



————— FIRST MEETING - WASHINGTON, D. C. - APRIL 2, 1951 —————

Serial No. 9

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SUMMARY REPORT  
(MINUTES)  
OF  
PANEL, SUB-AREA 4

TIME: Thursday, April 6, 1951, 11:15 a.m.  
PLACE: Louis Seize Room, Shoreham Hotel  
CHAIRMAN PRO TEM: Raymond Gushue (Canada)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): Panel 4 will be convened at this time. Panel 4 covers Sub-Area 4. Membership at the present time consists of Canada and the United States. As in the other panels, all other Commissioners are entitled to speak but not to vote.

The Chair, in calling this panel to order, moves that with respect to the proposed Rules of Procedure, they be adopted provisionally with the exception of that section dealing with the election of a chairman which at this time can be adopted finally in order that a chairman may be designated.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Second the motion.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): The Chair will listen for nominations for Chairman of the Panel.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): It gives me great pleasure to nominate Mr. MacKichan of Canada as Chairman for Panel 4, with the further addition to the motion that since Mr. MacKichan is absent at the moment, the Canadian delegation designate a Chairman Pro Tem to serve in his stead at the present session.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): It seems there is only one other alternative since the chairman must be a Commissioner. I second the motion.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL (MR. WHEELER): The motion is seconded with the understanding that Mr. Gushue will serve. Without further ado, we will turn the meeting over to you, Mr. Gushue.

THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (MR. GUSHUE): The first item is the final adoption of the Rules of Procedure.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): The adoption of the Rules of Procedure is moved.

DR. BATES (CANADA): Second.

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THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEM (MR. GUSHUE): The rules of procedure are adopted. Item 6, "Reports by the Commissioners, if available, on the status of the fisheries and of research programs in the sub-area".

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Mr. Chairman, I do not believe it is necessary for the United States, on its part, to make any statement at this time. I believe that anything the United States might offer with reference to the status of research and the status of the fisheries in Sub-Area 4 is covered in Document 9 which has been distributed to all of the delegations. It is a general summary review of the United States fisheries in the Commission area, in which there is a brief introductory section giving a resume of the various species and what is known in research.

I believe that during the informal research seminars there has been a general discussion of the status of research in the area on the part of the United States, and perhaps to some extent on the part of Canada; and the United States has nothing to propose in a formal manner, at the present session, in the way of a statement on research in Sub-Area 4.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): Mr. Chairman, I think we are in somewhat the same position. We have not come prepared with a formal statement of the work.

I think it might be worth while taking a few minutes just to outline Canada's position in this area. As you know, the Fisheries Research Board of Canada has had a direct interest, or intimate interest, in this area for a longer period than in Area 3, the fisheries in Sub-Area 4 being right at our door, as it were.

Our investigations might be outlined very briefly as follows: Over a number of years, and in cooperation with the United States and to some extent with other countries, there has been a great deal of exploratory hydrographic work done in this area. It has shown that it is an area with rather severe seasonal differences, and, consequently, the hydrography of the area and changes in the hydrography are extremely important to an understanding of short-term changes in the fishery, as well as much shorter term changes than we have heard outlined for the Greenland area.

Now, we have felt the need in this area for a long-term, continued program of hydrographic investigation, and finally the Fisheries Research Board, with the assistance of the Navy, through the Joint Committee on Oceanography, has commenced, about a year ago, quarterly surveys including some dozen or more hydrographic sections across the continental shelf, and we feel already that is beginning to pay off.

Some of the hydrographic changes are very sudden, and rather startling. It was rather startling to us this winter, for example, to discover water which was really too warm for cod in February on certain of the banks just off Halifax. Perhaps it is dangerous to say it was too warm for cod, but it was well up over 10 degrees Centigrade, and warmer than

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the temperatures in which cod are usually most abundant in our waters.

We feel, therefore, that this program is a very important one, and we fully intend, if we are not interrupted by wars or depressions, to keep up a program of quarterly surveys indefinitely. We are, of course, on the hydrographic side, very much interested in everything that is being done on either side of us, to understand the contributory factors: changes in the southward movements of waters along the Labrador Coast; changes in the Gulf Stream; and changes in the in-shore contributions from the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

On the fisheries side, general work on the life history of the species concerned occupied most of our efforts up to the last few years. Since 1946 there has been a program of regular sampling of the stocks of all the principal commercial species to discover changes in the age distributions, changes in the importance of broods, and generally to get the information which would indicate over-fishing, should it ever occur.

The present state at the moment, in our opinion, is that the stocks in this area could stand more fishing, rather than less, the ages of the fish being, on the average, pretty high, indicating total mortality rates which are not a cause for concern.

