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Various Items for Consideration by the Committee

by

The Secretary of the Liaison Committee

At its meeting in February 1971 the Liaison Committee agreed that the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee should be asked to consider the following items:-

1. The continued existence of "The Planning Group for Research at Iceland" ?

During the previous years this Group has reported to the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee on progress and planning of research on cod in the Iceland-Greenland Area. In December 1970 the North-Western Working Group met in order to evaluate the data so far collected. (C.Res. 1970/2:5), (Doc. C.M. 1971/F:2).

2. Compiling of separate catch statistics for Polar cod ?

Catches reported to ICES as Various Gadiforms, caught in Sub-area I, Barents Sea, have increased considerably during the last few years, from 5 700 tons in 1968 to 136 000 tons in 1969 and to 236 000 tons in 1970. The main part of these catches are known to be Polar cod.

3. Recommendation on up-to-date information about North-East Arctic Fisheries and Stocks

See Document C.M. 1971/F:3 (page 5).

4. The relevance of reporting to the Liaison Committee Danish Rec. 6 Whiting catches from the Skagerrak and the Kattegat separately

Recommendation 6 of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention reads:-

"Skagerrak and Kattegat

(6) Notwithstanding Recommendations (1) and (4), and until 1st January, 1980, vessels of bhp not exceeding 150 fishing for whiting east of a line drawn from Hanstholm to Lindesnes may use nets having meshes of dimensions smaller than those specified in Recommendation (1), and may land undersized whiting without restriction as to quantity, provided that such landings shall not include fish of the other descriptions specified in Recommendation (4)".

The two recommendations which are referred to in Rec. 6, viz. Rec. 1 and Rec. 4 prescribe minimum mesh sizes and minimum legal size of landed fish, respectively.

According to Rec. 5, catches of undersized fish specified in Rec. 4 may constitute 10% of each total landing in the industrial fisheries.

The fishery mentioned in Rec. 6 is carried out by Denmark only. This country reports each year through the Liaison Committee to NEAFC about the recent development in the fishery. When doing so the total catches from Skagerrak and Kattegat are not split into catches according to Rec. 5 (the 10% rule) and those according to Rec. 6. However, sampling in one Danish port indicate the percentages of samples containing more than 10% of whiting, which are ascribed to Rec. 6.