

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 5257

ICNAF Com. Doc. 78/VI/7

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1978

Administrative report for the year ending 30 June 1978
(as at 1 May 1978)

by

the Executive Secretary
ICNAF

1. Future of ICNAF

Following the extension of fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles offshore by the coastal states in the Northwest Atlantic Convention Area, the first of two international preparatory conferences was convened by the Government of Canada from 14 to 25 March 1977 and considered the draft of a proposed new Convention developed by the Government of Canada which would replace the present ICNAF Convention and provide arrangements for future multilateral cooperation in the management of the fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic (Com. Doc. 77/VI/11).

The second conference, convened by the Government of Canada on 6, 7, and 10 June 1977 in conjunction with the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of ICNAF discussed points of principle and possible amendments to a revised version of the text of the proposed new Convention (Com. Doc. 77/VI/14). In addition, arrangements for the smooth transition from ICNAF to the proposed new Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) were discussed and suggestions recorded.

At its Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting, ICNAF considered a suggestion from the second preparatory conference to amend the present ICNAF Convention to provide for its termination on 31 December of the year the new NAFO Convention enters into force. The meeting agreed to consider and act upon the suggestion at a special ICNAF meeting to be held on 22 October 1977, immediately following a diplomatic conference convened by the Government of Canada to finalize the text of the new NAFO Convention.

The Diplomatic Conference was convened from 11 to 21 October 1977 (Com. Doc. 78/VI/4). A consensus was reached on all Articles and Annexes of the new Convention except, principally, special preference for the coastal states outside their 200-mile fishing limits. All delegations emphasized the importance of future multilateral cooperation and expressed the hope that full agreement on the new Convention would be reached in the near future.

Since full agreement on the new Convention was not reached, the Special ICNAF Meeting set for 21 October 1977 to act upon the proposal for termination of the ICNAF Convention was not convened.

2. The Commission's Officers

Chairman of the Commission	- Dr D. Booss (Federal Republic of Germany)
Vice-Chairman of the Commission	- Mr S. Ohkuchi (Japan)
Chairman, Panel 1	- Vacant
Chairman, Panel 2	- Vacant
Chairman, Panel 3	- Capt A. S. Gaspar (Portugal)
Chairman, Panel 4	- Vacant
Chairman, Panel 5	- Vacant
Chairman, Panel A (Seals)	- Mr E. Lemche (Denmark)

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission have been elected for the 1977/78 and 1978/79 periods. The Chairman of Panel 3 was elected to serve for the 1977/78 and 1978/79 periods. The Chairman of Panel A (Seals) completes his term of office at the 1978 Annual Meeting. Chairmanships of Panels 1, 2, 4, and 5 were not filled as no meetings of these Panels were held in 1977/78.

* Executive Secretary, ICNAF, P.O. Box 638, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 3Y9

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) - Dr A. W. May (Canada)
 Chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) - Mr E. B. Young (Canada)
 Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulatory Measures (STACREM) - Vacant
 Chairman of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) - Mr D. R. Bollivar (Canada)

Dr M. D. Grosslein (USA) chaired STACRES to 31 December 1976 when the USA withdrew membership. Mr Sv. Aa. Horsted (Denmark) and Dr F. Nagasaki (Japan) co-chaired the STACRES meetings in June 1977, after which Dr A. W. May (Canada) agreed to act as Chairman until June 1978. Due to pressure of national duties, Dr May submitted his resignation on 28 March 1978 (*Circular Letter 78/30* dated 4 April 1978). A new Chairman will be elected at the first meeting of STACRES on 23 May 1978.

The Commission Secretariat has been advised that Mr E. B. Young (Canada) has retired from the Canadian Government service. A Chairman will be elected at the June meeting of STACFAD. The Chairman of STACTIC was elected at the 1977 Annual Meeting to replace Mr W. G. Gordon (USA) who left the office when the USA withdrew its membership on 31 December 1976.

