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OBSERVERS' REPORTS FROM COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS*

* Reports from participation in meetings of governing bodies, or of interorganisational conferences are included here. Other reports are presented to the relevant Committees.

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REPORT ON NEAFC MEETINGS 1976/77

by
the General Secretary

1. The following meetings were arranged by NEAFC between 1 November 1976 and 30 October 1977:

A mid-term meeting in London, 22-25 November 1976, at which ICES was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee, the General Secretary and the Council's Statistician.

The Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC (London, 11-14 January 1977), where the Council was represented by the President.

A Special Conference on the Future of NEAFC (London, 29 March to 4 April 1977), where the Council was represented by the General Secretary.

The 15th Annual Meeting of NEAFC (London, 6-12 July 1977), where the Council was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the General Secretary.

2. At the November mid-term meeting two new members of the Commission, Bulgaria and Cuba, were welcomed. The Liaison Committee presented a report on the up-to-date state of herring stocks in the Commission's area, and management considerations concerning a number of other stocks were also on the meeting's agenda. However, the EEC Observer drew attention to the agreement among the members of the European Economic Community to extend fisheries limits with effect from 1 January 1977, and said that after that date access to these waters would be by bilateral agreements between the Community and third countries. Similar declarations were made by other participants. The Commission took note of this situation, and proceeded to concentrate its discussions on an exchange of views concerning the state of the different stocks in the Convention area, but without passing any recommendation concerning them.
3. The Commission received the report of the First Session of the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC, and was in general satisfied with the work it had done. There was a discussion on some general principles of the new Convention, and it was agreed that the Working Group should meet again in January 1977 to continue its work. The Commission expressed the hope that there would be a close relationship between its successor body and ICES.
4. It was requested that ICES should, irrespective of the new legal framework for management of fish stocks, continue to provide the normal full range of advice in 1977, and it was further agreed to ask ICES to produce a paper on the distribution of the different fish stocks occurring both inside and outside national fisheries jurisdiction. Specifically, it was asked that an attempt should be made to differentiate the herring stock in the North Sea from that in the Skagerrak.
5. The meeting took note of the Council's approach to its Member States concerning the continued freedom of conjoint scientific investigations, and supported it strongly by unanimously passing a corresponding resolution directed to the Member Governments of the Commission.

The meeting also took note of three recent ICES resolutions (C.Res.1976/4:10, 4:17 and 4:30) concerning submission of detailed statistics, including data on discards, and endorsed them.

6. The Second Session of the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC elaborated further the principles to be embodied in the revision of the NEAFC Convention in the light of extended national fisheries jurisdiction and proceeded to produce a draft revised Convention. There were three main issues which had to be left for further discussions. These were the possibilities of membership of the Commission by the Commission of EEC, the financial regulations, and the question if one should aim at a revision of the former NEAFC Convention or if one should conclude an entirely new Convention. It was agreed to strengthen the links with ICES.
7. The Special Conference of the Future of NEAFC considered the report of the January meeting of the Working Group and various aspects were discussed. A sub-group, including the ICES Observer, was set up to consider the financial regulations. An article to the Convention covering these matters was drafted, and it was agreed to recommend that the existing arrangements for the payment of financial contributions to ICES should be retained in the new NEAFC. The Special Conference was unable to proceed further with the other main outstanding matters.
8. At the 15th Annual Meeting the report of the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC was considered further, together with other proposals, and the Meeting produced a consolidated draft new Convention. There are still some outstanding problems, mainly of a political character. The Meeting hoped that these would be solved by negotiations between the parties concerned, and agreed that the draft would be the main subject of discussion at a Special Meeting of the Commission on 1-3 November 1977.

The Article on cooperation with ICES (now Article 10 in the consolidated draft) is almost exactly in the same wording as in the report from the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC

The Liaison Committee presented to this Annual Meeting a Liaison Committee Report in two parts. Part I (139 pages) represents the usual report; Part II (92 pages) gives a Survey of the Biology, Distribution and State of Exploitation of Shared Stocks in the North Sea Area.

