

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 5276

ICNAF Com.Doc. 78/VI/12

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1978

Canadian proposal to suspend mesh regulations for
redfish (Sebastes) on Flemish Cap

Current ICNAF Regulations (Comm.Doc. 78/VI/I) provide for a minimum mesh regulation of 130 mm manila or the equivalent for other materials, for redfish as well as other groundfish species, in ICNAF Division 3M. This minimum mesh size was originally instituted as a result of scientific calculations in the 1960's on the benefits in yield to be derived by release of young fish of species such as cod. In more southern areas (3P, 4VWX), redfish were excluded from mesh size regulation because it was recognized that the optimum mesh size for redfish was considerably different from that for other groundfish.

In recent fishing for redfish on Flemish Cap Canadian fishermen have observed that use of the current mesh size results in significant quantities of redfish being brought to the surface and escaping there. This appears to result in heavy mortalities of redfish which are lost at the surface but nonetheless die.

Canada considers that this practice is wasteful of the redfish resource. For this reason Canada requests that STACRES review the effectiveness of the current mesh regulation for redfish in this area. It is proposed that the application of the current mesh regulation to redfish on Flemish Cap be suspended pending the results of such a scientific review.