3. The Commission's Panel Memberships for 1977/78

Country	Panel						Total (Seals)
	1	2	3	4	5	A	
Bulgaria	-	-	1974	1975	1973	-	3
Canada	-	1952	1951	1951	1951	1966	5
Cuba	-	1976	1976	1976	1976	-	4
Denmark	1951	-	1969	1974	-	1966	4
France	1953	1953	1953	1953	1974	-	5
Fed. Rep. Germany	1957	1960	1977	1970	-	-	4
German Dem. Rep.	-	1974	1974	-	1974	-	3
Iceland	-	1974	1976	-	-	-	2
Italy	-	-	1977	-	-	-	1
Japan	-	-	1971	1971	1971	-	3
Norway	1952	1970	1968	-	-	1966	4
Poland	1962	1962	1962	1968	1968	-	5
Portugal	1953	1953	1953	1953	-	-	4
Romania	-	1970	1970	-	1967	-	3
Spain	1952	1954	1952	1952	1972	-	5
USSR	1958	1958	1958	1962	1962	-	5
UK	1951	1960	1951	-	-	-	3
Total	9	13	17	11	10	3	63

4. The Commission's Secretariat

(a) The staff personnel

Executive Secretary	- Lewis R. Day
Assistant Executive Secretary	- Vincent M. Hodder
Bio-Statistician	- Vacant
Administrative Assistant	- W. Hartwell Champion
Senior Clerk-Secretary	- Vivian C. Kerr
Finance and Publications Clerk-Steno	- Elizabeth R. Cornford
Senior Statistical Clerk	- Gordon M. Moulton
Clerk-Duplicator Operator	- Ronald A. Myers
Clerk-Duplicator Operator	- Barry T. Crawford
Statistical Clerk (Surveys and Sampling)	- Pauline A. Cave
Documents and Mailing Clerk	- Ferne E. Perry
Clerk-Typist	- Patricia M. Wadman
Statistical Clerk (Fishery Statistics)	- Forbes D. Keating
Data Processing Clerk	- Gloria H. Langille

In addition, part-time services were provided by a computer programmer and an editorial assistant.

(b) Staff activities

The Executive Secretary presented proposals from the 1977 Annual Meeting to Depositary Government (Washington, D. C., 19-21 June 1977); serviced, with Messrs Hodder, Champion and Myers, Mrs Kerr and Cornford, the Twenty-Seventh Annual and associated Meetings of the Commission, Informal Intergovernmental Consultations, and the Second International Preparatory Meeting on Future Multilateral Cooperation in Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (Ottawa, 24 May-10 June 1977); participated with full staff in the Ninth Meeting of the Coordinating Working Party on North Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP) (Dartmouth, 17-23 August 1977); participated in and serviced with Mr Hodder and Mrs Kerr, the Diplomatic Conference on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (Ottawa, 11-21 October 1977); participated with full staff in the Special STACRES Meeting on Shrimp and Seals (Dartmouth, 15-18 November 1977); participated in, with Mr Hodder and Mrs Kerr, the Special STACRES Meeting on Squid (Havana, 13-18 February 1978); and serviced with full staff the Mid-Term Meeting of the Assessments Subcommittee (Dartmouth, 4-11 April 1978).

5. The Commission's Publications

With the extension of fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles offshore by the coastal states in the Northwest Atlantic and the resultant dramatic increase in scientific, statistical, and management effort, the Commission's responsibilities and workload in the printing and publishing field has increased considerably.

In October 1977, the Secretariat leased a Comp/Set 500 typesetting machine making it now possible to edit, type print and collate all the Commission's publications, where formerly the Research Bulletin and Annual Report were printed by a commercial firm. The new machine requires no additional staff. At present, the Finance and Publications Clerk-Steno (Ms. Cornford) operates the machine, while other Secretariat personnel are being trained. Leasing the typesetter has enabled the Secretariat to reduce the advance estimates for publications from \$25,000 in 1977/78 to \$12,000 in 1978/79. Cost of leasing and maintaining the typesetter is \$5,610. The Secretariat now has full control over all printing and can avoid the delays encountered in dealing through commercial printers.

In the year 1977/78, the Secretariat printed and distributed approximately 2.8 million pages of print included in the following:

The *Proceedings of the Ninth Special Meeting, December 1976, and the 27th Annual Meeting, June 1977* (172 pages) was distributed in September 1977.

The *Annual Report* (formerly *Annual Proceedings*) Vol. 26, for the year 1975/76 (139 pages), containing the Administrative Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1976, the Reports of the Seventh Special Meeting, September 1975, the Eighth Special Meeting, January 1976, the 26th Annual Meeting, June 1976, and the Summaries of Research and Status of Fisheries for Subareas and Seals, 1975, was distributed in September 1977.

