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Information on the Italian Fishery in the ICNAF Area

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During 1959 and in the preceding years Italy has fished in Subarea 1 (B,C,D, and E), Subarea 2 (J), Subarea 3 (K,L,O,N,P), and in Subarea 4 (R,S,T,V,W).

In these subareas the various groups of fishes were caught in the following percentages and sizes:

Cod group (Gadiformes)	91.50%	ca. 40-70 cm
Halibut, Flatfishes (Pleuronectiformes)	2.50%	ca. 30-60 cm
Redfish (Sebastes)	5.00%	ca. 30-60 cm
Coalfish (Gadus virens)	1.00%	ca. 30-40 cm

The percentage of not-marketable fish in the catches is about 20 percent (dogfish, etc.). This quantity is used for fish-meal production.

Quantities in tons fished in the years 1956-1959 in the separate subareas:

	1956	1957	1958	1959
Subarea 1	2,600	1,900	1,100	900
" 2	1,800	1,200	400	500
" 3	2,800	1,700	800	700
" 4	2,241	1,824	900	800
Total	9,441	6,624	3,200	2,900

Up to 1957 the three vessels "Genepesca I", "Genepesca II" and "Genepesca IV" fished in the area: 1956 - three vessels with a total of six trips; 1957 - three vessels with a total of five trips.

From 1958 the two vessels "Genepesca I and IV" take part in the fishery: 1959 - two vessels with two trips each; 1958 - two vessels with two trips each.

Each trip lasts about 135/140 days (from port to port), with from 100 to 110 effective fishing days.

The periods of fishing (trips) are as follows:

First - 15th February to 30th May, Subareas 1,2,3,4.
Second - 15th July to 30th November, Subareas 1,2,3,4.

During the trips the vessels visit St. John's, Newfoundland for water, provisions and mail.

Communication with Italy by radio every fifth day is held.

Medical assistance and delivery of mail is off the coast of Greenland provided by Danish, French and Portuguese vessels.

Gear

Trawls of manila and nylon with meshes of a size conforming with the ICNAF regulations are used. The trawls are of the French type (a plan of the trawls is filed in the Secretariat).

The mesh size of the trawls is controlled before departure by the port authorities.

It has not been possible to effectuate an inspection at sea in the Convention Area, considering the small number of Italian vessels at present operating in the Area.

It is proposed to consider an international inspection of nets under the authority of the Commission.

Hydrography

The Genepesca vessels collect data on temperature at various depths.

Research Program for 1960

Collection of statistics on landings.
Collection of data on fish discarded, and on fish used for meal-production.
Collection of data on efforts: days of trips, days of inactivity, hours fished, days fished.

Information to ICNAF in answer to circular letter of 1-8-1957 (Serial No. 503): request for information on the implementation of trawl regulations in the Area.

A-1: The text (with translation into English) of the national laws and regulations enforcing the ICNAF mesh regulation.

A-2: Distribution of information to fishermen concerning the regulation. The system of inspection applied by Italy.

Ad A. Italy is preparing a new law for the Italian fishery (by amending the already existing law. The text of this law is already prepared and ready to be considered by the Council of the Ministry and the Parliament.

When the text of this law was prepared, the various ICNAF trawl regulations were borne in mind, and, in consequence, special rules were included to provide through decrees by the Ministry - regulation of the fisheries by Italian fishermen in the Northwest Atlantic, with the aim of presenting measures for the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

The law will include in the main:

Art. 1, part 1. Regulations for the Italian fisheries in the sea also beyond the territorial limit.

Art. 2, all. Authorization of the Ministro della Marina Mercantile to issue decrees for the regulation of the fishery.

Art. 6. Dispensations for vessels carrying out scientific, experimental fisheries.

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- Art. 32. Penalties for infractions (20,000 Lira).
- Art. 36. Penalties for opposition to the inspections by the authorized governmental vessels.
- Art. 42. Confiscation of catch.
- Art. 43. Arrest of the vessel.
- Art. 44. Confiscation of the vessel.
- Art. 46. Arrest of vessel pending announcement of sentence.

Rome, 12th May, 1960.