



15. October 1968

Minutes of Liaison Committee Meetings held in Copenhagen on 28th
September and 5th October 1968.

The following items were dealt with during the two meetings of the
Committee:

- 1.1 North-east Arctic Fisheries
- 1.2 North-west Arctic Fisheries
- 1.3 North Sea Herring and Atlanto-Scandian Herring
 - 1.3.1 Bloden tagging experiment
 - 1.3.2 Assessment of state of North Sea stocks and
Atlanto-Scandian stock
- 1.4 North Sea Demersal Fish Assessment
- 1.5 Conservation of hake stocks
- 1.6 Extension of list of species in Article 6
- 1.7 Mesh-size of trawls in Norwegian coalfish fishery
- 1.8 Selectivity and related problems
 - 1.8.1 Selectivity Working Group (co-operation with ICNAF)
 - 1.8.2 Publication of selectivity data (co-operation with ICNAF)
 - 1.8.3 Other selectivity items
- 1.9 Other items
- 2 Committee Secretary
- 3 Coopted Members
- 4 Publication of 1968 Report to NEAFC
- 5 Mid-term Meetings of Committee, Coopted Members and
Working Groups
- 6 Other items

1.1 North-east Arctic Fisheries

NEAFC considered at its last meeting further the problems involved in
regulating fishing intensity, and it was agreed that these could best be
studied in context of a concrete situation. The Commission concluded that
the North-east Arctic "would be a suitable area to select for study of
these problems and invited the countries concerned in these fisheries to
meet with a view to working out the details of a scheme to restrict
fishing mortality rates of the component stocks in this area to their
present, combined level, unless otherwise agreed, and to report the
results to the Commission at its next meeting".

It is evident from this resolution that NEAFC has not asked ICES for
advice on this subject. However, when the Commission is going to work
out a scheme to restrict fishing mortality rates of the component
stocks in the area it has to get help from the scientists. If ICES does
not take any action the scientists in the different countries have to
do the work.

There remain according to members of the Arctic Fisheries Working Group still a number of outstanding problems to be considered in order to provide more advice which might be requested by NEAFC in their consideration of fishery regulation in this area. It was recommended by the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee that the North-east Arctic Fisheries Working Group should meet January 13th-17th 1969, in order to complete their assessment of the haddock and redfish stocks in the area, and to consider any new evidens that may be presented relating to the state of cod stocks in this area. The Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee, recommended also that a further study of stock and recruitment in the Arctic cod should be included in the Agenda for the meeting of the North-east Arctic Working Group.

Mr. David Garrod is still the chairman of the Working Group.

1.2 North-west Arctic Fisheries

With reference to the proposal for closure to trawling of and area off the north-east coast of Iceland NEAFC requested ICES to make arrangements to initiate and to co-ordinate further research. A planing group met during the ICES meeting and a research program for 1969 was made. The group will promote the program during the year by correspondence and meet at the next Council meeting to review Progress and to plan the research for 1970. A report has to be finnished for the NEAFC meeting in 1971. ICNAF will be informed of the programme.

1.3.1 Bloden tagging experiments

An administrative group will be set up for manipulating the budjett. Each country which are taking part in the experiments will nominate one member each, and the general secretary will be a member of the group. Beside that group a scientific Working Group was nominated by the Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee with ~~its~~ chairman as convener. This Group have members mainly from the participating countries. The Liaison Committee will only be able to report at the next meeting of NEAFC on the organisation of the work which have to be done, and that the experiment will start 1st August 1969.

1.3.2 Assessment of state of North Sea stocks and Atlanto- Scandian stock

The Commission noted from the last Liaison Committee report the progress made in formulating and carrying out the programme of research to

identify factors effecting the stocks in the North Sea. It urged member countries concerned to help ICES by providing the data it required for its investigations. A number of delegation expressed their concern about the state of both the North Sea and the Atlanto-Scandian herring stocks and the Commission "stressed the urgency attaching to this matter". Two working groups were set up by the Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee, one for the North Sea herring and one for Atlanto-Scandian herring in order to provide information concerning the effect of the fisheries on the state of the North Sea herring and the Atlanto-Scandian herring. North Sea herring Working Group are going to meet 5-6 days in the first half of January 1969, while the Atlanto-Scandian herring Working Group will meet 5-6 days in the second half of April 1969. The chairman of the Committee was elected as chairman for both groups, but the other members should be nominated at a later stage by the interested countries. All member countries of the Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee can send one representative to each of these working groups. A second representative may be permitted in exceptional circumstances by the Convener.