The *Annual Report* Vol. 27, for the year 1976/77 (84 pages), containing the Administrative Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1977, the Reports of the Ninth Special Commission Meeting, December 1976 and the 27th Annual Meeting, June 1977, and the Summaries of Research and Status of Fisheries for Subareas and Seals, 1976, was distributed in May 1978.

The *Redbook 1977* (116 pages), containing the Reports of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) for December 1976, May-June 1977, and the Reports of the Scientific Advisers to Panels 1-4 and A (Seals) for May-June 1977, was distributed in August 1977.

The *Research Bulletin of ICNAF* No. 13 (___ pages), containing seven scientific contributions, will be distributed in July 1978.

The *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 26, for the year 1976 (236 pages), containing tabular summaries of fish and seal catches 1962-76, and eight tables of catch and effort statistics for fish and seals, 1976, was distributed in January 1978.

The *Selected Papers of ICNAF* No. 3 (117 pages), containing 13 scientific papers and a List of ICNAF Standard Oceanographic Sections and Stations, was distributed in March 1978.

The *Selected Papers of ICNAF* No. 4 (___ pages), containing 11 scientific papers on shrimp, will be distributed in August 1978.

The *Sampling Yearbook* Vol. 20, for the year 1975 (46 pages), containing information on the ICNAF sampling program, notes on sampling data, list of sampling data for commercial fisheries, 1975, and list of sampling data for research vessel surveys, 1975, was distributed in February 1978.

The Report of the Special Meeting of STACRES on Seals and Shrimp, November 1977 (19 pages) was distributed as ICNAF Sum. Doc. 78/VI/1.

The Report of the Ninth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fisheries Statistics (CWP), August 1977 (40 pages), was distributed as ICNAF Sum. Doc. 78/VI/2.

The Report of the Special STACRES Meeting on Squid, February 1978 (15 pages), was distributed as ICNAF Sum. Doc. 78/VI/3.

The Report of the Silver Hake Ageing Workshop, March 1978 (10 pages), was distributed as ICNAF Sum. Doc. 78/VI/10.

The Report of the Assessments Subcommittee, April 1978 (30 pages), was distributed as ICNAF Sum. Doc. 78/VI/16.

The 1977/78 (to November 1977) ICNAF Fishery Regulations (64 pages) was distributed as ICNAF Com. Doc. 78/VI/1.

The Report of the Diplomatic Conference on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, October 1977 (97 pages) was distributed as ICNAF Com. Doc. 78/VI/4.

The Status of Commission Proposals for Changes in the Convention and for International Regulation of the Fisheries under the Convention (as of 1 May 1977) (24 pages) was distributed as ICNAF Com. Doc. 78/VI/8.

6. The Commission's Research and Statistics Program

(a) Fisheries statistics

At the 1976 Annual Meeting, STACRES adopted a new revised STATLANT 21B form for the reporting of detailed catch and effort statistics by 30' x 30' unit areas and twice-monthly time periods. However, in the light of the implementation of coastal state jurisdiction over fisheries to 200 miles in 1977 and the uncertainty about the requirements of the coastal states for detailed catch and effort statistics for assessment and management purposes and noting that the new ICNAF requirement might be a duplication, STACRES agreed that countries not be required to report by 30' x 30' unit areas and twice-monthly time periods for 1976 and 1977 but that they continue to complete STATLANT 21B in accordance with previous practices. Immediately after the 1977 Annual Meeting, all countries were notified by cable and also by circular letter of the change in requirement for reporting 1976 statistics on STATLANT 21B forms.

Pending the publication of *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 26, provisional statistics of 1976 nominal catches in the Northwest Atlantic, as derived from STATLANT 21A returns and other advance reports, were compiled and circulated in late June 1977 (Sum. Doc. 77/VI/29 (Rev.)). Much of the six-month delay from the 30 June deadline for the receipt of detailed catch and effort data and the actual printing of the *Statistical Bulletin* continues to be due to the late submission of STATLANT 21B statistics by a few countries. While most countries generally submit their catch and effort data in the detail specified in the instructions for completing the STATLANT 21B forms, the reports from some countries continue to lack fishing effort data and an adequate breakdown of catches by species, division, month, gear, etc. The arrangement of the tabular material in Vol. 26 (issued in January 1978) is essentially the same as that used following the major reorganization of the tables in Vol. 22. In addition to the 1976 data, part IV of Vol. 26 contains five tables of amended and additional statistics pertaining to data published in previous issues of the *Bulletin*.

