

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1965Definition of the term "groundfish"
for ICNAF statistical and regulatory purposes

1. There is an urgent need for the Commission to recognize and correct the difficulty created by the various interpretations which can be placed on the use of the term "groundfish" in both the statistical and regulatory field of the Commission's endeavours.
2. The Statistical Bulletin of ICNAF uses the term "groundfish" (Group G) to include cod, haddock, redfish and halibut species only (e.g. Stat. Bull. 12, p.10). On the other hand, the ICNAF trawl regulations proposed for Subareas 1, 2 and 3 at the 1961 Annual Meeting (Ann.Proc. 11, p. 15-16) states in paragraph 1

"The Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit (except as provided in paragraphs 2 and 3) the taking of groundfish in Subareas 1, 2 and 3...."

and in paragraph 6

"In these regulations groundfish shall include all those species defined as such in the Statistical Bulletin of ICNAF. Cod shall be defined as Gadus morhua L.; haddock as Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.); and redfish as the genus Sebastes."
3. From a review of the proceedings of 1961 meetings of Panels 1-3 and of Scientific Advisers to Panels 1-3, the obvious intent of the Commission in the 1961 proposal was to regulate fishing of the species groups "groundfish", "flounders" and "other groundfish" as listed in Stat. Bull. 8 which was published and distributed in 1960. The groups and their species were listed as follows: "groundfish" i.e. cod, haddock, redfish and halibut; "flounders" i.e. witch, yellowtail, American plaice, winter flounder and fluke (summer flounder); "other groundfish" i.e. porbeagles, dogfish, skates, sea bass, scup, king whiting, cunner, tautog, swellfish, lumpfish, sea robin, tilefish, striped and spotted wolffishes, eelpout, tomcod, pollock, ling, silver and white and red hakes, cusk, Greenland halibut, sand eel and anglerfish.
4. There is a further complication in that as a result of recommendations of the ICNAF Statistical Subcommittee in 1962, porbeagles, dogfish and skates were deleted from the "other groundfish" group and included in the "other fish" group. This and other changes like it have the curious effect of including or excluding various species from the list of regulated species without the need for amending the regulation itself.
5. This matter is respectfully drawn to the attention of (a) the Statistics Subcommittee for consideration from a statistical point of view under Item 9(h) (iii) of the agenda for the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics and (b) the Commissioners for consideration from a regulatory point of view under Item 15(a) of the Agenda for the meetings of the Commission in plenary session.

L. R. Day