ICES was again requested to provide the normal full range of advice on fish stocks and other matters in 1978, and also to provide information on the biology, distribution and state of exploitation of shared stocks in the Convention area, not already covered in Part II of the Liaison Committee's report to the 15th Annual Meeting.

REPORT ON ICNAF MEETINGS 1976/77

by

Sv.Aa. Horsted

1. Since the Council's 64th Statutory Meeting, October 1976, the Following meetings of ICNAF under the chairmanship of Dr. D.Booss, Fed.Rep. of Germany, and/or its Panels have taken place:-
 - i) Meeting of Panel A (Seals), Copenhagen, Denmark, 14 October 1976, preceded by Meeting of Scientific Advisers to Panel A, same place, 11-13 October 1976.
 - ii) The Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Spain, 1-9 December 1976, preceded by meetings of STACRES and its Subcommittee on Assessment, same place, 24 November - 2 December 1976.
 - iii) The Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission, Ottawa, Canada, 31 May-10 June 1977, preceded by meetings of STACRES and its Subcommittees, same place, 24 May-1 June 1977.
2. Besides the meetings of the Commission and/or its Panels the following meetings of Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups were held:-
 - i) The Group of Experts on the Future of ICNAF met in Ottawa, Canada, 5-7 October 1976, under the chairmanship of Dr. A.W.H.Needler (Canada).
 - ii) The Ageing Workshop on Cod was convened by Mr. R.Wells (Canada) at St.John's, Newfoundland, Canada, 31 January-5 February 1977.
 - iii) The Ageing Workshop on Silver Hake was convened by Mr. J.J.Hunt (Canada) at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, 14-18 March 1977.
 - iv) The Subcommittee on Assessment met at the Commission's headquarter, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, 19-27 April 1977.
 - v) The Flemish Cap Working Group under the Environmental Subcommittee of STACRES was convened by Dr. K.G. Konstantinov (USSR) at Murmansk, USSR, 16-19 May 1977.
3. The Council was represented by observer (Mr. Sv.Aa.Horsted) at the Ninth Special Meeting of the Commission.
4. Jurisdiction by coastal states over fisheries to 200 miles offshore has become effective throughout the Convention Area during 1977.
5. The USA withdrew from the Commission by 1 January 1977, thereby reducing the membership in the Commission to seventeen.
6. As a consequence of Items 4 and 5 above the major items for discussion by the Commission has been the future of ICNAF itself and of the future multilateral cooperation in fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean. Whereas discussions of the future of ICNAF has been held within ICNAF itself the future multilateral cooperation in fisheries has been discussed, at the invitation of the Government of Canada, at an international preparatory conference in Ottawa, 14-25 March 1977, and again at a second preparatory conference arranged by Canada in conjunction with the 1977 Annual Meeting of the Commission. A further conference of Plenipotentiaries is planned to take place in October 1977.
7. It seems likely that the future multilateral cooperation in fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean will be organized through a new international organization Arrangements for transition from ICNAF to a new organization has been discussed

and will be discussed further. One step has been for the Commission to adopt amendments to the Convention which provide an interim solution and which recognize the extended national fisheries jurisdiction.