Since 1974, the Assessments Subcommittee has been meeting annually in April to review the status of the various stocks, to update assessments and to advise the Commission on total allowable catches in advance of its Annual Meeting in June. This procedure for stock assessments requires the reporting of preliminary catch statistics and sampling data by month and division for selected species in advance of the April Meeting in order to facilitate pre-meeting processing of the data preparatory to their use in assessments. As in previous years, the Secretariat made special requests to national scientists to ensure that all biostatistical data relevant to the assessments be forwarded to designated experts and to the Secretariat about six weeks in advance of the April 1978 Meeting. Despite several reminders to countries about the urgency and need for data, much of the information required was not available until the meeting was in progress, and even then some data were not provided in the required format and the monthly catches of some countries in 1977 were not available. In fact, there was an obvious deterioration in the promptness of reporting and in the quality of the data reported for the April 1978 Meeting of the Subcommittee, despite the fact that all countries have been provided with detailed instructions for the submission of data in each of the past five years (e.g. Circular Letter 78/23). This lack of attention to STACRES requirements continues despite the Commission's frequent urging that Member Countries provide their statistical offices and research institutes with the facilities necessary to collect and report promptly to the Secretariat such data as are required to improve the assessments of all stocks subject to conservation measures.

During 1977/78, the Secretariat has continued its program of updating national fisheries statistics of previous years as amendments and additions are reported, and preparing the data for rapid retrieval through the Secretariat's remote job entry terminal which has direct access to an IBM 370/155 computer. The data-processing capabilities at the Secretariat was enhanced during the year through the employment of a computer programmer for about six months.

(b) Sampling data

Following the decision of STACRES to discontinue the publication of detailed sampling data after 1972, *Sampling Yearbook* Vol. 18 (1973) and subsequent issues contain lists of all length and age data submitted to the Secretariat. The list of available data for 1975 was initially issued in Sum. Doc. 77/VI/5 and subsequently published in *Sampling Yearbook* Vol. 20 (issued in March 1978). The delay in final publication of 1975 data in Vol. 20 was due in part to the large volume of data being prepared for computer processing but also to the tardiness by some countries in responding to requests for revisions following the preparation of the initial list of 1975 data in Sum. Doc. 77/VI/5. Pending the final compilation of 1976 data for presentation in Vol. 21, a provisional list of 1976 data was issued as Sum. Doc. 78/VI/4.

To facilitate the rapid retrieval of sampling data for distribution to scientists involved in the Commission's work, much time during the past three years has been devoted to setting up a computerized retrieval system and in organizing the large volume of data available for 1973-76. Following a concerted effort to upgrade data-processing procedures, all of the 1973-76 data have been punched on computer cards, most of the data have been edited, and computer programs prepared for data retrieval. Computer printouts of monthly length and age frequencies, quarterly age-length keys and mean length-at-age data are available upon request to scientists or research institutes involved in the Commission's work.

(c) CWP activities relevant to ICNAF

The Ninth Session of the CWP was held at ICNAF Headquarters during 17-23 August 1977, with the Assistant Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee participating on behalf of ICNAF (Sum. Doc. 78/VI/2). Among the wide range of matters discussed, the following are of direct importance to ICNAF:

- i) The CWP recommended that ICNAF should extend its northern boundary of Statistical Area 0 to take account of catches reported from waters north of Statistical Area 0. Subsequently, at its November 1977 Meeting, STACRES agreed to the extension of Statistical Area 0 such that its boundaries would coincide with those of Subarea 0 as proposed in the Convention of the new organization to replace ICNAF.
- ii) The CWP noted that recreational fishing has become a significant aspect of the social and economic life of many countries and recommended that regional agencies should draw the attention of their member countries to the value of collecting catch and effort statistics for such fisheries.
- iii) The CWP noted that regional agencies have for some time been attempting to obtain adequate statistics on discards but without much success. The problem was discussed in detail and priorities established for the reporting of discard data by national offices. In particular, it was noted that statistics on discards should be collected and reported in the same detail as required for nominal catch statistics on STATLANT B forms.
- iv) With the extension of national jurisdiction over fisheries, it was anticipated that increasing use will be made of logbooks in the management of fisheries. No proposal for a standard logbook was made since national considerations could greatly affect the format and different fisheries might require different forms of logsheets. However, the CWP identified a list of standard elements essential to the fishing logbook (Sum. Doc. 78/VI/2, pages 17-18) and recommended that the design of logbooks should be based on these requirements.

