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Statement of Japanese Observer to 14th Annual Meeting of ICNAF

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I should like first to express my gratitude to the Chairman for his kindness in giving us the opportunity of attending this meeting.

The Japanese Government fully appreciate the invitation from the Commission to send an observer, and we are delighted to have this opportunity of meeting the delegates from the member countries.

We in Japan are aware that the North West Atlantic is a rich and traditional fishing ground, developed by the fisheries of the countries represented here today, and well-known throughout the world and we are also aware that the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries has been one of the most satisfactory examples of international co-operation of fisheries.

Towards the end of the year before last, one Japanese trawler started experimental fishing operations in the North West Atlantic, and now there are four Japanese trawlers engaged in experimental fishing operations in the area.

Although Japan is not a party to the Convention, while fishing in the North West Atlantic, our country respects the regulatory measures made by the Convention, and provides the maximum possible information on the result of fishing operations, and has cooperated with member countries to conserve the fishing resources and to ensure orderly fishing in the area.

Japan intends to continue these experimental fishing operations in the area for some time, and will make future plans based on the results gained from them. It is our intention to cooperate fully in measures designed both to conserve the fishery resources and to ensure the rational development of the fishery ground of the North West Atlantic.

Although attending a meeting of the Commission for the first time, I see here delegates from countries who are parties to other fisheries conventions, of which my country is a member. It is a great pleasure for me to see some of my old friends and also colleagues of friends with whom I have had the experience of working on other conventions.

At meetings of the commissions established under these other conventions, although we face difficult problems, we have always worked closely together in the spirit of understanding and cooperation, and we have achieved many results, and I have many happy memories of working on these commissions. I fully realise that this Commission also operates on the basis of the same cooperative spirit. The discussions in this meeting were very useful to us and I should like to report to our Government that we have learned much from them.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to all of you for your kindness and also to the German Government who are the hosts of this meeting and to the Secretariat who have sent us many documents before the opening of this meeting.

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