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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975North-East Atlantic Fisheries CommissionThirteenth Annual MeetingPress Notice

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission took place in London from 21st May to 28th May, 1975. The President, Mr. G. Mocklinghoff (Federal Republic of Germany) was in the Chair. Delegations attended from all Member States, namely:-

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

Observers represented the Government of the United States of America, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, FAO, OECD, ICSEAF and the European Economic Community.

2. North Sea Herring

The Commission agreed by a majority to set a total allowable catch of 254,000 tons for catches of herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak for the 18 month period 1st July, 1975 to 31st December, 1976. The national quotas agreed were as follows:-

	<u>Tons</u>
Belgium	2,400
Denmark	69,000
France	16,000
German Democratic Republic	6,600
Germany, Federal Republic of	11,000
Iceland	19,000
Netherlands	22,000
Norway	45,000
Poland	11,000
Sweden	18,000
United Kingdom	16,000
USSR	17,000
Others	1,000

3. Herring Catches to the West of Scotland

The Commission agreed by a majority to set a revised total allowable catch and national quotas for catches of herring in ICES Area VIa to the West of Scotland for the calendar year ending 31st December, 1975 and to set a total allowable catch and national quotas for the year 1st January, 1976 to 31st December, 1976. The revised total allowable catch for 1975 was agreed at 155,200 tons and for 1976, 136,000 tons. The national quotas for these two years are as follows:-

	<u>1975</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>1976</u>
Denmark and Faroes	6,200		5,700
France	3,000		3,000
German Democratic Republic	2,000		2,000
Germany, Federal Republic of	10,200		9,500
Iceland	3,000		3,000
Ireland	13,700		12,700
Netherlands	8,200		7,600
Norway	16,400		15,200
Poland	3,000		3,000
United Kingdom	85,000		70,000
USSR	3,000		3,000
Others	1,500		1,300

4. Atlanto-Scandian Herring

The Commission agreed by a majority to revise the existing Recommendations regulating the catches of Atlanto-Scandian herring. The new Recommendation again provides that fishing for herring is prohibited in those parts of the Convention Area which correspond to the ICES Statistical Areas I, II and Vb. An exemption to this prohibition, allowing limited catches of herring taken by gill nets inside national baselines was agreed.

5. Arcto-Norwegian Cod in the North East Arctic

The Commission agreed to extend in 1976 the existing Recommendation which provides that the catches of Arcto-Norwegian cod taken by Contracting States shall not exceed 810,000 tons. The national quotas, based on this total allowable catch, will be as follows:-

	<u>Tons</u>
Denmark (Faroe)	11,000
France	30,500
German Democratic Republic	10,000
Germany, Federal Republic of	29,500
Norway	305,000
Poland	7,000
Portugal	7,000
Spain	7,000
United Kingdom	98,000
USSR	305,000

It was also agreed, as for 1975, that Norway shall have an additional allowance of 40,000 tons representing the estimated average annual catch of coastal cod. An additional quota of 40,000 tons was also agreed for the USSR which represents the estimated annual catch of coastal cod including White Sea cod. As in the 1975 Recommendation, if national quotas are filled before the end of the year, Contracting States may, nevertheless, permit their vessels to continue fishing provided that such permission is limited to fishing with gill nets, long lines or hand lines.

6. Sole and Plaice Fishing in the North Sea

The Commission agreed by a majority to a new total allowable catch for sole in the North Sea during 1976 of 12,500 tons. A total allowable catch of 99,900 tons of plaice in 1976 was also agreed. The total catches of sole and plaice by each Contracting State in the North Sea restricted to the following amounts:-

	<u>1976</u>	
	<u>Sole</u>	<u>Plaice</u>
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Belgium	1,200	4,700
Denmark	600	24,200
France	350	2,100
Germany, Federal Republic of	500	4,700
Netherlands	9,200	35,600
United Kingdom	600	27,800
Others (total)	50	800

The existing regulation which prohibits trawling for sole and plaice by vessels exceeding 50 gross registered tons and 300 horse power inside the coastal waters of the eastern North Sea is extended pending further discussions at the mid-term meeting of the Commission.

