

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969Report of the Subcommittee on Financial and Administrative Matters
London; 30-31 January 1969.1. Introduction

In accordance with the requirements of the 1968 Annual Meeting of the Commission, the Subcommittee met in London, 30-31 January 1969, to discuss the timing of the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (R&S) and to review the Rules of Procedure for the Commission and for the Panels and to make recommendations to the 1969 Annual Meeting of the Commission (vide ICNAF Annual Proceedings Vol.18, p.18, 1968). Mr. B. Young (Canada), Mr William L. Sullivan, Jr (USA) and the Executive Secretary were present.

2. Timing of the R&S Meetings

Difficulties. The Subcommittee noted that R&S meets each year immediately before the Commission's annual meeting. Members of R&S have found that there is not enough time to discuss problems thoroughly and to prepare an adequate and well-considered report for the Commission. Nor do the meeting arrangements allow enough time for Commissioners to study the R&S report and to become fully acquainted with its scientific content and advice.

Actions taken. The Subcommittee reviewed the steps already taken by R&S to relieve the problem. It noted that the number of standing subcommittees has been reduced from six to three, Statistics and Sampling, Assessments, and Environmental. All matters not covered by subcommittees are referred to ad hoc working parties which can meet any time. The Assessments Subcommittee which is the most important subcommittee of R&S is meeting mid-year and could well continue to do so. The Statistics Subcommittee carried out some of its work mid-year through the interagency CWP.

Actions considered. The Subcommittee also considered possible actions which might result in more time for reporting and study and thus in a more orderly conduct of the Commission's business. The first proposal was that R&S meet two months before the Commission's annual meeting. Under this plan, the R&S report could be properly prepared and edited, and circulated to member countries for study at least a month before the Commission meeting. The earliest date for R&S to meet would be 1 May which is the earliest date that the statistics can be ready. This would delay the time of the Commission meeting to 1 July at the earliest. The disadvantages would be increased travel time and expense for some R&S and Secretariat personnel. However, the same number of scientists would presumably be attending R&S while only 2 or 3 at most would be attending the Commission meeting as advisors. Secretariat travel and expense could be kept to a minimum if all R&S meetings were held in North America. Also, a Commission meeting in July could be too late for reviewing regulations which limit fishing. It could also interfere with the timing of annual vacations. The Subcommittee also noted that separate R&S and Commission meetings could result in increased pressure to merge the scientific work of ICNAF with that of ICES and reduce R&S to the status of a Northwest Atlantic liaison committee. The Subcommittee felt that some scientific subjects could be handled at ICES (e.g. mesh selectivity) or with ICES (e.g. North Atlantic salmon), but that the important ICNAF problems are regional and deserve full study and discussion by a separate scientific body such as ICNAF's R&S. The Subcommittee felt that the ICNAF problems might not receive adequate attention if merged with those of ICES. In this connection, it should be noted that all countries except UK and Denmark send different teams to ICNAF and ICES. Also, the ICES meetings are held too late in the year (October) for ICNAF requirements.

The second plan discussed was that R&S start a full two weeks before the Commission meeting. This would permit R&S several additional days to prepare an adequate report before most Commissioners would arrive for the Plenary Session. Even a few days would greatly assist R&S in completing an adequate report before the Plenary Session. In addition, following the ceremonial opening of the Commission meeting on Monday, the first Plenary Session would be convened by the Chairman of the Commission for the sole purpose of allocating agenda items and of presenting the R&S report. The Plenary Session would then be adjourned until Tuesday morning. This would leave Monday afternoon and evening for the Commissioners with their scientific and industrial advisors from each member country to study the report and to become fully acquainted with its significance and applicability.

Recommendation. Because of severe budgetary and travel restrictions in all member countries and until the Commission has determined the administrative needs in implementing regulations limiting fishing, the Subcommittee recommends

- 1) that, for the time being, R&S and Commission annual meetings continue to be held concurrently;
- 2) that the meetings of R&S and the Scientific Advisors to Panels start two weeks before the Commission meeting (this adds only 2 or 3 days to the present duration);
- 3) that the program for the first day (Monday) of the Commission's Annual Meetings be limited to a Ceremonial Opening Session and presentation of the R&S report at a First Plenary Session.

3. Review of Rules of Procedure for the Commission

The Subcommittee examined critically the Rules of Procedure for the Commission as adopted 5 April 1951, 30 May 1953 and 8 June 1968. It concluded that the Rules were somewhat ambiguous and contained considerable detail already covered in the Articles of the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. The Subcommittee therefore rewrote the Rules. The most notable addition was a procedure to cover the possibility of the offices of the Chairman and Vice Chairman becoming vacant at the same time (see Rule 3.5 below).

The Subcommittee therefore recommends that the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Commission 5 April 1951, 30 May 1953 and 8 June 1968 be repealed and the following Rules of Procedure be adopted in lieu thereof.

Rules of Procedure for the Commission Representation

Rule 1

- 1.1 Each Government shall notify the Executive Secretary as soon as possible the names of its Commissioners.
- 1.2 The Commissioners shall inform the Executive Secretary of the names of members of any Advisory Committee established in accordance with Article V (1) of the Convention who are authorized to attend non-executive meetings of the Commission.
- 1.3 The Commission may invite any Government not a party to the Convention and any international organization to be represented at meetings of the Commission by an observer or observers.

Voting

Rule 2

- 2.1 Observers, experts, and advisers may address plenary meetings of the Commission, but shall not be entitled to vote.
- 2.2 At meetings of the committees appointed by the Commission a simple majority of all members of such committees shall be decisive.