

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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TENTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - OCTOBER 1977

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Mid-Term Meeting 1976

Press Notice

A Mid-Term Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 22-25 November 1976. The President, Captain J.C.E. Cardoso (Portugal) was in the Chair. Delegations attended from all Member States, namely:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, 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 the United States of America, Italy, Canada, Japan and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the FAO, the OECD and the European Economic Community.

2. Accession to NEAFC

The Commission welcomed delegations from Bulgaria and Cuba, who had now acceded to the Commission.

3. Future of NEAFC

The Commission considered the report of the Working Group set up at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting and delegations expressed general satisfaction with its recommendations. It was agreed that the Working Group should be re-established with membership as before for a meeting in January 1977 in London. The Working Group's task would be to elaborate further the principles to be embodied in the revision of the NEAFC Convention. It was agreed that the Working Group should report to the Commission by 24 January 1977 so that their report could be considered by Contracting Parties to be present at a special conference on 29 March-4 April 1977.

4. Fish Stocks in the Convention Area

The EEC Observer made a statement drawing attention to the Community's intention to extend fisheries limits to 200 miles from 1 January 1977 and to the fact that after that date access to Community waters would be by bilateral agreement between third countries and the Community. The Commission took note of this statement and of similar declarations made by other participants. In these circumstances the Commission proceeded to concentrate its discussions on an exchange of views concerning the state of the different fish stocks in the Convention Area.

5. Cooperation with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

The Commission accepted the view put forward by ICES that, although the move towards 200-mile fishing limits would result in changes in the international fisheries management system in the North Atlantic, the need would remain for cooperative, international scientific studies of the exploited resources as the scientific basis for their effective conservation and management. The Commission accepted three ICES resolutions on the improvement of data submitted to ICES, and approved a NEAFC resolution to ensure that international studies coordinated by ICES should continue without interruption as fishing limits were extended.

6. Date of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting

The Commission agreed to hold its Fifteenth Annual Meeting from 4-15 July 1977.

26 November 1976

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London

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