8. In the discussion on the future of ICNAF it has been generally expressed that the scientific cooperation and the statistical registration of the fisheries achieved through ICNAF should be continued. It does, therefore, seem likely that any new organization to substitute ICNAF in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean will have as a major element a scientific and statistical body rather similar to the present Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) of ICNAF, i.e. that the function of the body will be related to the fisheries of the area.
9. Based on advice from STACRES the Commission has agreed to total allowable catches and national allocations for 1978 in respect of three stocks (cod, redfish and American plaice in Div. 3M), which lie completely outside the Canadian 200-mile fisheries zone. At the request of the relevant coastal states STACRES also provided advice on a number of stocks which lie entirely or partly within the extended fisheries zones. With the concurrence of the coastal state, consensus was reached on TAC and on the division of catches among Member Countries for a number of stocks which occur completely within the Canadian 200-mile zone or which overlap the 200-mile zone. STACRES was, however, not able to advice on the shrimp stocks in the northern part of the Convention Area until late in 1977.
10. As was done in the preceding year, STACRES where possible presented its advice on the basis of a management objective whereby options for the total allowable catches were advised at catch levels somewhat lower than those associated with the maximum sustainable yield.
11. In addition to its assessment work and the provision of advice to the Commission on regulatory measures, other aspects of ICNAFs scientific activities, of interest to ICES, include:-
 - a) A recommendation to the effect that the Secretariat circulate guidelines for improved discard statistics, requesting each country to appoint a scientist to investigate and report on the discarding aspect of his/her country's fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic and to assist in the provision of adequate discard statistics.
 - b) Since the recently established ICNAF requirement for countries to report statistics twice monthly by 30x30 minute areas might be a duplication of coastal states requirements for fisheries under the new regime countries are not required to report in such details their 1976 and 1977 data but to complete STATLANT 21 B forms in accordance with past practices.
 - c) STACRES plans a comprehensive review of survey results in relation to abundance indices at its meeting in conjunction with the 1978 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
 - d) STACRES plans a coordinated international research project on the factors determining year-class success for Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) groundfish, with emphasis on cod and redfish. It is suggested that initial investigations should begin in 1978 and that a comprehensive program commence in 1979. The Flemish Cap area, due to its isolation from other fish grounds, seems to offer outstanding possibilities for such a study.
 - e) The Marine Environmental Data Service (MEDS) in Canada assists STACRES in various analyses and is expected to prepare a unified assessment of environmental conditions in the ICNAF Area for 1977 prior to the 1978 Annual Meeting. In order to aid MEDS in its data acquisition and development role a form for providing an inventory of oceanographic station data is adopted for annual reporting by countries.
 - f) The list of standard oceanographic sections and stations in the Northwest Atlantic will be published in one of the ICNAF publication series for

wide distribution.

- g) A further workshop on the ageing of silver hake is planned to be held in the first quarter of 1978.
 - h) STACRES urges that the editors should finalize the Report of the Joint ICES/ICNAF Salmon Tagging Experiment for publication even if not all of the planned contributions are received.
 - i) ICNAF intends to co-sponsor the ICES Symposium on the Biological Basis of Pelagic Fish Stock Management. Canada is expected to nominate a scientist to represent ICNAF on the planning group for the Symposium.
 - j) The Subcommittee on Assessments is expected to meet for about 8 days in April 1978 at the Commission's headquarter (Dartmouth, Canada). STACRES has emphasized that overlapping of this meeting with meetings of ICES working groups or committees should be avoided in so far as possible.
12. Dr. D.Booss, Fed.Rep.of Germany, was elected Chairman of the Commission for 1977/78 and 1978/79 while Mr. S.Ohkuchi, Japan, was elected Vice-Chairman for the same period. Dr. A.W.May, Canada, was elected Chairman of STACRES for 1977/78.
13. The Tenth Special Meeting of the Commission will be held in Ottawa, Canada, in October 1977 in association with the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (see Item 6 above).
14. The 1978 Annual Meeting of the Commission will be held in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, 30 May-6June 1978 and will be preceded by meeting of STACRES.

