

Northwest Atlantic



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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1994

Canadian Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 1995  
of Certain Stocks in Subareas 0 to 4

by

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1. Canada requests that the Scientific Council, at its meeting in advance of the 1994 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish and invertebrate stocks in 1995:

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

It is also suggested that, subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland), the Scientific Council, prior to the 1994 Annual Meeting of NAFO, provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1995 of the following stocks:

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

The Scientific Council has noted previously there was no biological basis for making two separate assessments for the Greenland halibut throughout Subareas 0-3. The Council is therefore asked, subject to concurrence of Denmark (Greenland) as regards Subarea 1, to provide an overall assessment of the total stock throughout its range and comment on its management, including any expansion of the responses to the questions asked in June 1993.

With respect to shrimp, it is recognised that the Council may, at its discretion, delay providing advice until later in the year, taking into account data availability, predictive capability, and the logistics of additional meetings.

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 implications of continuing to fish at  $F_{0.1}$  in 1995 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. 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 considered to rebuild the spawning stock. All results should be expressed in terms of stock sizes, catch rates and TACs implied for 1995 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.
3. The Scientific Council is requested to review the status of the cod stock in Divisions 2J+3KL and to provide estimates of the current size of the total and spawning biomass, together with a description of recent trends. The Council is asked further to provide estimates of the immediate and long-term outlook for the abundance of this stock, including both total and spawning biomass.
  4. With respect to scientific advice on seals, Canada has no specific request at this time. As I noted in my letter to Dr. Chepel dated February 24, 1994, we will have important inputs to the Scientific Council's symposium on "Seals in the Ecosystem" scheduled for September 1995.