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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1974

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission Special Meeting, December 1973

Conclusions and Recommendations

A. Recommendation

The Commission made a recommendation to regulate the level of fishing for herring in the Celtic Sea area during the period beginning on 1 April 1974 and ending on 31 March 1975. The text is as follows:

- "1. In the period beginning on 1 April 1974 and ending on 31 March 1975 fishing for herring (*Clupea harengus*) is prohibited in that part of the Convention area which corresponds to ICES statistical divisions VIIg and VIIh and that part of division VIIa between 52°00'N and 52°30'N.
- "2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 above, a quantity of herring not exceeding
 - 5,000 tons for France
 - 18,000 tons for Ireland
 - 7,000 tons for the Netherlands
 - 2,000 tons for other Contracting States

shall be exempted from the provisions of this recommendation.

- "3. The Contracting States not mentioned by name in this recommendation will use their best endeavours to ensure that their catches, including by-catches, do not exceed 2,000 tons.

(The areas referred to as ICES statistical divisions VIIg and VIIh and part of division VIIa may be described as:

"the zone bounded to the north by 52°30'N latitude; to the west by 09°00'W longitude; to the south by 48°00'N latitude, and to the east by a line connecting the following points:

48°00'N latitude	5°00'W longitude;
49°30'N latitude	5°00'W longitude;
49°30'N latitude	7°00'W longitude;
50°30'N latitude	7°00'W longitude;
50°30'N latitude	6°00'W longitude;
51°00'N latitude	6°00'W longitude;
51°00'N latitude	5°00'W longitude;

and northwards to the coast of Wales)"

B. Conclusions

Regulation of North Sea Herring

The Commission approved the following resolution by 8 votes to 1 with 4 delegates abstaining:

"That the Commission should resume discussion at the earliest practicable date of the total allowable catch and the national allocation of North Sea herring within the general range of the President's proposals (Agenda Item 4/Papers 7 and 8) varied by not more than 10,000 tons in respect of any one country."

The Commission welcomed statements by the Norwegian and Danish delegations that they would be prepared to withdraw their objections to the restrictions due to be applied under Recommendation (8) on fishing for herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak during 1974.

Celtic Sea Herring

The Commission agreed to defer consideration of a recommendation prohibiting for 48 hours each week fishing for herring within the national fishery limits of Ireland in the Celtic Sea during the period beginning on 1 April 1974 and ending on 31 March 1975.

Sole and Plaice

The Commission set up a Working Group on Regulation of Sole and Plaice to meet in Bonn on 24-25 June 1974 immediately before the next Annual Meeting of the Commission. The Group's terms of reference are as follows:

"To present, on the basis of assessments provided by the Liaison Committee of ICES, recommendations to the next Annual Meeting of the Commission for measures to regulate catches of sole and plaice in the North Sea, Irish Sea, Bristol Channel and English Channel, and for any further conservation measures that may be required in those areas."

Future Meetings

The Commission will hold a further Special Meeting on Herring in London in the first half of March 1974 and confirmed that its regular meeting would be held in Bonn from 26 June to 2 July 1974.

Appointment of Secretary

The Commission, having received the resignation of Mr Windle, appointed Mr D.H. Griffiths of the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as Secretary of the Commission.

Press Notice

A Press Notice was issued on Tuesday, 18 December 1973, following the conclusion of the Commission's meeting. The text is annexed.

Office of the Commission
London

18 December 1973

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission - Special Meeting

Press Notice

A Special Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 11-14 December 1973. The President, Mr G. Mücklinghoff (Federal Republic of Germany) presided. Delegations attended from all Member States except Spain, namely:

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

Observers represented the Governments of Japan and the United States of America, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, FAO and the European Economic Community.

2. North Sea Herring

The Commission had before it a Report by the Working Group which was set up by the Eleventh Meeting in May 1973 with the primary task of presenting information on measures for regulating herring catches in the North Sea and Celtic Sea.

There was a general acceptance of the Working Group's conclusion that the most realistic way to achieve the necessary conservation of the stocks would be to establish a total allowable catch, and the Commission discussed various proposals put forward by Contracting States for establishing quotas for herring catches in the North Sea and Skagerrak. There was a broad measure of agreement that any allocation between States would need to take account of historic performances, including the voluntary reduction in catches made by certain countries in recent years, as well as of the developing herring fisheries of certain other States.

On the assumption that the two outstanding ratifications needed to empower the Commission to recommend measures concerning the limitation of catch and effort would by then have been received, the Commission agreed to meet again in London in the first half of March 1974 to consider this question further. It also decided to take as the main basis for its discussion on that occasion certain ideas advanced by the President which embody the above principles, whilst at the same time attempting to avoid unduly abrupt changes in the existing international fishing pattern.

The Commission welcomed statements by the delegations of Norway and Denmark that they would be prepared to withdraw their objections to the closed season restrictions due to be applied under the recommendation governing fishing for herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak during 1974.

3. Celtic Sea Herring

The Commission made a recommendation to regulate the level of fishing for herring in the Celtic Sea area during the period from 1 April 1974 to 31 March 1975. Under this recommendation, catches during the period in question would be limited to 5,000 tons for France, 18,000 tons for Ireland, 7,000 for the Neatherlands. The other Contracting States would share a further 2,000 tons.

4. Sole and Plaice

The Commission decided to set up a Working Group on Regulation of Sole and Plaice to meet in Bonn on 24-25 June 1974 immediately before the next Annual Meeting. The group's terms of reference are as follows:

"To present, on the basis of assessments provided by the Liaison Committee of ICES, recommendations to the next Annual Meeting of the Commission for measures to regulate catches of sole and plaice in the North Sea, Irish Sea, Bristol Channel and English Channel, and for any further conservation measures that may be required in those areas."

5. Appointment of Secretary

The Commission, having received the resignation of Mr Windle, appointed Mr D.H. Griffiths of the United Kingdom Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food as Secretary of the Commission.

6. Future Meetings

In addition to the further Special Meeting on Herring scheduled to take place in London in the first half of March 1974, the Commission confirmed that its next regular meeting would be held as planned in Bonn from 26 June to 2 July 1974.

Office of the Commission
London

18 December 1973

