

Northwest Atlantic



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Canadian Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 1988

of Certain Stocks in Subareas 0 to 4

by

L. S. Parsons

Assistant Deputy Minister (Science)
Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Canada

1. Canada requests that the Scientific Council, at its meeting in advance of the 1987 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish and invertebrate stocks in 1988:

Greenland halibut (Subarea 2 and Div. 3K and 3L)
Roundnose grenadier (Subareas 2 and 3)
Silver hake (Div. 4V, 4W and 4X)
Capelin (Div. 3L)

It is further suggested that, subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland), the Scientific Council, prior to the 1987 Annual Meeting of NAFO, provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1988 of the following stocks:

Shrimp (Subareas 0 and 1)
Greenland halibut (Subareas 0 and 1)
Roundnose grenadier (Subareas 0 and 1)

With respect to Greenland halibut and roundnose grenadier in Subareas 0 and 1, Canada requests that the Scientific Council also prepare an analysis of research activities necessary to allow estimation of the total biomass and the distribution of that biomass between the two subareas. This analysis should include quantitative description of the activities deemed necessary (e.g. ship time, number of stations, etc.) and commentary on the periods over which such activities shall be carried out.

2. Canada requests the Scientific Council to consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above:
 - a) 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 for 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 of $F_{0.1}$ in 1988 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically and those to be expected at the $F_{0.1}$ level in both the short and long term. Opinions of the Scientific Council should be expressed in regard to stock sizes, catch rates, and TACs implied by these management strategies for 1988 and the long term.
 - b) 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 (F) which is two-thirds that calculated to be required to take the MSY catch in the long term.
 - c) 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 optimum yield management and maintenance of stock biomass at levels of about two-thirds that of the virgin stocks.