In addition to biological statistics of that kind--biological data of that kind--we have a fairly thorough coverage of our rather small off-shore fleet, actually getting records of about 80 to 90 percent of all fishing trips through log-book records and interviews.

This intensive work, both in sampling the fish stocks and in getting detailed statistics of where and when fish are caught, and with what effort, is only about four years old--five years old. It is a program that has started since the last war, and Dr. Martin has been in charge of it; and, consequently, we have little yet to report which extends over a long enough period to show trends significantly. And, as a matter of fact, we feel that the program is only getting into its stride, as we have had quite a few difficulties to work out in the early stages.

I would not like to say anything more at the present time, Mr. Chairman, and take up the time of the company, but we would hope at the next meeting of the Panel to present a written summary of our investigations in the area, and we should hope that within the next year it would be possible to develop a program of cooperative research.

Canada and the United States have always worked very closely in this field. The Fisheries Research Board are in very close touch with the work of the Northwest Atlantic investigations by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the United States; but we also would hope in this area, as in Sub-Area 3, to enlist the cooperation of the French and the Portuguese particularly, because although their operations are not as

important as they are in Sub-Area 3, they are, nevertheless, substantial enough to require study, if we are to have a real picture of what is happening to the fish stocks, especially in the easternmost parts of Sub-Area 4.

THE CHAIRMAN (MR. GUSHUE): Thank you.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): Mr. Chairman, I think it might be appropriate, at this juncture, to indicate that the United States does appreciate and think that the informal cooperation between the workers of the Fishery Research Board of Canada and the Fish and Wildlife Service, which has existed

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over many years, is very important. I think this Panel might appropriately indicate its approval of such cooperation and express the hope that it would be continued and even intensified.

Further, I think that there is an opportunity for assistance, perhaps to some greater degree, in the statistical research program carried on by Canada, and that the Panel might recommend that cooperation in the statistical program, with a view towards getting information from American vessels that fish in Sub-Area 4, along the same basis that Canada is now collecting information, so that more complete data might be obtained on the vessel fisheries within the area that are conducted by the United States vessels.

DR. NEEDLER (CANADA): I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, that as far as the fishery statistics are concerned, and even the sampling of the stocks, the United States investigations were ahead of ours, even on these areas next to our coast, for many years, and although we feel that we have been caught up or are catching up, it is only in the last four or five years.

So that the basic information on what has been happening to the fish stocks, indications of changes in abundance and so on, on what we like to call the Nova Scotia area--the banks off Nova Scotia--has largely been obtained by the United States, up until the last few years--I mean, quantitative information on the stocks.

THE CHAIRMAN (MR. GUSHUE): I think it can be taken that Dr. Deason's motion of a recommendation to the Commission has complete agreement.

DR. DEASON (UNITED STATES): May I, at this juncture, make a related observation? I merely wish to make an observation for the record of this Panel.

The United States Commissioners, approximately ten days or two weeks before this first session of the Commission convened, consulted with the industry advisory committee which the United States Commissioners were obliged to constitute under United States implementing legislation. There was the hope expressed by this industry advisory group that if and when regulations might be adopted in Sub-Area 5, the Commission consider simultaneously the implications of the adoption of such regulations in Sub-Area 5 on the fisheries, and the fishery operations in Sub-Area 4, and our industry feels that possibly it might be desirable to coordinate any regulatory measures that might be recommended as between the two sub-areas. In other words, our industry feels that there will possibly be related effects of the application of regulations in one sub-area and those of another, and it feels that the Commission should be at all times cognizant of that possibility.

MR. SARGENT (UNITED STATES): Mr. Chairman, the reason that that was broached by the United States industry is that some of the vessels currently fishing in Area 5 might make one

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trip to Area 5 and then their next trip to Area 4; or in some cases they start out on Area 5 and can't find the fish, and may then go on to Area 4.

I realize that this might be a rather difficult thing to work out because the areas are quite different, but I think if we can, somehow, think of them together, it might be advantageous from the point of view of the fishing vessels, particularly of Massachusetts.

THE CHAIRMAN (MR. GUSHUE): I think that these remarks, which go in the record, will be noted by the Chairman and the Panel of Area 4.

I think we have covered Item 7 in our discussions, "Formulation and Adoption of Recommendations to the Commission, if any." There has been one recommendation adopted, proposed by Dr. Deason. Is there any other?

If not, we come to Item 8, "Other Business". Is there any other business?

Item 9 is, "Approval of Report to the Commission". The verbatim proceedings will be taken as the report of the Commission.

Item 10 is, "Adjournment".

DR. DELSON (UNITED STATES): I move the adjournment of the meeting of Panel 4.

DR. BATES (CANADA): Second.

THE CHAIRMAN (DR. GUSHUE): The adjournment is moved and seconded. The Panel is adjourned.

(Larcupon, at 11:40 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.)