

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Canadian and US Proposal to Amend the Herring Size and
Limit Exemption in Subareas 4 and 5 of the Convention Area

At the 24th Annual Meeting of the Commission the herring size limit regulation was amended to read:

"2. That the Contracting Governments may permit persons under their jurisdiction to take herring less than 9 inches (22.7 cm) measured as specified in paragraph 1 above so long as such persons do not have in possession on board a vessel each trip herring under this size limit in an amount exceeding 10% by weight or 25% by count of all herring on board the vessel caught in areas specified in paragraph 1 above which can be identified as to size at the time of landing. However, should it be observed during an inspection under the Joint Enforcement Scheme that a vessel is taking an excessive amount of undersize herring, the inspector shall note this fact on the inspection report and bring it to the attention of the master of the vessel concerned. Such an observation in itself shall not be considered to be an infringement. For the purpose of this regulation, a trip shall be considered to be not more than 90 days on ground as determined by an examination of the logbook."

Many vessels now fishing in the Convention Area process herring and other fish for either human food or industrial purposes. Therefore it is impossible to determine either the species or the size of many of the fish caught during the course of an inspection under the International Joint Enforcement Scheme. The present system that provide for exemptions on a 90 day basis, permits vessels to mount intensive short-term effort on undersize herring under the belief that enough large herring will be caught later in the 90-day period to enable the vessel to comply with the exemption limit. These factors make enforcement difficult if not impossible through the Joint Enforcement Scheme.

Accordingly, Canada and the US proposes amending this regulation to read:

"2. i) That Contracting Governments may permit persons under their jurisdiction to take herring less than 9 inches (22.7 cm) measured as specified in paragraph 1 above so long as such persons do not have in possession

on board a vessel herring under this size limit in an amount exceeding 10% by weight or 25% by count of all herring on board the vessel caught in areas specified in paragraph 1 above which can be identified as to, size at the time of the inspection.

"ii) Should it be observed during an inspection under the Joint Enforcement Scheme that a vessel is taking an excessive amount of undersize herring in any one trawl ahul or seine set, the inspector shall note this fact on the inspection report and bring it to the attention of the master. Such an observation in itself shall not be considered an infringement."