The working groups will primarily consider data from the period 1967-1968 and their aims are:

- 1) Descriptions of recent changes in the fisheries and the exploited stocks.
- 2) Assessments of the impact of the fisheries both for adult and young herring in both areas on the stocks, and on the reproductive potential of the stocks.
- 3) Evaluating the effects of environmental changes on the reproductive efficiency of the stocks and the distribution.

The Liaison Committee will therefore be able to give a broad statement of the North Sea herring stocks to the Commission in 1969, but the Committee will only be able to let the Commission know that a working group is established for Atlanto-Scandian herring. A report can first be given in 1970; but a verbal Communication can be given by the chairman at the meeting of NEAFC.

1.4 North Sea Demersal Fish Assessment

The report of the Working Group was considered by the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee at its last meeting, and its conclusions was endorsed. The Working Group was not asked to meet again, but scientists in member countries were asked to consider further outstanding questions arising from the report with a view to consideration by the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee at its meeting next year. Special attention will be given to subdivision of the cod and plaice stocks.

There is no request from NEAFC, but the Liaison Committee has promised to report on this item in 1969. The report of the North Sea Working Group should be used as basis for the Liaison Committee Report to NEAFC next year.

1.5 Conservation of hake stocks

In view of the extent to which the hake stocks have declined and hence the urgency of the problem, the Liaison Committee have promised NEAFC to examine the available data with a view to making at least rough assessment. A working group was set up by the Demersal Fish (Southern and Northern) Committees. Mr. Dardignac was elected as chairman of the group, and the group is meeting 20th-24th January 1969.

1.6 Extention of list of species in Article 6

The Commission agreed at its last meeting that Polar cod (Boreogadus saida) should be added to the list of species in Recommendation (2). The Commission was also confronted with proposals for the addition of saury (Scombrex saurii) and silver smelts (Argentina silus and Argentina sphyraena) to the list, but it was needed further scientific information before a decision could be taken. ICES was therefore requested by the Commission "to consider the proposed addition of saury (Scombrex saurus) and silver smelts (Argentina silus and Argentina sphyrea) to the list in Recommendation (2) and to advise at the next meeting of the Commission whether the development of fisheries for these species would endanger the stocks of any protected species which may be found in association with them".

The Pelagic Fish (Southern) Committee discussed the effect of putting saury to the list of Article 6 species. However, the Committee could

not express their view of the effect of an eventual fishery for this species on Annex 2 species. Members of the Committee were asked to give all their data on the fishery, biology and structure of the stock of this species to the Liaison Committee. However, some data was given at the meeting of the Pelagic Fish (Southern) Committee; Saury is important as food for tuna, and it is mostly caught by purse-seine and light together with sardins. The distribution and abundance of saury are varying and it is not a regular fishery on it. Most of the catches are used for conserves in Spain and Portugal.

Professor Nicol'sky promised to ask the Atlantic institute in USSR to prepare their data on saury for the Liaison Committee before its February meeting.

It is the Committee's hope that a brief description of the fishery and the general distribution of this species could be given NEAFC next year.

The Demersal Fish (Southern) Committee mentioned in its report that the silver smelts are rare and not abundant in Region III, and they are found together with the hake.

The USSR data on silver smelts was given to the "Symposium on Pelagic Fisheries in Arctic Waters". However, professor Nicol'sky promised to ask the Polar institute if more information could be given. Professor Hempel promised some German data on silver smelts, and Mr. Dardignac promised French data from Region 3. However, the silver smelts is first of all a Region 1 and 2 problem.

All members of the Liaison Committee were asked to send data on saury and silver smelts to the secretary within the 31st December 1968.

The data will be worked up by the coopted members.

1.7 Mesh-size of trawls in Norwegian coalfish fishery

By the North-east Atlantic Fisheries Commission's recommendation at the Third Annual Meeting the minimum mesh-size in trawl nets was increased from 1st January 1967 by 10 mm to 130 mm (120 mm) in Region I, east of the meridian of Greenwich. This recommendation was based on a Norwegian proposal to increase the minimum mesh-size by 10 mm in the 120 mm area east of Greenwich, which at that time corresponded to the area north of 66°N. As the recommendation comprised the whole Region I east of Greenwich the consequence was an increase of the mesh-size from 80 mm to 130 mm (120 mm) between 62° and 66°N off the Norwegian coast.

