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FIFTH SPECIAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 1974

US Proposal for Amendment of ICNAF Haddock Regulations for Subarea 5

At the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Commission, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics recommended that, due to the depleted condition of the Subarea 5 haddock stock, removals should be held to the lowest possible level. At current levels it will take an estimated 10 years for the stock to rebuild to the average level which existed during the period 1935-1960 unless the by-catch of haddock can be reduced. However, evidence obtained through inspection of catches and pertinent documents and surveillance activities indicates that there are instances of significant incidental catches of haddock being taken by various distant-water fleets. Apparent infringements include non-adherence to regulations requiring recording of by-catch, discards, disposition of catch by species, and failure to implement measures to reduce the incidental catch of haddock.

Accordingly, to strengthen controls on incidental catches and provide for more rapid rebuilding of this haddock stock, the following changes are proposed in the haddock quota regulation for Subarea 5 that entered into force 17 January 1974. Changes proposed for paragraph 3 are identical to those adopted by the Commission in Plenary Session on 14 June 1974. Those changes proposed for paragraph 2 will, if approved by unanimous vote of all Contracting Governments at the November Special Meeting, become effective for all Contracting Governments in January 1975, or on the date of receipt of notification from the Depository Government if that notification comes later.

Amend paragraphs 2 and 3 to read as follows:

"2. That in order to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted for other species and which take small quantities of haddock incidentally, the Contracting Governments may permit persons under their jurisdiction to have in possession on board a vessel fishing for other species (either at sea or at the time of off-loading) haddock caught in Subarea 5 in amounts specified below:

- (a) while using a trawl net with a minimum mesh size of 130 mm in the codend and 114 mm in the rest of the net haddock in amounts not exceeding 2,500 kg, or 15 percent by weight of all fish on board caught in Subarea 5, whichever is greater, but in no event in excess of 7,500 kg;
- (b) while using a trawl net with a minimum mesh size of less than 130 mm in the codend, haddock in amounts not exceeding 2,500 kg, or 1 percent by weight of all fish on board caught in Subarea 5, whichever is greater.

"3. That the Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit persons under their jurisdiction from using fishing gear other than pelagic fishing gear (purse seines or true midwater trawls, using midwater trawl doors incapable of being fished on the bottom) and from attaching any protective device to pelagic fishing gear or employing any means which would in effect make it possible to fish for demersal species during March, April, and May in the area of Subarea 5 bounded by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| (a) 69°55'W, 42°10'N | (b) 67°00'W, 42°20'N |
| 69°10'W, 41°10'N     | 67°00'W, 41°15'N     |
| 68°30'W, 41°35'N     | 65°40'W, 41°15'N     |
| 68°45'W, 41°50'N     | 65°40'W, 42°00'N     |
| 69°00'W, 41°50'N     | 66°00'W, 42°20'N     |

The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to vessels that fish in area (a) with hooks having a gape of not less than 3 cm."

Add a new paragraph 4 as follows:

"4. That the Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit the taking of fish other than crustacea, from vessels over 130 feet (39.6 m) in length by persons under their jurisdiction with fishing

gear other than pelagic fishing gear (purse seines, or true midwater trawls, using midwater trawl doors incapable of being fished on the bottom) and from attaching any protective device to pelagic fishing gear or employing any means which would in effect make it possible to fish for demersal species during the entire year in the area of Subarea 5 bounded by straight lines connecting the following coordinates in the order listed:

67°00'W, 42°20'N  
66°00'W, 42°20'N  
65°40'W, 42°00'N  
65°40'W, 41°15'N  
68°15'W, 40°20'N  
69°04'W, 41°44'N

and renumber paragraph 4 to 5."

Note: Attached is a chart illustrating the area affected by paragraph 4.

Chart illustrating the area affected by the Proposal for Amendment of ICNAF Haddock Regulations for Subarea 5.



