

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1991

Denmark (Greenland) Request for Scientific Advice  
on Management of Certain Stocks in 1992

by

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1. Denmark, on behalf of Greenland, requests the Scientific Council of NAFO in advance of the 1991 Annual Meeting to consider the following stocks occurring in Subarea 1:

- i) Atlantic cod
- ii) Redfish (by species, if possible)
- iii) Any other stock of invertebrates and finfish of commercial interest for which data allow a status report

It is also suggested, subject to the concurrence of Canada, that the following stocks overlapping Subareas 0 and 1 be included in the considerations of the Scientific Council:

- i) Greenland halibut
- ii) Roundnose grenadier
- iii) Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)

Further, in cooperation with ICES, the Scientific Council is requested to analyse the following stock in the Denmark Strait and off East Greenland:

- i) Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)

The Scientific Council is requested to provide advice on the status and on the biological basis for management in 1992 and as many years forward as the data allow for all stocks mentioned above.

2. In the analyses on which management advice will be based, the following should be included:

For Cod in Subarea 1 the catch projections should include the following options:

- a)  $F = F(0.1)$  from 1992 and onwards
- b)  $F = F\text{-max}$  from 1992 and onwards

The TAC for 1991 is 90,000 tons. Taking into account the most recent observations on the stock the Scientific Council should evaluate whether such a catch level for 1991 is realistic and, if not so deemed, base its prognoses on what is considered a realistic range of catches in 1991. Furthermore,

- c) the possibility of maintaining such a catch level over the years 1992-94 should be evaluated, giving corresponding F-values.

The expected development in length distribution of stock and catches (by gear) should be evaluated, in particular with respect to the proportion between size groups 40-55 cm and above 55 cm.

The events which have led to the recent drastic decline in the stock should be analyzed both in terms of uncertainties and variability round basic data and observations as well as in terms of biologically induced events (growth, migration etc.).

The Scientific Council should advise on the appropriateness in 1992 and subsequent years of managing the cod fisheries in Greenland waters by a combined (West and East Greenland) TAC.

For Northern shrimp fisheries in Subarea 0+1

- a) The magnitude and size distribution of shrimp discard and the effect of the actual catch on the stock should be analyzed if data so allow;
- b) the short- and long-term effects on stocks, catch composition, catch rate and discards of an increase in mesh size over the interval from 40 to 60 mm should be analyzed if data so allow;
- c) the implications, if any, on the scientific advice of a change in the quota management year in Subarea 1 from the calendar year to the period 1 September to 31 August should be analyzed;
- d) the by-catch of small finfish (notably redfish and Greenland halibut) in the fisheries for shrimp should be evaluated quantitatively and qualitatively (e.g. length distribution), and the effect of the by-catch on these fish stocks should be analyzed if data so allow.

For Northern shrimp fisheries in Denmark Strait

- a) as a) above;
  - b) as d) above.
3. The Scientific Council should feel free to report on such other invertebrates and finfish stocks in Subarea 1 and on such other scientifically based management options for the above mentioned Subarea 1 stocks, as it feels applicable.