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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

Report of the

Annual Meeting of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission

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The Annual Meeting of the Commission was held in Seattle in November 1965. Representatives were in attendance from Japan, Canada and the United States. Three main issues were considered during the meetings.

First, the Commission scientists reviewed the work of the scientists of all three countries relating to the distribution of salmon stocks in the area of intermingling in the North Pacific Ocean. There was found to be a high degree of agreement between the scientists of the three countries concerning the intermingling question and further plans were formulated for future scientific work in the area. It was noted that a considerable amount of the scientific research relating to the problems of the Commission was now being published by the Commission.

The second question of importance concerned the matter of whether the salmon and halibut of the eastern North Pacific Ocean continued to qualify for abstention. It must be remembered that under the terms of this Convention Japan agreed to abstain from fishing salmon east of 175°W longitude, and to abstain from fishing halibut south of the Aleutian Islands in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. The bases for abstention were again reviewed. No agreement was reached as to whether the stocks under question continued to qualify. Under the terms of the Convention this meant that Japan would continue to abstain from fishing these stocks of fish for another year.

The third major problem dealt with the effects of the increased trawling by Japan on the stocks of halibut in the eastern North Pacific. Cooperative studies were reviewed and led to the conclusion that at least for the present the trawling was having a relatively minor effect on the halibut stocks.

Other problems relating to the trawl fisheries and the king crab fisheries of the Bering Sea were also discussed and there was general agreement as to cooperative research for the forthcoming year.

It should be noted that negotiations are under way between Japan, Canada and the United States which probably will lead eventually to some modification of the present Treaty. Several discussions have taken place between the three participating countries concerning revisions in the Treaty but no agreement has been reached. In the meantime the original Treaty remains in force.