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U.S. Proposal for a Commission Resolution  
Relating to the Taking of Menhaden  
by Contracting Governments

The menhaden fishery in coastal waters off the United States had been fully utilized for many years by U.S. fishermen. The Commission recognized this fact and its importance to the United States in excluding it from its regulatory purview with the assurance that it would continue to be exclusively harvested by the United States.

Recently U.S. officials conducting inspections under the Scheme of Joint International Enforcement have noted that a number of vessels from several Contracting Governments have engaged in a directed seasonal fishery for menhaden. Officials have also noted a high incidental catch of menhaden off the mid-Atlantic coast in Statistical Area 6. The U.S. Commissioners urge that the Commission re-emphasize its earlier position concerning non-use of this resource by other than fishermen of the United States and accordingly proposes adoption of the following resolution:

The Commission

Recognizing that it was not the intent of the Commission to include the menhaden fishery within the conservation regime of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries;

Recognizing Further that the species is largely estuarine dependent, and accordingly exists principally within the territorial waters of the United States, venturing into waters of the high seas only for short periods;

Noting that the Commission has excluded menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus* (Latrobe)) from all catch quota regulations and other conservation measures;

1. Requests that all contracting Governments take expeditious steps to ensure that nationals or vessels under their jurisdiction refrain from engaging in directed fisheries for menhaden and to limit the by-catch;
2. Stipulates that each Contracting Government take appropriate action to prohibit the taking of menhaden from vessels over 130 feet (39.6 m) in length by persons under its jurisdiction within that part of Subarea 5 and adjacent waters to the west and south within Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6;
3. Suggests that STACRES review this situation and provide advice to the Commission on means of minimizing by-catches of menhaden without interference with fisheries conducted for regulated species.