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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Report of Fifth Meeting of North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission 1)  
9-12 May 1967

<sup>1)</sup> provided by kind permission of NEAFC at the request of Mr G. Möcklinghoff, ICNAF observer to NEAFC.

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

FIFTH MEETING

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Article 16(1) of the Convention.

(a) Prohibition of Nets with Meshes measuring between 50 mm. and the minima prescribed by the Commission

The Commission agreed to restore the recommendation - which lapsed on 1st June 1966 - whereby no nets having in the cod-end meshes of dimensions between 50 mm. and the minimum sizes specified in the Commission's Recommendations could be carried on board or used by vessels engaged in fishing for the species defined in Recommendation (2) in that part of the Convention area where the 70-80 mm. minimum mesh size applied.

The Commission agreed that its Recommendations should be amended accordingly (see Annex A).

(b) Minimum Mesh sizes for Seine Nets in the Northern Part of the Convention Area

The Commission decided to increase the minimum mesh size for seine nets in the part of Region 1 west of the Greenwich Meridian from 100 mm. to 110 mm. This brings the minimum mesh size for seine nets in the western part of Region 1 into line with that for the eastern part of the Region and is consonant with the decision, taken at the Fourth Meeting of the Commission, to raise the minimum mesh sizes for trawl nets in this part of the Region (See Annex B).

(c) Use of Chafers

The Commission agreed that the present arrangements for the approval of chafers or covers attached to the upper side of the cod-ends of trawl nets, set out in Recommendation (3)(c), should be extended for a further year until 31st December, 1966.

The Commission also agreed that information on the types of topside chafers in use in the Commission area and of their effects on cod-end selectivity, with particular reference to the design of and mesh size in the topside chafers in use, should be reported to the Liaison Committee by mid-December each year by all member countries. It was further agreed to continue to give attention to determining the effects of chafers on selectivity as well as to possible ways of eliminating the use of chafers altogether.

(d) Extension of List of Species in Recommendation (2)

The Commission agreed to add capelin to the list of species in Recommendation (2) for which fishing with nets below the prescribed minima is permitted. It also agreed to add horse mackerel and blue whiting to this list in certain parts of its area. The full text of the resolution which the Commission adopted is at Annex C.

Submission of Information on Mesh Sizes in Use

The Commission took note of the Liaison Committee's recommendations and resolved that

- (a) the reporting of mesh-size measurements, preferably taken with the I.C.E.S. gauge be continued by all member countries on a regular basis, in accordance with the relevant recommendation adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Commission,
- (b) countries should indicate in their submissions of data the Commission Region, area and type of fishery (e.g. whether for protected or Article 6 species) and the cod-end material to which the measurement refers,
- (c) the months in which the measurements were made should be reported and the information supplied to the N.E.A.F.C. Secretariat by the middle of December of the year in question.

### International Control

The Commission agreed to the introduction of a Scheme of Joint Enforcement of its conservation regulations, which is to come into force on 1st January 1969; Member countries are to inform the Commission by 1st March 1968 of their plans for participation in the arrangements. The full text of the Recommendation adopted is shown at Annex D.

### Effort Regulation

The Commission agreed to keep the matter of restriction of fishing effort under active consideration and to examine it fully at its next meeting. In order to facilitate this, it asked the Arctic Working Group to consider and advise the Commission what statistics it would require to make assessments of the state of stocks from time to time.

### Conservation of Herring Stocks in the Convention Area

The Commission passed the resolution at Annex E.

### Closure to Trawling of an Area off the North East Coast of Iceland

The Commission considered a proposal that trawling should be prohibited in an area off the North East Coast of Iceland and passed the Resolution at Annex F.

### Conservation of Hake

The Commission passed the Resolution at Annex G.

### Contribution by the Commission to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas

The Commission agreed to include a contribution of £2,250 to the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas in its budget for the year ending 30th June 1968. It was also agreed that Governments of Contracting States should be requested to agree to a further contribution for this year of £1,900.

Finance

The Commission adopted the Provisional Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1967 and a budget for the year ending 30th June, 1968 (Annex H).

