

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3860
(A.a.4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 76/VI/27

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1976

Note by US Commissioners on seasonal closures in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6

It is the view of the US Commissioners that resource conditions and fishing patterns present in the Convention Area and Statistical Area 6 require that gear regulations and catch quotas be supplemented by seasonal area closures in order to provide an effective total management scheme for the Convention Area. The US Commissioners believe that limitations on excessive by-catches in certain fisheries with minimum disruption to directed fisheries for quota species can be effectively accomplished through limited closures of selected areas of high species mix. Further, as the Commission is aware, depletion of stocks of certain species of major importance to the United States has resulted in substantial and sustained economic dislocation for the US fishing industry. In view of this, and the continued low level of many of these stocks, it is the view of the US Commissioners that US fishermen must be assured maximum accessibility to those stocks allocated almost entirely to the United States.

Accordingly, the US Commissioners request that consideration of seasonal closures for Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 be placed on the Plenary Agenda for consideration and action by the Commission at the 1976 Annual Meeting. At that time the United States will propose for approval by the Commission closures within Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 during the first and second quarters of the year consistent with such objectives. The United States also requests that STACRES review the species mix situation in the southern portion of the Convention Area and provide advice to the Commission on areas and seasons of particularly high species mix within Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6.