7. Sole and Plaice Fishing in the English Channel

The Commission agreed by a majority to a new total allowable catch for sole in the English Channel during 1976 of 1,450 tons. A total allowable catch of 3,340 tons of plaice in 1976 was also agreed. The total catches of sole and plaice by each Contracting State in the English Channel are restricted to the following amounts:-

	<u>1976</u>	
	<u>Sole</u>	<u>Plaice</u>
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Belgium	150	150
France	870	1,880
United Kingdom	405	1,280
Others (total)	25	30

8. Sole and Plaice Fishing in the Bristol Channel

The Commission agreed by a majority to a new total allowable catch for sole in the Bristol Channel during 1976 of 700 tons. A total allowable catch of 640 tons of plaice in 1976 was also agreed. The total catches of sole and plaice by each Contracting State in the Bristol Channel are restricted to the following amounts:-

	<u>1976</u>	
	<u>Sole</u>	<u>Plaice</u>
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Belgium	400	100
France	100	130
United Kingdom	190	400
Others (total)	10	10

9. Sole and Plaice Fishing in the Irish Sea

The Commission agreed by a majority to a new total allowable catch for sole in the Irish Sea during 1976 of 1,670 tons. A total allowable catch of 4,150 tons of plaice in 1976 was also agreed. The total catches of sole and plaice by each Contracting State in the Irish Sea are restricted to the following amounts:-

	<u>1976</u>	
	<u>Sole</u>	<u>Plaice</u>
	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Belgium	720	200
France	150	220
Ireland	100	1,100
Netherlands	240	20
United Kingdom	450	2,540
Others (total)	10	40

10. Fishing for Mackerel for Industrial Purposes

The Commission agreed to revise the existing Recommendations on fishing for mackerel. The new Recommendation extends the former prohibition on industrial fishing for mackerel of less than 30 cm to ICES Statistical Area VIa. It also extends the former close season for mackerel fishing to Area VIa and permits small increases in the by-catch provisions.

11. Minimum Size for Saithe

A new Recommendation setting a minimum size limit for saithe, providing minimum sizes of 35 cm in Region 1 and 30 cm in Region 2, has been agreed by the Commission. There will be a by-catch provision of up to 10% of undersized saithe. The minimum size recommendation does not apply to landings of saithe taken from the Skagerrak.

12. Minimum Size for Common Sea Bream, Megrin and Sardine

The Commission has agreed by a majority to set new minimum size limits for Common Sea Bream and Megrin of 18 cm and a minimum size limit of 12 cm for Sardine.

13. Industrial Landings

Pending further discussions at its mid-term meeting the Commission has agreed by a majority to prolong the existing Recommendation on industrial landings which provides that no more than 10% by weight of each landing from industrial fisheries may consist of undersized protected species. The Recommendation is extended from 1st January, 1976 to 30th June, 1976.

14. Industrial Fisheries for Herring

The Commission has agreed by a majority a new Recommendation prohibiting fishing for herring in Region 2, excluding the Kattegat, except for human consumption or for bait. By-catches of

herring in the fisheries for industrial purposes may be landed provided that those not intended for human consumption form no more than 15% of any landing or 10% of the aggregate annual landings of such fisheries.

15. Minimum Mesh Size for Mixed Fisheries

The Commission has agreed by a majority a new Recommendation instituting a minimum mesh size of 20 mm for industrial fisheries with the exception of that for sandeels. The Recommendation applies to Region 2 of the Convention Area and comes into force on 1st January, 1976.

16. Conservation of Cod, Haddock and Whiting in the North Sea

The Commission agreed that the existing Recommendation setting total allowable catches and national quotas for cod, haddock and whiting in the North Sea should be further considered at its mid-term meeting.

17. Regulation of Fishing for Saithe in the Convention Area

While minimum sizes for saithe in Regions 1 and 2 have been agreed, the Commission considered that the question of setting new total allowable catches and national quotas should be examined further at the mid-term meeting.

18. Mesh of Nets

The Commission agreed to study further at its mid-term meeting proposals presented for an increase in the mesh size of nets in Region 1 of the Convention Area.

19. Mackerel

The Commission agreed to defer further examination of the question of setting a total allowable catch and national quotas for mackerel stocks in the Convention Area.

20. Closed Areas for Herring Fishing and Minimum Landing Sizes for Herring

There was considerable discussion in a specially convened Working Group on the desirability of establishing closed areas and closed seasons for herring fishing, as well as the introduction

of a minimum landing size for herring in the North Sea. Some proposals have been remitted to the Commission's scientific advisers for further examination of their conservation value. The Commission agreed to defer a proposal for a minimum landing size for herring in the North Sea.

21. Mixed Fisheries

There was an initial examination of proposals to provide stricter regulation of by-catches of protected species and under-sized fish as well as the establishment of closed areas and seasons for certain industrial fisheries where it was considered that by-catches of protected species were significant. The Commission will be re-examining these proposals at its mid-term meeting.

22. Election of President

The Commission elected Captain J.C.E. Cardoso (Portugal) as President for the next three year term, 1975-1978.

23. Future Meetings

The Commission agreed to hold a mid-term meeting from 11th - 18th November, 1975. The date of the next Annual Meeting will be discussed at this mid-term meeting.

Office of the Commission
London