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERIM HELSINKI COMMISSION

by the Council's Environment Officer

1. The third meeting of the Interim Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area ("The Helsinki Commission") was held in Dipoli, Espoo from 8-10 November 1976. Ambassador P. Gustafsson (Finland) served as Chairman. All Signatory States were represented and there were observers from ECE/UNEP and ICES. The General Secretary and the Environment Officer represented the Council.
2. Only Finland and Sweden have ratified the Convention so far; most of the other Signatory States expect to ratify it in 1977.
3. The session established two working groups, one to examine the draft report of the third meeting of the Scientific Technological Working Group and the ICES reports, and the other to examine the report of the Maritime Working Group. ICES observers took part in the work of the first group.
4. A discussion was held on the Draft Agreement between the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and the Government of Finland on the Office and Privileges and Immunities of the Commission and the draft was accepted. Additionally, the meeting considered the Draft Staff Regulations for the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission and reached agreement on most parts of the draft.
5. The meeting agreed upon a cost sharing arrangement for all Baltic Sea States for expenses in 1977. Additionally, there was agreement that a Scientific Expert should be hired in 1977 for the Secretariat.
6. The General Secretary renewed his offer of assistance to the Commission and, in particular, repeated his previously-made offer that ICES will prepare annual reports to the Helsinki Commission regarding levels of pollutants, inputs, etc. in the Baltic Sea Area. He accepted, if offered, an STWG proposal that ICES prepare a report on methods to assess the condition of the marine environment in the Baltic Sea Area.
7. The session discussed the development of criteria and standards for discharge of noxious substances into the Baltic Sea Area. It decided to establish an ad hoc working group to consider common criteria for discharge purposes, the possibility of establishing water quality criteria, etc.

Sweden offered to arrange a meeting of the ad hoc working group in Sweden in the first half of 1977. The Federal Republic of Germany offered to prepare a literature review of water quality criteria for coastal waters to provide a basis for discussion of the ad hoc working group.

8. The meeting noted with appreciation the offer of ICES to cooperate with the Commission. The meeting took note of the receipt by the Commission from ICES of the Report to the Helsinki Commission, including, additionally, the Report on the Replies to the Questionnaire to determine Sources of Input to the Baltic Sea, the Report of the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the Baltic (Doc. C.M.1976/E:2), and the Report on the Baseline Study of the Level of Contaminating Substances in Living Resources of the Baltic 1974/5 and on the Intercalibration Exercises connected with it (Doc. C.M.1976/E:2.a).

The meeting also made the following decisions:

"In this connection, noting also the recommendation of the third meeting of the STWG, the meeting decided that the IC should:

- approach ICES with a request to review the methods and knowledge available for the assessment of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area ..., and to report to the IC on the progress of its work in the field of sediments in relation to pollution;
- accept the offer of ICES to continue the submission of periodical reports on research and investigations relevant to the goals of the Convention; and, in order to fulfill these tasks, invite ICES to attend in the capacity of an observer the meetings of the IC and its STWG;
- accept the invitations of ICES to attend the statutory meetings of that organisation in the capacity of an observer."

9. The meeting, noting with appreciation the seminar sponsored by Finland at Hanasaari Cultural Centre, Espoo, 18 to 22 October 1976 on recent developments in the technological field with respect to prevention of pollution of the Baltic Sea Area, recommended that the arranging of seminars, experts meetings, etc. related to water protection technology should be encouraged. The meeting decided to request the STWG to draft a programme of seminars, experts meetings, and other appropriate forms of co-operation in the field of water protection technology.

The meeting noted with appreciation that the Delegation of Denmark had expressed willingness to consider the possibilities of arranging in Denmark in 1978 the next seminar dealing with water protection technology.

10. The meeting noted with appreciation that the Federal Republic of Germany will arrange an Intercalibration Workshop on methods for the analysis of selected pollutants and potentially harmful substances in seawater and seston in Kiel from 7 to 19 March 1977. The meeting emphasized the importance that laboratories carrying out chemical analysis of pollutants in Baltic water be represented at the Kiel Workshop to provide widespread intercalibration of methods.
11. The meeting noted with appreciation that Poland will arrange a Meeting of Experts on Monitoring in Szczecin from 17 to 21 October 1977. The Steering Committee, consisting of one representative from each Baltic Sea State, met during the meeting of the Commission to discuss the draft programme of the meeting and the guidelines for collecting information on monitoring activities in the Baltic Sea States for the purpose of the meeting of experts. The Council's Environment Officer attended the meeting of this Steering Committee.

The meeting recommended that each Baltic Sea State prepare information on existing and planned national monitoring activities according to the approved guidelines and send this to the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Governments of the other Baltic Sea States, as well as to the Finnish Baltic Sea Committee by the end of January 1977.

