

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 5170
(A.a.4.)

ICNAF Comm.Doc. 78/VI/3

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1978

Canadian request for advice on the scientific basis for management of certain fisheries within national fisheries limits

At the request of Canada, STACRES at the 1977 meetings of ICNAF provided advice on the scientific basis for management in 1978 of certain fish stocks occurring within Canadian fishery limits. The Canadian Government considers it desirable that STACRES similarly provide advice on the scientific basis for management of certain stocks in 1979. Canada, therefore, requests that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) at its meeting in advance of the 1978 Commission Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for management of the following stocks in 1979:

Cod	Div. 2G and 2H
Cod	Div. 2J and 3KL
Cod	Div. 3N and 3Ø
Redfish	Div. 3L and 3N
Capelin	Div. 3L, 3N, 3Ø, and 3P
Capelin	Subarea 2 and Div. 3K
American plaice	Div. 3L, 3N, and 3Ø
Witch	Div. 2J, 3K, and 3L
Witch	Div. 3N and 3Ø
Yellowtail flounder	Div. 3L, 3N, and 3Ø
Greenland halibut	Subarea 2 and Div. 3KL
Roundnose grenadiers	Subareas 2 and 3
Silver hake	Div. 4V, 4W, and 4X
Argentines	Div. 4V, 4W, and 4X

It is further suggested that, subject to the concurrence of the other coastal state concerned, the Commission provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1979 of the stocks listed below, and that the status of these stocks also be assessed by STACRES and the relevant Subcommittee prior to the 1978 Annual Meeting of the Commission.

Shrimp	Subarea 1, Statistical Area Ø and area north of Ø
Greenland halibut	Subarea 1 and Statistical Area Ø
Roundnose grenadiers	Subarea 1 and Statistical Area Ø

Canada requests STACRES to consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks and for Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) stocks.

For those stocks subject to analytical dynamic-pool type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in terms of their implications to fishable stock size in both the short and long term. In those cases where present spawning stock size is a matter of scientific concern in relation to the continuing productive potential of the stock, management options should be evaluated in relation to spawning stock size. As a general reference point, the implications of fishing at $F_{0.1}$ in 1979 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically, and to those to be expected in the long term by continued fishing at the $F_{0.1}$ level. Management options for arriving at the latter stock size on a shorter time scale should be developed. Opinions of the Subcommittee should be expressed in regard to stock sizes, catch rates, and TACs implied by these management strategies for 1979 and the long term.

For those stocks subject to general production-type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in the way described above to the extent possible. In this case, the general reference point should be the level of fishing effort (ΞF) which is two-thirds that calculated to be required to take the MSY catch in the long term.

For those resources on which only general biological and/or catch data are available, no standard criteria on which to base advice can be established. The evidence on stock status should, however, be

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weighed against a strategy of optimal yield management and maintenance of stock biomass at levels of about two-thirds that of the virgin stock.

In the case of capelin stocks, the Canadian Government is concerned about recent scientific advice which suggests a decline in abundance of the southern capelin stock and, in particular, is concerned that the current TAC level may not protect that spawning stock from over-exploitation. Therefore, Canada requests that STACRES undertake a thorough review of the available scientific information on the status of the capelin resource and, in particular, the effect of recent levels of fishing upon the productivity of capelin and of those species stocks which are dependent on it as a food resource. Unless evidence demonstrates that fishing is not a significant factor in the declining abundance of capelin, TAC options below 500,000 metric tons should be considered. Management options should be reviewed based on these criteria.