

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 4091  
(A.a.4)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 76/XII/80

NINTH SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING - DECEMBER 1976

Note by the US Commissioners Regarding the Fixed  
Fishing Gear Advisory Notice System

One of the elements the US considered in introducing its proposal outlining windows for certain directed fisheries was that the windows would help reduce the incidence of gear conflicts between mobile and fixed fishing gear. The expanded areas now included in the window proposals encompass many areas where US fishermen set fixed gear in directed fisheries for lobster, crab and finfish. There are no US regulations setting forth requirements for the marking or placement of fixed fishing gear. To help reduce the possibility of fishing gear conflicts, the US Commissioners would like to describe the fixed fishing gear advisory notice system currently in effect off the east coast of the USA.

US fishermen using fixed fishing gear are encouraged to report the locations of their gear to the US Coast Guard. These locations are compiled by the Coast Guard and disseminated to interested fishermen, foreign and domestic, in a number of ways. Report of fixed fishing gear locations in geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) are broadcast on the first day of each month by Coast Guard Communications Station Boston (NMF) on 472 KHZ at 1350 GMT in radiotelegraphy. These summary lists are updated each day at 1350 GMT, with a broadcast on the same frequency listing changes in fishing gear locations reported by US fishermen. Additionally, voice broadcasts in English are made each day by NMF on 2670 KHZ at 1405 GMT and by Coast Guard Communications Station Portsmouth (NMN) on 2670 KHZ at 1350 GMT and by the Boston Marine Operator, Radio Green Harbor, and Norfolk Marine Operator after their scheduled Marine Information broadcasts. The voice broadcasts list the locations of the fixed gear in Loran A coordinates. Both the radiotelegraph and voice broadcasts are numbered sequentially by month, day and year.

Contracting Governments are requested to bring this information system to the attention of their fishermen and to urge their use of this information in their daily activities to minimize the potential for gear conflicts. Contracting Governments and their fishermen may obtain printed monthly summary of fixed gear information by contacting:

Commander (A01)  
US Coast Guard  
Atlantic Area  
Governors Island  
New York, N.Y. 10004

Telephone: 212-264-0644  
or 212-264-0645