

## International Commission for



## the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1976

Note by the Chairman of STACTIC concerning recommendations of NEAFC - Enforcement Committee

I have been informed of the meeting of the Enforcement Committee of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), held in London, 26-27 April 1976. At that meeting, a number of recommendations were made which may affect enforcement procedures within ICNAF. Excerpts from the report (NEAFC NC 14/351) of this meeting follow:

Page 2 of Report:

"During discussion it was pointed out that the heading 'Excess Landings' appearing in STACTIC Form 1 was inappropriate since the function of the heading should be to indicate the nature of the regulation concerned, rather than provide a definition of the actual offence. Furthermore, it was noted that, as worded, the column could only relate to fish landed and so precluded inspection at sea. It was therefore agreed to substitute the heading 'Excess By-catch', and to amend the corresponding definition in footnote 3 as follows:

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Excess By-catch: returns should relate to cases where by-catches of regulated species could be taken in the course of fishing for other species."

Pages 4 and 5 of Report:

"(d) Introduction of Log Books and Guide Books for Inspectors

(i) Log Books

The Enforcement Committee noted that the question of the introduction of log books had been referred to in the Final Report of the Working Group on Catch Statistics (CS/4 : paragraph 3.2, page 8). In discussion, delegations reported on their current national schemes for data collection in which log books were used. There was general agreement that there would be no difficulty in requiring a NEAFC log book for larger vessels operating in distant-water regions since this accorded with present practices in all Contracting States. However, the crux of the issue was the point at which the size of vessel (in terms of tonnage or overall length, or its average number of days of absence from port) demanded the carrying and completion of a log book. Some Contracting States required log books for all fishing; others were introducing or had introduced mandatory log books for vessels in the 15-17 metre and above length groups; the current ICNAF requirement for log books for vessels of 100 tons and above was considered too high for fishing in the NEAFC area. It was recognized that the introduction of log books would not be effective if the smaller coastal vessels were involved in view of the limited crews they carried, their short absence from port and the severe administrative problems which would be encountered in dealing with the anticipated volume of returns. The Committee noted that information was required not only on catches in directed fisheries for quota species, but also the by-catches of quota species in other fisheries.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Commission the following text:

Every vessel of 17 m or more in overall length which is engaged in fishing in the Convention Area and which is absent from port for a period of 48 hours or more shall keep a fishing log book drawn up in accordance with provisions to be decided by the Commission. In the case of vessels below this size limit, or which are absent from port for a period of less than 48 hours, the Enforcement Committee recommends to the Commission that Contracting States are requested to implement such statistical reporting procedures as are necessary to obtain the fullest information required for quota regulation purposes."

<sup>1</sup> Originally presented to the June 1976 Annual Meeting as Working Paper 76/VI/118.

Page 11 of Report:

"Agenda Item 5: Contracting States' plans for participation in the Scheme of Joint Enforcement

The Committee had before it paper EC/10. Several delegations spoke of the need for greater co-ordination in the deployment of inspecting vessels so as to avoid wasteful duplication of effort. It was agreed, after discussion, that a start might be made in integrating provisional inspection schedules for 1977 in Region 1 of the Convention Area. The Committee also suggested that the Commission should consider a Recommendation on co-ordination of inspection effort and the implications of establishing a NEAFC Inspectorate."

The Chairman brings these items to your attention at this time for your views and comments.