12. The meeting noted with appreciation that the German Democratic Republic had declared its readiness to organise an intercalibration workshop on certain analytical methods related to studies in the Baltic Sea Area, to be held in autumn 1978 at the earliest. Specific proposals for the programme of this workshop will be discussed at the fourth meeting of the STWG.
13. The next meeting of the Helsinki Commission will be held in Helsinki from 15 to 18 November 1977.

REPORT ON THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

by

F. O. Kapel

The 29th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission was held at Noah's Lakeside International Hotel, Canberra, from 20-24 June under the chairmanship of Mr A G Bollen, Australia. The meeting of the Scientific Committee was held at the CSIRO headquarters, Canberra, from 6-19 June under the chairmanship of Dr K R Allen, Australia.

All 17 member nations (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, South Africa, USSR, United Kingdom, and USA) were represented.

Observers were present from non-member nations (Chile, Korea, Peru, Spain, and Sweden); from FAO, ICSEAF, ICES, and from IUCN and several other international conservation organisations.

Catch Limits for the Next Whaling Season

No change was made in the criteria for classification of whale stocks adopted by IWC in 1974 and amended in 1975. In accordance with this procedure, the following classifications and regulations were made for the 1977/78 Antarctic season and the 1978 season in other areas:

1. Protected stock

Blue whales (all stocks); Humpback whales (all stocks); Right whales and Bowheads (all stocks); Grey whales (all stocks); Fin whales (Southern Hemisphere, North Pacific, Nova Scotia, West Norway); Sei whales (Southern Hemisphere Areas II, III, V, and VI, North Pacific, Nova Scotia); Male Sperm whales (Southern Hemisphere Division 9, North Pacific); Female Sperm whales (Southern Hemisphere Divisions 4 and 9); Bottlenose whales (North Atlantic).

The following stocks were classified as Initial Management Stocks with a zero quota pending satisfactory estimates of stock size: Brydes whales, (Southern Hemisphere); Minke whales (Central and Eastern North Pacific).

2. Exploited stocks

All other stocks were classified as Initial Management Stocks (IMS) or Sustained Management Stocks (SMS), and catch limits were set for individual stocks, and for male and female sperm whales separately. The total catch limits for the next season were set as follows for the three main regions (last year's catch limits within brackets):

Southern Hemisphere

Sei whales, Areas I and IV	771	(1 863, Areas I-II, IV-VI)
Minke whales	5 690	{ 8 900 }
Male sperm whales	4 538	{ 3 894 }
Female sperm whales	1 370	{ 897 }

North Pacific Ocean

Brydes whales	524	{ 1 000 }
Minke whales, Western stocks	400	{ 541 }
Male sperm whales	0 ^a)	{ 4 320 }
Female sperm whales	763 ^a)	{ 2 880 }

a) The catch limits for sperm whales in the North Pacific Ocean may be changed pending the recommendations of the Scientific Committee at a Special Meeting to be held in late 1977.

North Atlantic Ocean

Fin whales, Iceland	304	b)	(304)	b)
Fin whales, other stocks	155		(151)	
Sei whales, Iceland	84		(132)	
Minke whales	2 555		(2 483)	
Sperm whales	685		(685)	

Total all Oceans

Fin whales	459	(455)
Sei whales	855	(1 995)
Brydes whales	524	(1 000)
Minke whales	8 645	(11 924)
Male sperm whales	5 223	(8 899)
Female sperm whales	2 133	(3 777)

b) The catch of fin whales from the Iceland stock shall not exceed 1 524 in the period 1977-82, not exceeding 304 in any one season.

Infractions, and International Observers Scheme

It was noted with satisfaction that the number of infractions as percentage of total catches had decreased as compared with previous years.

It was suggested that the International Observer Scheme be expanded to cover also whaling in Japanese coastal waters (minke), Greenland (minke), Brazil (minke, sei, sperm), and Alaska (bowheads).

Catches by Non-Member Nations

Several resolutions were passed asking the governments of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Portugal to provide information on catches, effort, and biological data from their whaling activities. The Observer from Spain pledged cooperation in the provision of data from past catches.

