



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Proposal by the Delegation of the United States of America for
Simplification of ICNAF Fishery Regulations now in force and
the Proposals now pending under the Convention.

The Contracting Governments to the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the Parties) have agreed as follows:

(1) To prohibit persons or vessels of any Party from using a trawl net for catching the species mentioned in paragraph (2) of these regulations which has a mesh less than that mentioned in paragraph (3) except as provided in paragraph (9).

(2) These regulations shall apply to the following species:

- (a) Subarea 1
- cod (Gadus morhua (L.))
 - haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.))
 - redfish (Sebastes)
 - halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus (L.))
 - witch (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus (L.))
 - American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides (Fab.))
 - Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides (Walb.))
- (b) Subarea 2
- cod (Gadus morhua (L.))
 - haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.))
 - redfish (Sebastes)
 - halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus (L.))
 - witch (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus (L.))
 - American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides (Fab.))
 - Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides (Walb.))
- (c) Subarea 3
- cod (Gadus morhua (L.))
 - haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.))
 - redfish (Sebastes) except in the statistical divisions 3N, 3O, and 3P
 - halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus (L.))
 - witch (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus (L.))
 - yellowtail flounder (Limanda ferruginea (Storer))
 - American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides (Fab.))
 - Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides (Walb.))
 - pollock (saithe) (Pollachius virens (L.))
 - white hake (Urophycis tenuis (Mitch.))
- (d) Subarea 4
- cod (Gadus morhua (L.))
 - haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.))
 - flounders:
 - witch (Glyptocephalus cynoglossus (L.))
 - yellowtail flounder (Limanda ferruginea (Storer)
 - winter flounder (Pseudopleuronectes americanus (Walb.))
 - American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides (Fab.))

- (e) Subarea 5 cod (Gadus morhua (L.))
haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus (L.))

(3) Trawl nets must be of the following minimum mesh sizes:

(a) When fishing in subarea 1 for species listed in paragraph (2) (a) - 130 mm.

(b) When fishing in the subarea indicated for species listed in paragraph (2) (b) through (e) - 114 mm.

(4) Mesh sizes specified in paragraph (3) are measured by the ICNAF gauge: a flat wedge-shaped gauge having a taper of 2 cm in 8 cm and a thickness of 2.3 mm, inserted into the meshes under a pressure of not less than 4.5 kg. nor more than 6.8 kg. The Commission may, on the basis of scientific advice, approve not more than two alternative gauges, by defining the gauges together with approved methods for their use.

(5) Mesh sizes specified in paragraph (3) relate to manila twine netting when measured wet after use or the equivalent thereof when measured dry before use. The Commission may, on the basis of scientific advice as to selectivity equivalents, determine the appropriate mesh sizes when trawl nets made of materials other than manila are used or when seine nets are used. In approving alternative gauges as specified in paragraph (4), the Commission shall also determine accepted scales of equivalent mesh sizes.

(6) The mesh sizes specified in paragraph (3) relate to:

(a) In the cod-end of the net, the average of the measurements of any series of consecutive meshes running parallel to the long axis of the cod-end, beginning at the after end and at least ten meshes from the lacings, and being at least fifty meshes or the full length of the cod-end, whichever is less.

(b) In any part of the net other than the cod-end, the average of the measurements of any series of twenty consecutive meshes, at least ten meshes from the lacings.

(7) No means or device may be used in any net under these regulations, other than those described in paragraph (3), which would obstruct the meshes of the nets or which would otherwise, in effect, diminish the size of the nets.

(8) (a) The Commission may approve devices to be attached to the upper side of the cod-end, based on scientific advice that the attached devices do not obstruct the meshes or reduce significantly the selectivity of the cod-end. Any approval so given may be withdrawn at any time on giving not less than twelve months' notice to the Parties.

(b) Any canvas, netting, or other material may be attached to the underside only of the cod-end of a net to reduce and prevent damage.

(9) (a) In order to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted primarily for species to which these regulations do not apply and which take incidentally small amounts of species to which these regulations do apply, regulated species, as specified in sub-paragraph (c), may be taken with trawl nets having a mesh size less than that specified in paragraph (3).

(b) Regulated species may be taken in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) so long as such regulated species are not:

(1) in possession on board a vessel fishing primarily for non-regulated species in amounts in excess of 2,268 kg. for each or 10% by weight for each of all fish on board such vessel, whichever is greater; or

(2) caught by such vessel, in any period of twelve months, in amounts in excess of 10% for each regulated species of all trawl-caught fish taken by such vessel in that period of twelve months.

(c) This paragraph applies:

(1) In subarea 3, to:

- (i) cod
- (ii) haddock
- (iii) other species mentioned in paragraph (2) (c) taken together.

(2) In subarea 4, to:

- (i) cod
- (ii) haddock
- (iii) flounders, as mentioned in paragraph (2) (d)

(3) In subarea 5, to:

- (i) cod
- (ii) haddock.

NOTE A: It is suggested that the regulations would be simpler and more easily understood if measurements are given only in one system.

NOTE B: If additional sizes are adopted for any subarea, further subparagraphs could be added to paragraph (3). If it were desired to apply different minimums to various species within the same subarea, the list in the subparagraph of paragraph (2) might be further divided into sections, with the reference in paragraph (3) to the appropriate section.

NOTE C: Species designations are those most recently adopted by the Commission, in a proposal, and earlier designations have been modified accordingly in drafting the proposed simplification.

NOTE D: Paragraph (3) of the proposal for subarea 3, and of the 1965 codification, appears inadvertently to restrict the exception to vessels fishing for redfish in divisions 3N, 3O, and 3P, unlike the exceptions provided in the present regulation for subarea 3 and in the present and proposed regulations for subareas 4 and 5 which apply to vessels fishing for unregulated species in the entire subarea. This has been corrected in the proposed simplification.