

Joint Meeting of Comparative Fishing Committee and Herring Committee

Friday, October 6th, 1961

Chairman: Prof. W. Cieglewicz



Terms of Reference

A joint meeting of the Comparative Fishing and Herring Committees was held, to consider the present state of knowledge and the future research requirements relating to problems, raised at the 1961 meeting of the Permanent Commission concerning the Selectivity of Herring. The Permanent Commission had requested information concerning

- (a) the selectivity of herring in herring trawls,
- (b) the problem of meshing of herring,
- (c) the survival of herring escaping from herring trawls.

Proceedings

Three contributions were presented to the meeting, as follows:-

- (1) J.J. Zijlstra "Data on meshing in the herring trawl".
- (2) J. Ancellin "Note sur le 'broquage' du hareng".
- (3) W. Stryzewski "Preliminary note on the herring trawl selectivity experiments carried out in summer 1961".

These contributions, and the discussion which followed indicated that "meshing" occurs in herring trawls, the extent depending on the size composition of the catch, the mesh size of the net, and, apparently, the net material. It was evident that in the North Sea, "meshing" was substantial in cod-ends of trawls with a mesh size greater than 45-50 mm.

Little is known of the survival of fish, which escape from the meshes of herring trawls, although the results of laboratory and tagging experiments indicate that the loss of scales reduces a survival.

It was agreed that further research was needed, both in the laboratory, and at sea concerning both "meshing" and the survival of escaping fish. The following proposals were made concerning future research:-

- (i) tank observations on the survival of fish subject to known extents of "scaling".
- (ii) further experiments at sea to determine the selectivity and "meshing" of herring for different mesh sizes and types of material.

Scotland and the U.S.S.R. undertook to conduct experiments under (i), and Germany, Poland, and the U.S.S.R. under (ii).