



REPORT OF MEETING OF PANEL 1 - 5 JULY 1952

A meeting of Panel 1 was held at 9:30 a.m. on 5th July, 1952. Denmark, United Kingdom and the two new panel members, Norway and Spain, were represented by Commissioners supported by advisers. Observers were present from France and Portugal who expect to become members of Panel 1 after ratification. Canada, Iceland and United States were also represented.

Dr. Hansen reviewed the status of the Danish fishery and research program in Sub-area 1. A reduced cod catch in 1951 resulted from poor weather and the disappearance of the two good year classes, 1934 and 1936. Two new year classes 1945 and 1947* entered the fishery in 1951 and the catch may be expected to be maintained in the immediate future. Tagging results over the past 27 years have demonstrated that Greenland now has its own stock of cod which is not dependent on Icelandic spawning grounds. Hydrographic work indicates that the present warm period is continuing.

Mr. Rasmussen reviewed the Norwegian cod fishery and research in Sub-area 1. The Norwegian investigations support the Danish observations of great fluctuations in year class strength. The 1942 year class is now important in the off-shore fishery and the 1947 year class is expected to be good. No overfishing is foreseen in Sub-area 1 at present.

The importance of tagging experiments with improved methods was discussed.

Dr. Hansen referred to the lower abundance of seals in Greenland waters but it was agreed that this was not a problem for Panel 1 at this time.

Dr. Tåning referred to the general research program already presented by Panel 1 to the Commission and the desirability of all Governments working together on an overall program after general agreement has been reached.

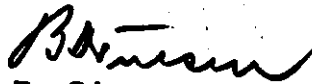
Dr. Tåning, Mr. Rasmussen and Dr. Lucas discussed their plans for 1952 research in the Greenland area. The addition of the "Ernest Holt" and "Scotia" to the fleet of research vessels already studying these waters was appreciated.

* These year classes, especially the latter, consist of small, slow-growing fish which are for the most part as yet too small to be of any importance to the fishery. The 1942 year class has been of some recent importance.

It was agreed that a meeting of Panel 1 should be held at Copenhagen immediately following the ICES meeting this year.

Dr. Rollefson referred to the need for equivalent methods in research and the need for recruitment and exchange of young fisheries biologists and there was general agreement on these matters.

No action was deemed necessary, it being understood that this would be dealt with by the Commission on the basis of recommendations by the Committee on Research and Statistics.



B. Dinesen,
Chairman.