(d) Index and list of titles

Following the publication in 1975 of *Special Publication* No. 11, containing an index and list of titles for ICNAF publications (except meeting documents), considerable progress has now been made on the compilation of a similar index for the Meeting Document series covering the period 1950-75, and it is anticipated that this index will be completed by the end of 1978. In the meantime, however, a provisional index and list of titles for meeting documents and other ICNAF publications issued in 1976 has been completed (Sum. Doc. 78/VI/18).

(e) Other activities

Other research and statistical activities of the Secretariat during the year 1977/78 include:

- i) editing of the Reports of STACRES Meetings in December 1976 and May-June 1977 for publication in *Redbook* 1977;
- ii) editing of 14 papers selected by STACRES from documents presented to the 1977 Annual Meeting for publication in *Selected Papers* No. 3;
- iii) editing of 11 papers on shrimp from documents presented to the STACRES Meetings in 1976 and 1977 for publication in *Selected Papers* No. 4;
- iv) editing of six papers refereed for publication in *Research Bulletin* No. 13;
- v) updating of historical catches (1967-76) by country for all stocks under regulation in the Northwest Atlantic;
- vi) documentation of various biostatistical material required for scientific meetings at Dartmouth, Canada, in November 1977 and April 1978, and at Havana, Cuba, in February 1978; and
- vii) preparation of several documents for the 1978 Annual Meeting, including list of fishing vessels for 1976; provisional catch statistics for 1977 by species, country and division; seal catch and effort data for 1977; information on discards for 1976; summary of information on tagging activities by Member Countries in 1977; analysis of sampling data for 1976 in relation to the minimum sampling requirements.

7. Mid-Term Meetings

The *Special STACRES Meeting on Shrimp and Seals* met at ICNAF Headquarters, Dartmouth, Canada, 15-18 November 1977, under the chairmanship of Dr A. W. May (Canada), to review, at the request of the Commission, conservation measures for the northern deepwater prawn stock in Subarea 1 and Statistical Area 0, and to provide, at the request of Canada, advice for management of the seal stocks (*Sum. Doc. 78/VI/1*). An *ad hoc* Working Group on Shrimp, convened by Mr A. T. Pinhorn (Canada), found a critical lack of knowledge on the various parameters essential to proper assessment of the stocks and could not recommend any change in the TAC for 1978 from the 40,000-ton (including discards) limit for 1977. An *ad hoc* Working Group on Seals, convened by Dr A. W. Mansfield (Canada), completed a critical assessment of two population models presented and applied the most stable to project population trends of age 1+ harp seals in the Front and Gulf under various levels of pup production and projected catches as advice to Canada.

The *Special STACRES Meeting on Squid* met in Havana, Cuba, 13-18 February 1978, under the chairmanship of Dr A. W. May (Canada), to provide advice, at the request of Canada, on the scientific basis for the management of the stocks of squid (*Illex*) within national fishery limits of Subareas 3 and 4 (*Sum. Doc. 78/VI/3*). After examining the data, the Standing Committee favoured, in principle, effort regulation as a means of controlling the exploitation rate in the *Illex* fishery, and that the implementation of a TAC should be conditional on the control of the fishing effort. Further and detailed studies were recommended.

The *Ageing Workshop on Silver Hake* was convened by Mr J. J. Hunt (Canada) at Fisheries and Marine Service, Marine Fisheries Division, Dartmouth, Canada, 28-31 March 1978, to continue comparative interpretation of otoliths, to identify sources of difference, to review new research, and to recommend specific studies related to ageing problems not solved by otolith interpretation (*Sum. Doc. 78/VI/10*). The Workshop established sources of different estimates of age as (1) weak hyaline zones which accounted for 10-15% variance between and within age readers, and (2) the tendency to anticipate patterns of early growth by area. It was agreed that a continuing exchange of otoliths would be adequate to monitor any changes or developing bias by individual age readers.

