

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Note by the US Commissioners concerning  
quota allocations with specific reference to the "Others" category

At preceding sessions of the Commission, regulations have been adopted concerning taking of the first and second tier quotas. These regulations were adopted so that the:

- accumulated reported catch,
- estimated unreported catch,
- the quantity estimated to be taken before closure could be introduced, and
- the likely incidental catch for the remainder of the period,

equal 100 percent of the allowable catch indicated in the regulation for the appropriate quota period.

The US Commissioners note that most countries assigned specific allocations have taken steps to comply with Commission regulations. Although there have been notable exceptions, inspections of vessels under the Scheme of Joint International Enforcement generally indicate compliance with specific quota allocations. This has not been true, however, for some countries carrying out fisheries under the "Others" category.

Commission regulations require those Governments whose fisheries operate under the "Others" category to notify the Executive Secretary when persons under its jurisdiction are going to engage in a fishery under an "Others" quota, together with an estimate of projected catch. Further, countries must report catches in increments of 100 tons as they occur. The Executive Secretary is then required to notify all Contracting Governments of those data. Obviously, the Executive Secretary cannot carry out his responsibilities unless timely notice and reports are received from Contracting Governments.

US inspections under the Scheme of Joint International Enforcement have revealed that:

- Many Contracting Governments have fishermen conducting specific fisheries for stocks or species allocated for "Others" without providing notification to the Executive Secretary;
- Most Contracting Governments operating within the "Others" category are not reporting catches in 100-ton increments;
- Some Contracting Governments, having exhausted a specific stock allocation (having reported so to the Executive Secretary), are authorizing their nationals to operate within the "Others" category.

The result has been substantial overruns of many allocations designated for

(over)

"Others". This has contributed to the continuing decline of many stocks as shown by assessment reports.

Under the new US law, beginning on 1 March 1977, each country fishing in the fishery conservation zone of the USA must be assigned a specific allocation of the stocks surplus to the needs of the coastal fishermen.

Accordingly, the US Commissioners propose the elimination of the "Others" allocation from all Subarea 5 and Statistical Area fish stocks.