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(Revised)

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Canadian proposal for international regulation of trawl net  
mesh size in the silver hake fishery in Subarea 4  
of the Convention Area

1. That Contracting Governments take appropriate action to prohibit, except as provided in paragraph 2, the taking of silver hake, *Merluccius bilinearis*, in Subarea 4 of the Convention Area by persons under their jurisdiction with trawl nets having in any part of the net meshes of dimensions less than 60 mm or 2-3/8 inches as measured by the ICNAF gauge specified below. These mesh sizes relate to manila twine netting when measured wet after use or the equivalent thereof when measured dry before use. The Commission may, on the basis of scientific advice as to selectivity equivalents, determine the appropriate mesh sizes when trawl nets made of materials other than manila are used or when seine nets are used.

(a) Mesh sizes are measured by a flat wedge-shaped gauge having a taper of 2 centimeters in 8 centimeters and a thickness of 2.3 millimeters, inserted into meshes under a pressure or pull of 5 kilograms. The mesh size of a net shall be taken to be the average of the measurements of any series of twenty consecutive meshes, at least ten meshes from the lacings, and when measured in the codend of the net beginning at the after end and running parallel to the long axis.

2. (i) In order to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted primarily for species other than silver hake not otherwise regulated by ICNAF trawl net mesh

(over)

size regulations, which take small quantities of silver hake incidentally, except as provided for in paragraph 2 (ii), the Contracting Governments may permit persons under their jurisdiction to take silver hake with nets having a mesh size less than that specified in the preceding paragraph, so long as such persons do not have in possession (either at sea or at the time of off-loading) on board a vessel fishing primarily for other speices, which has been fishing in the Convention Area or in Statistical Area 6, silver hake taken in amounts in excess of 2,500 kg (5,510 lbs) or 10% by weight of all fish on board such vessel, whichever is greater.

- (ii) Should it be observed during an inspection that a vessel is taking silver hake in excessive amounts during its first 48 hours fishing in the Convention Area or in Statistical Area 6 since leaving port or previously off-loading, 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.

3. That Contracting Governments prohibit the use, by any persons to whom this proposal would apply, of any means or device other than those described in paragraph 4, which would obstruct the meshes of the nets or which would otherwise, in effect, diminish the size of the meshes of the nets, provided that devices may be attached to the upper side of the codend in such a manner that they will not obstruct the meshes of the codend. Any such device, on the basis of scientific evidence, must not obstruct the meshes or reduce significantly the selectivity of the codend.

4. That Contracting Governments may permit any canvas, netting, or other material to be attached to the underside only of the codend of a net to reduce and prevent damage.