The *Assessments Subcommittee Meeting* (*Sum. Doc. 78/VI/6*) of STACRES was convened at ICNAF Headquarters, Dartmouth, Canada, from 4 to 11 April 1978 and prepared advice for 1978 at the request of Canada and the EEC on 23 stocks which lie within or partly within the Canadian or Danish 200-mile fisheries management zones. Advice was also provided on the cod, American plaice and redfish stocks which lie completely outside of the 200-mile fishery limits of the coastal states in Div. 3M. Working groups convened by Dr E. C. Lopez-Veiga (Spain) and Dr G. H. Winters (Canada) reviewed relevant stocks of cod, redfish, silver hake, American plaice, witch flounder, yellowtail flounder, Greenland halibut, roundnose grenadier, argentine, capelin, squid (*Illex*) and shrimp.

8. Status of Commission Proposals

- (a) For changes in the Convention (Com. Doc. 78/VI/8, Tabulation I)

The *1973 Protocol Relating to Basic Payment by Contracting Governments* has, to date (1 May 1978), only been approved by Canada, Cuba, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, and Portugal. In accordance with amended Convention Article XVII, this Protocol will take effect for all Contracting Governments 120 days following the date on the notification by the Depositary Government of receipt of written notification of approval of three-quarters (14) of all Contracting Governments, unless objected to within 90 days.

The *1976 Protocol Relating to Continued Functioning of the Commission* has, to date (1 May 1978), only been approved by Canada, Cuba, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Romania, USSR, and UK.

(b) For international regulation of the fisheries (Com. Doc. 78/VI/8, Tabulation II)

December 1976 proposals (1) and (3) to (10) became effective for all Contracting Governments 17 June 1977. Proposal (2), re mesh size regulation for northern deepwater prawn, in accordance with paragraph 4, did not enter into force until 1 January 1978.

June 1977 proposal (1) regarding catch quota regulations for stocks in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 was adopted by the Commission on 10 June 1977, transmitted to Depositary Government on 17 June 1977, and transmitted to Contracting Governments on 24 June 1977. The proposal became effective for all Contracting Governments on 24 December 1977, under the normal six-month waiting procedure.

9. The Commission's Conservation Program

(a) Catch quota reporting

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the Commission on 14 June 1974, Contracting Governments were required to submit provisional monthly catch statistics for each of the 65 stocks under catch quota regulation, as determined for 1977 during the 1976 Annual and December 1976 Special Meetings of the Commission. The majority of the Contracting Governments were unable to meet the deadline for reporting their catch within a month of the month of catch. As a consequence, collation and distribution of the monthly catches by the ICNAF Secretariat was often delayed and more often incomplete. One Contracting Government failed to submit any catch reports for 1977.

Extension of jurisdiction on fisheries by the coastal states Members of the Commission to 200 miles offshore in the Northwest Atlantic in 1977 has limited the Commission's jurisdiction to those fisheries which lie outside the coastal state jurisdiction. Therefore, during 1977, the ICNAF Secretariat only advised Contracting Governments of where and how much countries intended to fish from the "Others" catch allocations for the stocks of cod, redfish, and American plaice in Div. 3M (Flemish Cap). Advice was also given when catch quotas in Div. 3M for "Others" were reached and closure required, and when nationals advised that their catch allocation had been reached and they had ceased fishing.

Timeliness in provisional monthly catch reporting to the Secretariat improved somewhat in 1978 as Contracting Governments become better organized to meet the additional administrative and reporting requirements of the new jurisdictional reality in the Northwest Atlantic area.

(b) Effort limitation

No regulations for the limitation of effort were adopted by the Commission for application in its zone of jurisdiction in 1978.

10. The Commission's Enforcement Scheme

Outside the 200-mile zone and mainly in Div. 3M (Flemish Cap), the Commission's program of enforcement has been forwarded in 1977 only by Canadian surveillance by ship and aircraft and inspection at sea from ships. Canadian surveillance reported 346 vessel sightings, Canadian ICNAF inspectors made 67 inspections and recorded 11 incidents of irregularity. Three vessels were found using small mesh of trawl nets, five vessels were using illegal double codends, and three vessels were cited for fishing after the fishery had been closed.

Through 1977 and into 1978, fishing activity increased dramatically and uncontrolled outside the 200-mile zone in Div. 3M (Flemish Cap) where data from inspectors' reports gave evidence of overfishing catch quotas and neglect by some Contracting Governments to notify their intention to fish under the "Others" allocation and to report their catch in 100-ton increments.