It was further resolved that all member nations should take steps to prevent the import into their countries of whale products from non-member nations, and to prevent transfer of whaling equipment, and to discourage the dissemination of personnel, expertise and assistance to whaling operations carried out by non-member nations.

The Commission renewed its invitation to all non-member whaling nations to join the Commission.

Human Killing of Whales

In view of the disappointing reaction on last year's request, the Commission again strongly recommended that member nations should provide information on humane killing experiments and practices carried out within their countries.

Review of Scientific Permits

It was decided that the Scientific Committee shall review the scientific permits and the scientific programmes for which contracting governments plan to issue scientific permits.

Reporting requirements for Small-Type Whaling, etc.

The Commission reviewed its decision last year that data on catch and fishing effort similar to those collected for factory ships, catcher boats and land stations should also be reported for small-type whaling operations, and passed a resolution to the effect that where possible similar records should also be collected for the deliberate, direct capture of small cetaceans, and for the incidental capture of small cetaceans in other fisheries.

Requirements for Collection of Biological Data

The Commission decided that where possible biological material for age determination (ear plugs or teeth) and for analyses of reproductive parameters (ovaries and testes) should be collected for each whale processed at factory ships, land stations, or in small-type whaling operations.

International Decade of Cetacean Research

The Scientific Committee had prepared a revised list of priority projects at an estimated cost of US Dollars 525 000. From the IWC Research Fund support was requested for the provision of computing facilities at the next annual meeting, and for whale marking equipment (US Dollars 32 200).

The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that the Secretary be empowered to discuss with IUCN the submission of these programmes for possible funding and to take appropriate action with national groups.

Cooperation with Other Organisations

The Commission received reports from a number of international meetings at which it has been invited to be represented in an observer capacity. The Scientific Committee agreed to give further consideration to the report of the FAO/ACMRR Working Party on Marine Mammals at its next annual meeting.

The Scientific Committee commented on the relation of the IWC classification of whale stocks to the classification under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Reports of Special Meetings

The Scientific Committee received the report of the Special Meeting on Southern Hemisphere Sei Whales held in Tokyo from 20-27 April 1977, and considered its results and recommendations during the annual meeting.

Future Meetings and Need for Special Studies

An international Workshop on Historical Whaling Records will be held in Boston from 12-16 September 1977, funded jointly by US Marine Mammal Commission, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and IWC.

It was decided that the Scientific Committee shall meet at a Special Meeting on North Pacific Sperm Whales in November 1977 (or at the latest January 1978) to review the interim quotas set for this stock. Unless the Scientific Committee recommends the same quotas, a Special Meeting of the Commission will follow soon after.

It was suggested that a Preparatory Conference on the Revision of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling be held early in 1978.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Scientific Committee should be held early in April 1978 to examine all existing data for minke whales. The Committee suggested that it may be possible to hold the planned Workshop on Odontocete Age Determination (in La Jolla, California) at a time convenient in respect to the minke whale meeting.

Next Annual Meeting of the Commission

The 30th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission will be held at Mount Royal Hotel, London, in the week beginning 26 June 1978. The Scientific Committee will meet in Cambridge two weeks in advance.

REPORT ON THE FAO/OIE* GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL OF THE SPREAD OF MAJOR COMMUNICABLE FISH
DISEASES, held in Paris, 25 - 28 January 1977

by
K Tiews

The second Government Consultation on an International Convention for the Control of the Spread of Major Communicable Fish Diseases was convened jointly by FAO and OIE at OIE-headquarters, Paris, France, from 25-28 January 1977 at the joint invitation of the Director General of FAO and the Director General of OIE.

A first consultation was organised in conjunction was the 8th Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) at Aviemore, Scotland, in April-May 1974 to discuss a draft text prepared by the FAO Secretariat.

The second consultation was attended by representatives from the following 25 countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, by the European Community and by observers from the European Federation of Salmonid Breeders and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

The consultation unanimously elected two Co-Chairmen and two Co-Vice-Chairmen representing Member Governments of the two sponsoring Organizations, FAO and OIE. The two Co-Chairmen elected were Professor K Tiews (Federal Republic of Germany), Chairman of EIFAC, and Professor P Ghittino (Italy), Chairman of the OIE Permanent Commission for the Study of Fish Diseases. The two Co-Vice-Chairmen elected were Professor T Backiel (Poland) and Professor N Fijan (Yugoslavia).

