

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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SPECIAL MEETING OF STACRES - FEBRUARY 1978

Canadian request for advice on the scientific basis for management of
stocks of squid (*Illex*) within national fisheries limits

At the request of Canada (Comm. Doc. 77/VI/4) STACRES at the 1977 Annual Meeting of ICNAF provided advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of certain fish stocks occurring within national fishery limits. One of the stocks for which Canada requested advice was squid (*Illex*) in Subareas 3 and 4. STACRES at that time advised a Total Allowable Catch of 25,000 tons of *Illex* from Subareas 3 and 4 in 1978.

In 1977 the fishery for *Illex* in this area has developed very dramatically, and catches have increased from 37,400 tons in 1976 to at least 65,000 tons in 1977. Information collected from observer programs during 1977 has not yet been fully analyzed. In this context, Canada at the Intergovernmental Consultations held in Ottawa on 22 October 1977, indicated that it wished further scientific advice before deciding on 1978 management measures for this fishery.

It is now requested that STACRES meet in February 1978 to further assess the status of squid (*Illex*) in Subareas 3 and 4 and in particular, to review all available information from the 1977 fishery. In so doing, STACRES should re-examine data on the life history and abundance of squid and comment on the following aspects:

1. The identity of unit stocks (including Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6);
2. Abundance trends over time, including current (1977) stock status in relation to stock size observed historically and that to be expected in the long term by fishing at various levels of fishing mortality;
3. Mechanisms and approaches to long-term management of *Illex*; in particular, the relative merits of catch quota control versus regulation of fishing effort, for this species;
4. Specific advice on management alternatives for 1978;
5. Effect of alternative harvesting levels for *Illex* upon fisheries for other species, with particular emphasis on the by-catch problem.

It is noted that at the 22 October Intergovernmental Consultations, the Government of Cuba invited STACRES to convene in Cuba in February 1978 to discuss these matters. Specific locale and dates will be confirmed through the ICNAF Secretariat.