Arrangements for the Sixth Meeting

An invitation from the Government of Iceland to hold the Commission's next meeting (starting on 7th May 1968) in Reykjavik was accepted with gratitude.

Press Notice

The Press Notice at Annex J was issued on 13th May.

Office of the Commission  
London  
May, 1967

ANNEX A

Prohibition of Nets with Meshes measuring between  
50 mm. and the Minima prescribed by the Commission

The following additional proviso to be included in  
Recommendation (2):-

"Provided that with effect from 1st January 1968, no vessel shall carry on board or use any net having in the cod-end meshes of dimensions between 50 mm. (irrespective of the material used) and those specified in Recommendation (1) in the area defined in paragraph (b) of that Recommendation except those waters east of a line drawn from Hanstholm to Lindesnes and in the area specified in Recommendation (2)(A).

Minimum Mesh Size for Seine Nets in Region 1

"As from 1st January, 1968, Recommendation(1)(a)(iii) shall take effect as though '110 mm.' were substituted for '100 mm.'."

Extension of the List of Species Specified in  
Recommendation (2)

The Commission resolves that Recommendation (2) should be amended as follows:-

- (1) After the words "(Trachinus draco)" there shall be inserted the words "capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), blue whiting (*Gadus poutassou*) and horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*)."
- (2) After the words "smaller than those therein specified;" there shall be inserted the words "except that this recommendation shall not apply to vessels fishing for horse mackerel and blue whiting in Region 3 or for blue whiting in that part of Region 2 south of 52° 30'N and west of 7°W."

The Commission further resolves that I.C.E.S. should be requested to study the distribution and association of species in Region 2 and to advise the Commission regarding the need for exclusion of blue whiting in part of this Region as prescribed in (2) above.



Scheme of Joint Enforcement

Recommendation

Pursuant to Article 13(3) of the Convention the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside territorial waters and fishery limits for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:-

- (1) Control shall be carried out by inspectors of the fishery control services of Contracting States. The names of the inspectors appointed for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the Commission.
- (2) Ships carrying inspectors shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the Commission to indicate that the inspector is carrying out international inspection duties. The names of the ships so used for the time being, which may be either special inspection vessels or fishing vessels, shall be notified to the Commission.
- (3) Each inspector shall carry a document of identity supplied by the authorities of the flag state in a form approved by the Commission and given him on appointment stating that he has authority to act under the arrangements approved by the Commission.
- (4) Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph (9), a vessel of any Contracting State employed for the time being in fishing for sea fish or in the treatment of sea fish in the Convention area shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship carrying an inspector unless actually fishing, shooting or hauling, in which case it shall stop immediately it has finished hauling. The master of the vessel shall permit the inspector, who may be accompanied by a witness, to board it. The master shall

enable the inspector to make such examination of catch, nets or other gear and any relevant documents as the inspector deems necessary to verify the observance of the Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag state of the vessel concerned and the inspector may ask for any explanations that he deems necessary.

(5) On boarding the vessel an inspector shall produce the document described in (5) above. Inspections shall be made so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience. An inspector shall limit his enquiries to the ascertainment of the facts in relation to the observance of the Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag state of the vessel concerned. In making his examination an inspector may ask the master for any assistance he may require. He shall draw up a report of his inspection in a form approved by the Commission. He shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he may think suitable and must sign such observations. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the Inspector's Government who shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag state of the vessel and to the Commission. Where any infringement of the recommendations is discovered the inspector should where possible also inform the competent authorities of the flag state, as notified to the Commission, and any inspection ship of the flag state known to be in the vicinity.

(6) Resistance to an inspector or failure to comply with his directions shall be treated by the flag state of the vessel as if the inspector were an inspector of that state.

(7) Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this recommendation but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.

(8) Contracting States shall consider and act on reports of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on the same basis as reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting State to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting States shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.

(9) (i) Contracting States shall inform the Commission by 1st March each year of their provisional plans for participation in these arrangements in the following year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting States for the co-ordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors.

(ii) The arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting States unless otherwise agreed between them; and such agreement shall be notified to the Commission: Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting States, if either of them has notified the Commission to that effect, pending completion of an agreement.

