishing Effort for Groundfish in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 of the Convention Area and Scheme of Joint International Enforcement have been examined with this objective in mind and Canada wishes to make the following recommendations:

1. In order to determine compliance with the effort limitation scheme, it is necessary to record during inspections the vessel tonnage and the number of days fished for groundfish by the vessel being inspected. It is proposed, therefore, that the Report of Inspection adopted at the 1975 Annual Meeting be slightly modified to provide space for recording this additional information. It is suggested provision be made for this additional information by expanding entry number four and adding a new entry number 18 as follows:
 4. Vessel's name, registration number and gross registered tonnage _____
 18. Number of days fished for groundfish _____
2. It is essential that all Contracting Governments ensure that persons under their jurisdiction record their fishing effort accurately and completely on a daily basis according to position date, type of gear (including a clear indication of species being fished) and the time the vessel begins to fish on a daily basis. Failure to maintain such records would constitute an infringement. Canada recognizes that most of this information is already required from all fishing vessels but it wishes to draw the attention of all Member Countries to this vital element of the effort limitation scheme and the fact that this information is now essential in order to ensure compliance with the regulation on effort limitation. This matter is of particular concern to Canada in view of the poor performance many countries have demonstrated in maintaining accurate and complete log records.
3. The Proposal for International Regulation of Fishing Effort for Groundfish in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 of the Convention Area permits countries to make transfers during the 1976 fishing season "involving the movement of fishing effort from area to area to a maximum of 10% of the total number of fishing days allocated to the country in the area to which the transfer is made or 50 fishing days whichever is greater", but does not require countries to report such transfers to the Commission. Canada proposes that the regulation be amended to require Contracting Governments to notify the Executive Secretary of all such transfers a minimum of ten days in advance of making them. Otherwise, there will be throughout 1976 doubt as to each nation's effort allocation in any particular area. This would greatly increase problems of enforcement.