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Report on the 1963 Annual Meeting of the
International North Pacific Fisheries Commission

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The Tenth Annual Meeting of INPFC was held in Vancouver, B. C., Canada from November 18 to November 23, 1963. Commissioners and Scientific Advisors attended as usual from Canada, Japan and the United States. The Research Committee, composed of scientists and one Commissioner from each country, met in advance of the Commission meeting to review progress in research during the preceding year, and was followed by a week of deliberation by the Commission of all important issues.

Progress in Research

Major emphasis on research by the three countries continued to be aimed at an understanding of the high seas distribution of salmon of Asian and North American origin and the environmental factors affecting this distribution. An exchange of scientific data concerning halibut, king crab, and groundfish was also very worthwhile and rewarding. Rather impressive joint research reports of the scientific effort during the past ten years are being completed and some chapters have been published. They include studies of the oceanography of the North Pacific Ocean as well as rather complete reports of the biology and distribution of the various species of Pacific salmon.

Important Issues Considered

As has been the case in the past, there was much discussion of the practise of abstention which is an important part of the parent North Pacific Convention. In addition, since Japan has recently joined the halibut fishery in the Bering Sea, a review of the first year's joint fishery occupied considerable time. There was a great deal of discussion about a catch quota in the heavily fished part of the Bering Sea.

It will be of interest to this Commission to know that the International North Pacific Fisheries Convention has passed its tenth year, and discussions are now under way between Canada, Japan, and the U. S., which will undoubtedly lead to some changes in this Convention.