

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3650
(A.a.4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 75/30

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

US proposal for amendment of ICNAF haddock
regulations for Subarea 5

At the Fifth Special Meeting of the Commission an overall quota for haddock in Subarea 5 of 6,000 metric tons was established and allocated to Member Governments. The Commission also approved a measure to reduce the incidental catch provision to "amounts not exceeding 5,510 lb or 2,500 kg, or 1 percent by weight, of all other fish on board caught in Subarea 5, whichever is greater." In theory mesh size restrictions, quota allocation, closed areas, and the by-catch regulation should meet the conservation objective established by the Commission. In practice, however, evidence obtained through inspection of catches, logbooks, and other pertinent documents and surveillance activities indicates that there are continued infringements of conservation regulations. The United States continues to be deeply concerned by non-adherence to regulations requiring accurate recording of all components of catches (by-catch and discards), disposition of catch by species, and failure to implement measures to reduce incidental catches of species such as haddock, yellowtail flounder, and other flounders.

The most recent report of the Assessments Subcommittee, April 1975 (ICNAF Summary Document 75/18), not only drew attention to the continuing effect of high incidental catches in mixed fisheries upon individual stocks, but also drew attention to the continued over-exploitation of the total biomass in 1974.

Since the Fifth Special Meeting, US officials have continued to observe non-compliance with Commission regulations. Accordingly, to strengthen control on incidental catches in important areas, and provide better opportunity for rebuilding of important stocks, the following proposal is submitted for consideration by the Commission:

"That the Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit the taking of fish other than crustacea and scallops from vessels over 155 feet (46.9 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°20'W, 40°31'N
69°08'W, 41°50'N."

A chart illustrating this area follows:

(over)

