

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1979

Canadian Request for Advice on the Scientific Basis for Management of Certain Fisheries within National Fisheries Limits

At the request of Canada, STACRES at the 1977 and 1978 meetings of ICNAF provided advice on the scientific basis for management of certain fish stocks occurring within Canadian fishery limits. The Canadian Government considers it desirable that STACRES similarly provide advice on the scientific basis for management of certain stocks in 1980. Canada, therefore, requests that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) at its meeting in advance of the 1979 Commission Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for management of the following stocks in 1980:

Cod	Div. 2G and 2H
Cod	Div. 2J and 3KL
Cod	Div. 3N and 3O
Redfish	Div. 3L and 3N
American plaice	Div. 3L, 3N and 3O
Witch	Div. 2J, 3K and 3L
Witch	Div. 3N and 3O
Yellowtail flounder	Div. 3L, 3N and 3O
Greenland halibut	Subarea 2 and Div. 3KL
Roundnose grenadier	Subareas 2 and 3
Silver hake	Div. 4V, 4W and 4X
Argentines	Div. 4V, 4W and 4X

It is further suggested that, subject to the concurrence of the other coastal state concerned, the Commission provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1980 of the stocks listed below, and that the status of those stocks also be assessed by STACRES and the relevant Subcommittee prior to the 1979 Annual Meeting of the Commission:

Shrimp	Subarea 1, Statistical Area 0 <sup>2</sup>
Greenland halibut	Subarea 1 and Statistical Area 0 <sup>2</sup>
Roundnose grenadier	Subarea 1 and Statistical Area 0 <sup>2</sup>

Although capelin (Div. 3LNO and Subarea 2 - Div. 3K) and squid (Subareas 3-4) are not listed above because these stocks are being considered at the February 1979 Meeting of STACRES, it is requested that the Assessments Subcommittee, at its April 1979 Meeting, consider whether the analyses conducted in February are sufficient to provide the basis for advice on management in 1980 or whether reconsideration of the status of these stocks should be undertaken after completion of the 1979 fishery but in advance of the 1980 fishery.

Canada requests STACRES to consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above and for Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) stocks.

For those stocks subject to analytical dynamic-pool type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in terms of their implications of fishable stock size in both the short and long term. In those cases where present spawning stock size is a matter of scientific concern in relation to the continuing productive potential of the stock, management options should be evaluated in relation to spawning stock size. As a general reference point, the implications of continuing to fish at  $F_{0.1}$  in 1980 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically, and to those to be expected in the long term by continued fishing at the  $F_{0.1}$  level. Management options for arriving at the latter stock size on a shorter time scale should be developed. Opinions of the Subcommittee should be expressed in regard to stock sizes, catch rates, and TACs implied by these management strategies for 1980 and the long term.

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<sup>2</sup> Statistical Area 0 as used here includes the area west of Subarea 1 from 61°00'N to 78°10'N, as adopted by STACRES at its November 1977 Meeting (Redbook 1978, pages 8-9).

For those stocks subject to general production-type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in the way described above to the extent possible. In this case, the general reference point should be the level of fishing effort ( $\Xi F$ ) which is two-thirds that calculated to be required to take the MSY catch in the long term.

For those resources on which only general biological and/or catch data are available, no standard criteria on which to base advice can be established. The evidence on stock status should, however, be weighed against a strategy of optimal yield management and maintenance of stock biomass at levels of about two-third that of the virgin stock.