- (10) (i) When nets are inspected the meshes of the cod-end are to be examined with a flat gauge with parallel sides, a thickness of 2 mm. and the appropriate width made of any durable material that will retain its shape and constructed with a wedge shaped section or sections having a taper of 2 cm. in 8 cm. calibrated to measure the width of the meshes in which the section or sections are inserted. An illustration of such a gauge is appended.
- (ii) The appropriate width is the appropriate width prescribed in the Commission's recommendations for the type of net inspected and the area in which the inspection takes place which are in force in relation to the flag state of the vessel concerned.
- (iii) At least 20 consecutive meshes of the cod-end running parallel to its long axis, starting at least ten meshes from the lacings, are to be examined, or the maximum number if less than 20.
- (iv) The gauge should be inserted into the meshes when wet so as to measure the long axis of the mesh when stretched diagonally lengthwise. If the section of the gauge with parallel sides passes easily through a mesh it is not undersized. If the inspector has any doubt as to whether the gauge passes easily through, he shall insert the gauge in the mesh held horizontally and attach a weight of 5 kilogrammes to the gauge and if the section in the gauge with parallel sides passes through the mesh the mesh is not undersized.
- (v) The number of undersized meshes and the width of each mesh examined shall be entered in the inspector's report, together with the average width of the meshes examined.

(vi) Inspectors shall have authority to inspect all nets other than those which are dry and stowed away below deck.

(11) The inspector shall affix an identification mark approved by the Commission, to any net which appears to have been used in contravention of the Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag state of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.

(12) The inspector may photograph the net in such a way that the identification mark and the measurement of the net is visible, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag state.

(13) The inspector shall so far as reasonably practicable examine the catch and may take such measurements as he deems necessary to establish whether and to what extent undersized fish of protected species are present in the part of the catch inspected. He shall report his findings including the number of fish measured and the size of any fish which are undersized to the authorities of the flag state of the inspected vessel as soon as possible.

Conservation of Herring Stocks in the Convention Area

The Commission

Having considered the report of the Liaison Committee on measures that might be taken with respect to the herring in the Southern North Sea, and taking into account the concern expressed by some countries about the state of the herring stocks in the Central and Northern North Sea

- (i) stresses the importance of continuing investigations which may throw further light on the decline of the herring stocks spawning in the Southern North Sea, including larval surveys
- (ii) endorses the recommendation of the Liaison Committee that a further substantial international tagging experiment should be undertaken on the Bløden ground with supporting biological studies including sampling for racial analysis
- (iii) urges the member countries concerned to co-operate in such an experiment to the maximum extent and in particular, in view of the importance of a better understanding of the effects of the Bløden fishery, requests that more detailed statistics of catch and fishing effort be made available from the fisheries for young herring
- (iv) asks I.C.E.S. to formulate a programme of further research that would identify the factors affecting the stock of herring in the Central North Sea
- (v) invites the member countries concerned to intensify research on the herring stocks of the Northern North Sea, with special regard to data on fishing effort.

Iceland

The Commission, after considering the proposals put forward by the Icelandic Delegation for the closure to trawling of an area off the North East coast of Iceland and the observations made by other Delegations recommends:-

- (i) that a working group be set up consisting of representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Norway, the U.S.S.R. and the U.K. to consider the Icelandic proposal and any modification of it that may appear desirable, and report to the Sixth Meeting of the Commission;
- (ii) that I.C.E.S. should be invited to send a representative to meetings of the group;
- (iii) that members of the group should consist of both administrators and scientists;
- (iv) that the Icelandic Government should be invited to convene the first meeting of the group.

Conservation of Hake

The Commission, noting the concern expressed by several member countries about the decline in the catches of hake from Region 2

requests the member countries concerned to supply as soon as possible to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea improved statistical information relating to their catches from this Region, sub-divided by area of capture, including so far as possible the size and age composition of the hake catch, catches of other species, the fishing effort employed and the mesh size of the nets used; so that the need for further conservation measures can be assessed

and requests the International Council to report on the information received to the next meeting of the Commission.



NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

Budget for the Year Ending 30th June, 1968

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
(a) Salaries of Secretary, administrative, clerical and typing staff, provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry's overhead expenses.	2,000	-	-	Contributions			
(b) Stationery, Printing and Postage	268	-	-	Belgium	436	-	-
(c) President's Travelling, Subsistence and Expenses	250	-	-	Denmark	436	-	-
(d) Expenses of meeting of the Commission	1,690	-	-	Federal Germany	436	-	-
(e) Contribution to I.C.E.S.	2,250	-	-	France	554	-	-
				Iceland	318	-	-
				Ireland	318	-	-
				Netherlands	436	-	-
				Norway	436	-	-
				Poland	554	-	-
				Portugal	436	-	-
				Spain	554	-	-
				Sweden	436	-	-
				U.S.S.R.	554	-	-
				U.K.	554	-	-
					<u>£6,458</u>	-	-

Press Notice

The Fifth Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission was held in Paris between 9th and 12th May, 1967. Mr. David Olafsson (Iceland) presided. Delegations attended from all Member Governments, namely:-

Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Observers represented the United States Government, the Government of Canada, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, the O.E.C.D. and U.N.E.S.C.O.

2. The Commission agreed that the minimum size of mesh for seine nets in the north western part of its area should be increased to 110 mm. with effect from 1st January, 1968.
3. The Commission agreed to reintroduce the ban on the carrying or use by vessels engaged in fishing for non-protected species in that part of its area where the 70-80 mm. mesh applies, of nets having cod-end meshes measuring between 50 mm. and the minima prescribed by the Commission.
4. The Commission considered the recommendations of its Special Meeting, which met on 5th and 6th May, for a system of international inspection at sea to improve enforcement of the Commission's conservation measures. After searching discussion it adopted a recommendation providing for the introduction of a Scheme of Joint Enforcement. The scheme is to come into effect on 1st January, 1969; Member Countries are to inform the Commission by 1st March, 1968 of their plans for participation in the arrangements.

5. The Commission had a further exchange of views on the limitation of fishing effort in the light of comments submitted by Member Countries since the Fourth Meeting and a recent report by a special working party of biologists and economists set up by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. It was generally agreed that more scientific and statistical information was needed before limitation of fishing effort could be effected even on a limited feasibility study basis. But all Member Countries were agreed that the matter should be kept under active consideration and that there should be a full examination at the Commission's next meeting.

6. The Commission examined proposals for the closure to trawling of an area off the north east coast of Iceland and invited the Icelandic Government to convene a meeting of a working group of scientists and administrators, including a representative of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, to consider the matter and report to the Commission's next meeting.

7. The Commission considered the question of conservation of herring stocks in its area. It stressed the need for continuation of full scientific investigations, including larval surveys, to discover the reasons for the decline in the stocks of herring spawning in the southern North Sea; it also supported proposals for an international tagging experiment and supporting biological studies on the Bløden ground, and urged Member Countries to co-operate to the fullest extent in this work. It invited I.C.E.S. to formulate a research programme to identify factors affecting herring stocks in the central North Sea. It asked Member Countries to intensify research on herring stocks in the southern North Sea.

8. The Commission considered the question of topside chafers and agreed that the present arrangements for authorisation of their use should continue until 31st December, 1969. It resolved that further consideration should be given to assessing the effects of chafers on selectivity and the possible ways of eliminating their use altogether.
9. The Commission added capelin, blue whiting and horse mackerel to the list of industrial species which may be caught with small mesh nets. Some areas were excepted from this concession in order to safeguard the stocks of protected species which might be associated there with the above species.
10. The Commission noted concern expressed by several Member Countries about the declining catches of hake from the central part of its area. Member Countries concerned have been asked to supply to I.C.E.S. more detailed statistics on their catches from the area so that the need for further conservation measures may be assessed in the light of the Council's advice.
11. The Commission expressed its thanks to Dr. Lucas, the retiring Chairman of the Liaison Committee, for his devoted service and valuable co-operation during his tenure of office.
12. The Commission unanimously expressed their warm appreciation of the hospitality afforded to them by the French Government. They accepted with thanks the invitation of the Government of Iceland to hold their Sixth Meeting in Reykjavik between 7th and 13th May, 1968.