As a consequence, surveillance and inspections have been stepped up by Canada who, over the period from 1 January to 30 April 1978 alone, reported 596 vessel sightings and 10 inspections. Two vessels were found using illegal mesh size of trawl net. Reports of inspections carried out were received from Canada for the year 1977. Reports on national and international infringements and their disposition for 1977 are contained in Com. Doc. 78/VI/9.

Information required by the Commission in accordance with its September 1975 Meeting's decision for the registration of vessels engaged in fishing or in the treatment of sea fish outside national fishery jurisdiction was provided by most Contracting Governments for 1977.

Circular letters from the Secretariat updated the status of implementation of the Enforcement Scheme and reported changes in inspection officers and vessels.

Contracting Governments have, when necessary, supplied the Secretariat with information on new fishery research vessels and their planned activities.

11. Cooperation with Other International Organizations and with Non-Member Countries

In accordance with Convention Article X, the Secretariat has continued to maintain close working arrangements with other public international organizations with related objectives. Invitations were extended to non-Member Countries and other international fishery bodies to participate in an observer status in all meetings of the Commission or its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

Close collaboration continues in the development of common statistical procedures in fisheries with the Department of Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) through the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP).

The Commission is contributing financially to the Symposium on the Biological Basis of Pelagic Fish Stock Management to be held at Aberdeen, Scotland, 3-7 July 1978.

A Special Session on the Theory and Application of Sampling Systems and Statistical Data Analysis in Fisheries Science will be held in conjunction with the October 1978 meeting of ICES and co-chaired by the Chairmen of the ICES Statistics Committee and of the ICNAF Standing Committee on Research and Statistics.

The Commission is cooperating with ICES in the early planning for the Second International Symposium on the Early Life History of Fish, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA, April 1979.

12. Financial Matters

The International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) continues to expend considerable expertise and effort in attempting to make its retirement and other plans compatible with both the Canadian and US Civil Service plans.

The IFCPS's early retirement supplemental pension plan based on the attainment of age 60 and with 20 years of service (60/20 plan), as approved by the Commissions, was formally approved by the Sun Life Assurance Company and by IFCPS on 26 September 1977 to be effective 1 October 1976.

Annual upgrading of pension credits to the 1974 earnings level was completed on 1 October 1977.

At the May 1978 Annual Meeting of the Society, suggestions for the development of a 55/30 early retirement plan, for changes in the Group Life policy and Long-Term Disability policy benefit ceilings, for changes in the procedure for calculating the initial cost of living adjustment an annuitant will receive, and for clarification of some aspects of the reciprocal transfer agreement will be considered.

The Auditor General of Canada completed his examination of the financial statements of the Commission for the year ended 30 June 1977. Copies of the Auditor General's report were sent to Heads of the Delegations of Member Governments on 27 April 1978. No serious deficiencies in either internal control or compliance with the Commission Rules or Regulations were noted. At the suggestion of the Auditor General, insurance protection on furniture and equipment (both owned and leased) was reviewed and increased to \$100,000 from \$50,000 effective 1 May 1978.

13. Financial Statements

Financial statements for the period 1 July 1977 to 30 April 1978, with estimates to the end of the fiscal year 30 June 1978, are presented in the attached three statements and an appendix.

Statement 1 shows that the estimated total obligations of \$371,085 for the fiscal year was \$53,915 less than the amount of \$425,000 appropriated by the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 1977.

Appendix I contains a statement of the cash flow through the General Fund.

I certify that, in my opinion, these financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Commission's Financial Regulations, as amended to 1 July 1969, and with the books and records of the Commission.

Office of the Secretariat
10 May 1978


L. R. Day
Executive Secretary

STATEMENT 1

Budget Appropriations. Obligations Incurred and Unobligated Balances of Appropriations
For the Year Ending 30 June 1978
(Estimated from 30 April 1978)