The consultation first reviewed generally the comments of Governments and interested Organisations on the draft convention and then considered a "Revised Draft Convention for the Control of the Spread of Major Communicable Fish Diseases, incorporating original text, explanatory notes and new text, prepared by the FAO Secretariat after consultation with OIE". After discussing the new text article by article, the revised text was approved by the consultation subject to the comments, reservations and possible alternatives contained in the notes to some of the revised Articles.

The technical annexes to the Convention which shall cover species of edible cultivated Salmonidae and species of edible cultivated Cyprinidae were considered at a preliminary meeting of experts held on 22, 24 and 25 January 1977 and in a Plenary Session during the Consultation in the morning of 27 January 1977. The principles behind these annexes were approved by the consultation. It was agreed that the annexes as they now stand will be distributed for further study to the participants and their Governments with the report of the consultation and the revised text of the Draft Convention.

At the opening of the consultation a representative of the Director General of FAO, Mr J E Carroz, Principal Legal Officer (International Fisheries) stated that the role of FAO should consist primarily of promotional and preparatory work and should not extend to the performance of secretariat functions. Various alternatives were examined, including the establishment of an independent secretariat and the designation of another international organisation to perform secretariat functions. The consultation stressed the need to avoid duplication of functions and keep expenses to the minimum. The large majority of the delegations expressed their preference for designating OIE as responsible for the performance of secretariat functions under the Convention. Some delegations, however, expressed their preference for the establishment of an independent secretariat.

* OIE: Office International d'Epizootie

The Director General of OIE confirmed that his Organisation could provide at its headquarters the necessary facilities for the secretariat (offices, equipment, mailing costs, printing, the holding of meetings). Expenses of personnel and travel should be covered by special contributions of Contracting Countries.

The Consultation felt that FAO should be requested to undertake depository functions under the proposed Convention as envisaged in earlier drafts. It was noted, however, that certain amendments or arrangements might be necessary to ensure that the depository could fully perform the functions expected of it under the Convention.

The Consultation adopted the following resolutions:

"The FAO/OIE Government Consultation,

being cognizant that:

- (1) The growth of freshwater and marine aquaculture on a world-wide scale is creating increased traffic in live fish and fish eggs, which is likely to result in an increased spread of communicable fish diseases if known scientific methods are not applied to the control of these diseases.
- (2) The FAO Consultation held in Aviemore, Scotland, in 1974 and this Consultation have demonstrated the merits of international cooperation by creating an increased awareness of fish health problems, an improved understanding of ways to control and prevent fish diseases, and a greater commitment to prevent these diseases.

Therefore, the Consultation recommends, that:

- (1) Delegations should consult with their Governments with a view to obtaining an invitation from an interested Government to convene and host a Conference of Plenipotentiaries.
- (2) The sponsoring Organisations OIE and FAO be invited to contribute to the preparatory work of such a Conference and in particular to the preparation of Conference documents."

In view of the delays that might be anticipated in the convening of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, the Consultation turned to the question of possible interim measures that could be envisaged and adopted the following additional recommendation on this question:

"The Consultation:

conscious of the urgency of adopting measures to prevent the spread of communicable fish diseases,

being aware of the possible delay in the convening of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries and the adoption of a Convention,

taking into account the work done so far by the countries concerned, FAO/EIFAC and OIE,

Recommends

- (a) that the substance of the Convention and in particular the health certificates and the standard procedures of certification as worked out by the Consultation and amended by the subsequent working groups (envisaged by the Consultation) be adopted as an appropriate part of the OIE International Zoo-sanitary Code as soon as possible, and
- (b) that the countries represented at this Consultation act with utmost expediency to implement the so amended OIE International Zoo-sanitary Code into control of the international traffic of live fish and fish eggs.