

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Proposal by the Spanish Delegation on the squid fisheries

1. Spain is one of the countries more interested in the squid fisheries in the ICNAF Area for domestic human consumption.

In 1973 and 1974 Spain caught in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6, 17,500 and 16,000 tons, respectively. In addition, in the same years, in order to supply our internal markets, 27,000 and 33,000 tons, respectively, were imported.

Due to the fact that some of these imports were made on the basis of political prices, the Spanish Administration was forced to introduce a compensatory tax to these cephalopod imports.

2. The small amount of the squid quotas allocated to Spain for the years 1974 and 1975 obliged the Spanish Administration to establish a fishing licence. These fishing licences represented drastic reductions in the number of vessels and days on grounds, causing big social and economical problems, because many of the suitable ships were not allowed to go to the ICNAF Area, and many of those which were authorised had to come back without a complete cargo in their holds because the time permitted to fish was finished.

3. In this sense, Spain wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to the fact that Spain has gone further than the ICNAF regulations, establishing a special allowance to fish for squid in the area, and has submitted to the ICNAF Secretariat a copy of the official Dispositions in which the number of the vessels are listed, and also the allowed fishing period for them.

Spain is confident of the Commission's support to continue in this co-operative way.

4. When the second tier was established in 1973, the squid (Loligo) was included in the total biomass of Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6, but the different species named Illex was not taken into account.

Further studies have demonstrated the convenience of setting a separate TAC for the Loligo (Proceeding 24th Annual Meeting June 1974 page 183 and 188) Summ. Docs. 75/18 page 37, and 75/39 page 8. Both species, Loligo and Illex, are widely underfished. Their stocks are about 70,000 and 100,000 tons respectively, according to recent studies made by the USA and issued in the Marine Fishery Review, December 1973 and mentioned also in the Summ. Doc. 75/18 page 34.

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Therefore both species, in our opinion, must not be included in the second tier among the overfished ones.

The Assessments Subcommittee recommends a very precautionary TAC of 44,000 and 30,000 tons for Loligo and Illex, respectively, which, in our point of view is too low.

During 1974, from a TAC of 71,000 tons, 55,500 tons were caught. If we take into account the short life of these two species, we reach the conclusion that 15,500 tons were lost. In other words, 15,500 tons of marine proteins were not used for the benefit of mankind.

If the inclusion of the squid in the total biomass of Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 is due to the by-catch problem, Spanish fishermen offer to make exploratory hauls with small trial nets in order to avoid the by-catch, and to move to other areas where this by-catch does not occur.

Spanish fishermen are more interested in avoiding the by-catch because the trouble caused by the by-catch itself, which on many occasions damages the nets, for instances in the case of spiny dogfish.

Considering all the matters expressed before, the Spanish Delegation requests:

- 1) that, in referring to 1975, an additional quota of 6,000 tons of Illex be allocated to Spain from the 7,100 - ton allocation to "Others" which has not been caught until now, and as far as it is known, is not intended to be caught. This allocation has not been included in the 2nd tier.
- 2) that, squid (a species of a short life and under-exploited) be considered in a different way than other over-exploited species, that is to say, the squid should not be included in the second tier.
- 3) that Spain be allocated a higher proportion of the squid quota for 1976.