

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 4008
(A.c.1)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 76/XII/62

NINTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - DECEMBER 1976

Resolution on Fishing Limits by the International
Transport Workers Federation (ITF)

Attached is a letter from the ITF dated 13 July 1976 requesting observer status at the Commission Meetings and covering an ITF Resolution on Fishing Limits for consideration by the Commission at its Ninth Special Meeting, December 1976.



International Transport Workers' Federation
 Fédération Internationale des Ouvriers du Transport
 Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
 Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
 Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen



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Please address all communications to the General Secretary and confine each letter to one subject only.

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Our Ref.

CHB/AS/L

Date

13 July 1976

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Dear Sir,

As you may be aware the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) represents more than 200 000 fishermen in all corners of the world, including a substantial number of predominantly deep-sea fishermen. One of the aims of the ITF is "to support the work of the United Nations, its agencies, other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations in those activities promoting peace based on social justice and economic progress". Another is "to assist affiliated organisations to defend and promote, internationally, the economic, social, occupational, educational and cultural interests of their members". According to its constitution the ITF shall seek to achieve its aims for example by "seeking and using the right to represent its affiliates in and co-operate with the International Labour Organisation and inter-governmental agencies and other bodies concerned with transport". For the purpose of ITF affiliation fishermen are regarded as maritime transport workers. At present the ITF enjoys adviser, observer or consultative status (directly or indirectly) with such international agencies as the ILO, IMCO, UNCLOS, ICAO, CEMT, ECE, EEC and others.

Our purpose in writing to you is to request observer status with your organization as our fishermen affiliates are becoming increasingly aware of the important part which international fisheries commissions such as ICNAF will no doubt play within the framework of the adoption by UNCLOS of a fixed EEZ concept and the concomitant ocean management procedures, including the regulation of catch quotas. Like you we are very much concerned that fish stocks should be preserved within the concept of the total sustainable yield for the ultimate benefit of those whose livelihood is dependent on the proper management of the ocean's resources.

We enclose for your information a resolution adopted at a recent Conference of the ITF Fishermen's Section and would respectfully ask you to give serious consideration to the granting of observer status to our organization at meetings of ICNAF in order that we may be in a better position to assist our fishermen's affiliates.

We feel that such action on your part would be to our mutual benefit and shall be pleased to supply any further information concerning the ITF and its activities which you might require in order to be able to consider our request.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. BLYTH
 General Secretary

FISHING LIMITS

This Conference of the ITF Fishermen's Section, meeting in Grimsby on 21 and 22 June, 1976,

NOTES with concern that the continuing international discussion of fishing limits and related issues under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has as yet failed to produce an international instrument regulating rights of fishing and obligations of conservation within territorial limits, inside an exclusive economic zone and on the high seas beyond this zone which is universally acceptable and ratifiable;

NOTES also with concern that in the absence of such an instrument the employment situation of fishermen all over the world becomes increasingly precarious;

REITERATES its conviction that lasting solutions to the problems surrounding fishing limits and related issues can best be found within the framework of the UN system;

PLEDGES the support of the ITF Fishermen's Section in general for all reasonable and practicable proposals designed to accelerate the process of finding permanent solutions to the above issues and in particular for the concept of an exclusive economic zone not exceeding 200 nautical miles in which the coastal state shall have sovereign rights to explore, exploit, conserve and manage the natural renewable resources and shall determine the allowable catch of those living resources and generally prevent over-exploitation on condition that the coastal state as part of the optimum utilization of the living resources in its exclusive economic zone shall, when unable to harvest the total allowable catch within that zone, give other states access to the surplus allowable catch on terms to be agreed upon bilaterally or multilaterally without levying any financial charges in respect of such access;

REQUESTS that the ITF Secretariat be represented at the forthcoming session of UNCLOS;

BELIEVES FURTHERMORE that the best safeguard for regular employment of fishermen and avoidance of overfishing and serious international conflicts in the future lies in the proper management of the oceans' resources and that therefore the world's fishermen are entitled to a voice when it comes to determining the total allowable catches (and quotas) within specified areas and the surplus allowable catches (and quotas) within the total sustainable yield of the exclusive economic zones concerned;

RECOMMENDS THEREFORE that the fishermen's affiliates of the ITF seek representation on their respective national delegations to various international and regional fisheries commissions (such as NEAFC and ICNAF) or any equivalent future organisations in order to enable the affiliates concerned to influence the allocation of quotas in the interest of protecting, as far as possible, the livelihood of fishermen and preserving fish stocks;

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the ITF Secretariat seeks observer status with the aforesaid organisations with a view to assisting in any required co-ordination of views and provision of advice to its affiliates;

AGREES IN CONCLUSION that in addition to the above proposals the following objectives merit serious consideration in any representations made to UNCLOS:

- that special consideration be given by coastal states to the needs of countries and areas which are particularly dependent on their fishing industry;
- that the right of coastal states to determine the allowable catch within its exclusive economic zone shall carry with it an obligation to admit observers from regional fisheries commissions to ensure that the maximum allowable catch is set at the correct level.