	Appropriated by Commission at Annual Meeting 1977	Obligations Incurred and Liquidated to 30 April 1978	Expenses Estimated for Remainder of Fiscal Year	Total Obligations for Fiscal Year	Unobligated Balance of Appropriations (Estimated)
Personal Services:					
a. Salaries	\$235,000	\$181,644	\$36,329	\$217,973	\$17,027
b. Superannuation and Canada Pension Plan	7,000	16,535	962	17,497	<10,497>
c. Additional Help	2,000	6,328	1,050	7,378	< 5,378>
d. Group Medical and Insurance Plans	3,000	1,900	449	2,349	651
e. Contingencies	14,000	-	8,000	8,000	6,000
Travel	6,000	3,440	500	3,940	2,060
Transportation	1,000	411	100	511	489
Communications	25,000	13,507	3,000	16,507	8,493
Publications	25,000	8,861	2,000	10,861	14,139
Other Contractual Services	20,000	21,467	1,910	23,377	< 3,377>
Supplies and Materials	12,000	10,160	1,440	11,600	400
Equipment	5,000	2,168	2,879	5,047	< 47>
Annual and Mid-Term Meetings	25,000	9,652	9,625	19,277	5,723
Computer Services	35,000	22,491	4,277	26,768	8,232
Contingencies	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Total Ordinary Budget	\$425,000	\$298,564	\$72,521	\$371,085	\$53,915

STATEMENT 2

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Year Ended 30 June 1978
(Estimated from 30 April 1978)

Income:

Members' contributions assessed:

Bulgaria	\$18,411	
Canada	30,324	
Cuba	24,368	
Denmark	24,368	
France	30,324	
Federal Republic of Germany	24,368	
German Democratic Republic	18,411	
Iceland	12,454	
Italy	6,497	
Japan	18,411	
Norway	24,368	
Poland	30,324	
Portugal	24,368	
Romania	18,411	
Spain	30,324	
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	30,324	
United Kingdom	<u>18,411</u>	\$384,466
Add: Transfer from Miscellaneous Fund		<u>40,534</u>
Total Ordinary Budget		425,000
Obligations incurred - Statement 1		<u>371,085</u>
Balance of Appropriations transferred to Working Capital Fund		<u>\$ 53,915</u>

STATEMENT 3

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 30 June 1978
(Estimated from 30 April 1978)

GENERAL FUND

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Accounts receivable	\$ 393	Cash overdraft	\$ 6,266
Due from Member Governments	91,514	Unliquidated obligations - 30 April 1978	3,006
		Estimated (Statement 1)	<u>72,521</u>
		Advance on 1978/79 contributions	<u>10,114</u>
	<u>\$91,907</u>		<u>\$91,907</u>

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

Cash on Deposit	\$ 81,020		
Certificates of Deposit	20,000		
Accounts receivable - publications	<u>1,383</u>	Principal of Fund (Appendix I)	<u>\$102,403</u>
	<u>\$102,403</u>		<u>\$102,403</u>

MISCELLANEOUS FUND

Cash on Deposit	<u>\$40,344</u>	Principal of Fund (Appendix I)	<u>\$40,344</u>
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APPENDIX I

(Estimated from 30 April 1978)

Working Capital Fund

Balance 30 June 1977		\$ 44,773
Add: Balances of 1977/78 appropriations (Statement 1)	\$53,915	
Sales of Publications	1,963	
Bank Interest	5,128	
Interest on Certificates of Deposit	<u>1,624</u>	62,630
		107,403
Deduct: Contribution to Pelagic Fish Symposium		<u>5,000</u>
Balance - 30 June 1978		<u>\$102,403</u>

Miscellaneous Fund

Balance 30 June 1977		\$40,534
Deduct: Applied to 1977/78 appropriations		<u>40,534</u>
		Nil
Add: 1977/78 Staff Assessment	\$28,355	
Provincial <u>Ex gratia</u> Grant - 1976	<u>11,989</u>	40,344
Balance - 30 June 1978		<u>\$40,344</u>

GENERAL FUND - CASH FLOW

Year Ended 30 June 1978
(Estimated from 30 April 1978)

Cash Overdraft 30 June 1977		<\$ 12,951>
Add: Member Governments:		
Assessments 1977/78	\$384,466	
Advance payments 1978/79	<u>10,114</u>	
	394,580	
Less: Advance payments 1977/78	<u>8,784</u>	
	385,796	
Decrease in accounts receivable	<u>284</u>	386,080
Funds from Miscellaneous Fund for 1977/78 appropriations		<u>40,534</u>
		413,663
Deduct:		
Obligations incurred 1977/78	371,085	
Less: Unliquidated 30 June 1978	<u>75,527</u>	
	295,558	
Add: Unliquidated 30 June 1977	<u>21,519</u>	
	317,077	
Balances 1977/78 appropriations to Working Capital Fund	<u>53,915</u>	
	370,992	
Increase in amounts due from Member Governments	<u>48,937</u>	419,929
Cash Overdraft - 30 June 1978		<u><\$ 6,266></u>