

Serial No. 2742
(A. a. 4)ICNAF Comm. Doc. 72/18ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1972CANADIAN PROPOSALCONCERNING CONSERVATION OF HADDOCK IN SUBAREA 4

The combined effects of serious overfishing and natural factors have resulted in drastic declines in the haddock stocks in Subarea 4 to unprecedented low levels of abundance. There are justifiable fears that such small adult stock sizes are deleteriously affecting recruitment. All year-classes since that of 1963 have been failures and it can be predicted with some confidence that recruitment to the adult fishery will continue at extremely low levels at least through 1974.

The Commission has imposed limitations to the removals from these stocks, and season and area closures of the fishery for demersal species. However, the Assessments Subcommittee concluded at its January 1972 Mid-Term meeting that regulatory measures currently in force would likely not result in prevention of further stock decline and certainly would not result in any significant rebuilding of the stocks.

Canada is most gravely concerned about the future of the Subarea 4 haddock stocks and proposes that the Commission consider imposing more severe restrictions on removals from these stocks in 1973, including the possibilities of complete closure of the haddock fisheries in the Subarea, and of seasonal closure of additional areas to extend protection to other important spawning stock components in the Subarea.