This extension of the northern mesh size area has raised serious difficulties for a Norwegian trawl-fishery in the affected area.

The Commission took at the Sixth Annual Meeting note of the difficulties created for the Norwegian fishery for saithe in the area by the decision at the Third Meeting to increase the minimum size for trawl nets in Region I. However, ICES was requested by the Commission to examine information to be submitted by the Norwegian delegations together with any relevant information which other delegations may be able to provide and to report to the Seventh Meeting of the Commission on:

- 1) the relationship between the stocks of coalfish within the area of the proposed exemption and those in adjacent area of the north-east Atlantic,
- 2) the relationship between coalfish and other associated species in this area, and
- 3) the effect upon the stocks of coalfish and associated species of exempting the fishery in this area from the provisions of Recommendation 1 (a)(i).

A working group was set up by the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee. Mr. A. Hylen was elected as convener. The group will meet 9th-11th January 1969 and its aims are to examine the requests in the NEAFC resolution.

1.8.1 Selectivity Working Group (co-operation) with ICNAF

No specific requests for further scientific advice on mesh selectivity and related problems were made at the last NEAFC meeting, but the Commission approved the Committee's recommendation regarding the proposal to initiate an analysis of past selectivity data with special reference to their variability. ICNAF decided at the 1968 meeting to form a Working Group on Selectivity Analysis and to invite ICES to participate. Mr. Tresjev was appointed as convener and Mr. Holden as secretary. The invitation was accepted, and the first meeting will be held 26th to 29th March 1969.

1.8.2 Publication of selectivity data (co-operation) with ICNAF

The Commission also approved the Committee's proposal to publish summaries of cod-ond selectivity data with ICNAF. This item will also

be dealt with by the ICES/ICNAF Joint Working Group on Selectivity Analysis. All countries agreed to make available to the working group any data they have on selectivity.

The Liaison Committee will not be able to report to NEAFC on items 1.8.1 and 1.8.2 to the 1969 meeting, but the Committee ^{is in} position to report that a ICES/ICNAF working group is nominated. However, a verbal statement may be given by the chairman at the meeting.

1.8.3 Other selectivity items

The Commission approved the Committee's Recommendation regarding the reporting of data on mesh size and topside chafer in use on a standard form.

1.9 Other items

The Liaison Committee have to report each year on items which was not on the Committee's Agenda, as:

- 1) North Sea dab fishery
- 2) Danish Annex IV whiting fishery

These items will be dealt with by the coopted members. A short note on the Atlantic Salmon and the Symposium on "Factors Influencing Recruitment to Fish Stocks" have to be included in the Liaison Committee's report. It was agreed that all members of the Committee could propose items which should be dealt with in the Liaison Committee report, but the chairman asked the members to be selective, so that the report not get too long.

2. Committee Secretary

The permanent secretary will not be in post at the closure of the Council meeting in 1969. Mr. A. Hylen accepted to serve as secretary up to the time the permanent secretary can be in post, but not longer than up to the next ICES meeting.

3. Coopted members

The Committee ^{was} of the opinion that no new coopted members were needed, and dr. Bohl, Mr. Dardignac, Mr. Garrod and professor Hempel accepted to continue as coopted members.

5. Med-term Meeting of Committee, coopted Members and Working Groups

It was agreed to ask the Council for funds for a meeting of the Liaison Committee in Copenhagen on the 26th, 27th and 28th February 1969 and for a meeting in Copenhagen of the coopted members on the 24th and 25th February 1969.

6. Other items

It was recommended that all Working Group reports should be called draft reports as long as they are not approved by the Committee responsible for the working group. As soon as the reports are on the table of the Liaison Committee, the reports should be distributed to all members of the responsible Committees.

The Liaison Committee reported to NEAFC last year on blue whiting in the southern part of Region II. No request from NEAFC is on our table, but new information should be reported.

The Liaison Committee report to NEAFC in 1968 will be published very soon.

The chairman mentioned before closure of the Liaison Committee meeting on the 5th October that professor Nicolsky and Mr. Lettacounoux are leaving the Liaison Committee after this meeting, and the chairman expressed the Committee members best thanks for the work they had done in this Committee. Professor Von Brandt was also thanked for the work he had done in this Committee during the meetings.

Professor W.Cieglewics, dr. Kurc and Mr. Margetts will take their seats in the Liaison Committee from next year.

Arvid Hylén
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