

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1976

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Mid-Term Meeting

Press Notice

A Special Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission was held in London from 21-23 April 1976. The President, Captain J C E Cardoso (Portugal) was in the Chair. Delegations attended from all Member States, namely:-

Belgium, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom.

Observers represented the Governments of Finland and Italy and the following organisations: ICES, FAO, OECD and the European Economic Community.

2. Herring Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak

(a) Total Allowable Catch and National Quotas

Measures for the conservation and regulation of herring stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak during 1976 were discussed at length following decisions reached by the Commission at its Mid-Term Meeting in November 1975 setting a total allowable catch for the period 1 January to 30 June 1976 of 87,000 tons. The Commission received detailed assessments of the state of the stock from its scientific advisers who stressed the urgent need for substantial catch reductions to allow for the rebuilding of stocks. A total allowable catch for the whole of 1976 of 160,000 tons was agreed by a majority decision. This total catch is allocated as national quotas as follows:-

	<u>tons</u>
Belgium	1,500
Denmark	42,300
Faroe	9,200
France	9,700
German Democratic Republic	4,100
Germany (Federal Republic of)	8,200
Iceland	9,200
Netherlands	13,400
Norway	23,900
Poland	6,800
Sweden	9,200
United Kingdom	9,700
USSR	10,500
Others*	2,300

*including a reserve of 1,000 tons for Finland

(b) Minimum Landing Size

A minimum landing size of 20 cm for herring taken in directed fisheries in the North Sea and Skagerrak for human consumption purposes was agreed unanimously.

(c) Research into by-catches of herring

The Commission unanimously agreed a resolution asking its scientific advisers to give urgent consideration to the initiation of research into the seasonal and geographical distribution of juvenile herring taken as by-catches in the course of industrial fisheries for sprat, sandeel and Norway pout. This research will enable scientists to make recommendations to the Commission on the control of those industrial fisheries which threaten the recovery of herring stocks.

3. Celtic Sea Herring

In the light of a report from its scientific advisers showing further deterioration of this stock, the Commission agreed to set a revised total allowable catch of 10,850 tons for herring stocks in the Celtic Sea during the period 1 April 1976 to 31 March 1977. This compared with the total allowable catch for the same period of 16,800 tons set previously at the Commission's Mid-Term Meeting. National allocations were revised as follows:-

	<u>tons</u>
France	1,300
Ireland	6,500
Netherlands	2,000
United Kingdom	350
Others (total)	700

In addition, the Commission agreed to monitor the up-take of the quota allocated to "others" by providing for rapid catch reporting in increments of 100 tons.

4. Sprat fishery in the North Sea

Following extensive discussions of the Recommendation agreed at its Mid-Term Meeting, the Commission agreed to set a total allowable catch for sprats in the North Sea (excluding Norwegian Fjords) of 650,500 tons for the period 1 January to 31 December 1976. National allocations are as follows:-

	<u>tons</u>
Belgium	4,000
Denmark	237,900
Faroe	48,200
France	4,000
German Democratic Republic	7,200
Germany (Federal Republic of)	29,500
Iceland	4,000
Netherlands	4,000
Norway	123,300
Poland	10,600
Sweden	23,600
United Kingdom	98,700
USSR	55,000
Others	500

5. Haddock and Whiting Fisheries in the North Sea

In the light of problems encountered in the regulation of the fisheries for haddock and whiting in the North Sea, the Commission reconsidered the total allowable catches set at its Mid-Term Meeting. An amendment to the previous regulation was agreed allowing Contracting States to exceed their previous quotas for 1976 by up to 10% on the condition that equivalent deductions would be made from their quotas in the following year. Further, an allocation of 500 tons of whiting was granted to Poland from the total quota for "others".

6. Minimum Mesh Size for Nephrops

The Commission agreed to increase the minimum mesh size specified for trawl fisheries for nephrops from 16 mm to 40 mm in ICES statistical areas VI and VII of Region 2 of the Convention Area.

7. Working Group on Catch Statistics

As agreed at its Mid-Term Meeting, the Commission convened a Working Group on Catch Statistics which met from 21-23 April, concurrently with the plenary session of the Special Meeting. The Group reviewed questionnaires submitted by Member States on their national statistical procedures and prepared a report, with recommendations, which is to be considered by the Commission's Enforcement Committee which meets on 26-27 April 1976.

8. Future Meetings

As a consequence of the number and complexity of conservation issues to be discussed at its Fourteenth Annual Meeting to be held in Lisbon in July 1976, the Commission agreed to hold an additional Mid-Term Meeting in November 1976.

Office of the Commission

London