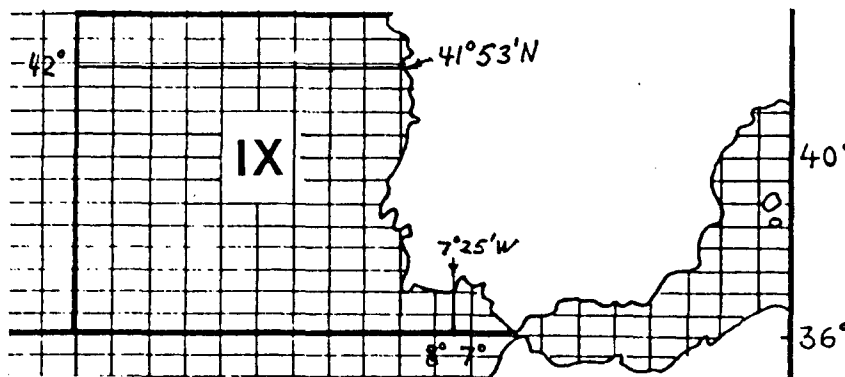


SPLITTING OF ICES STATISTICAL SUBAREA IX

At the last Annual Meeting of NEAFC, the Portuguese delegation presented the attached document, which was subsequently referred to ICES for such action as might be appropriate.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding the request made to NEAFC by the Liaison Committee of ICES in November 1976, no charts showing boundaries of zones of exclusive fisheries jurisdiction of NEAFC Member States had yet been received by the ICES Secretariat. Thus, it is impossible to indicate at the present time what ICES statistical rectangles adopted by C.Res.1974/4:8 (and as shown on ICES Chart, No.2, Doc. C.M.1977/Gen:3, for the area in question - see below) the boundaries between the Spanish and Portuguese zones of exclusive fisheries jurisdiction should correspond to.

However, the coordinates of the rivers mentioned in the Portuguese proposal are, approximately, at  $41^{\circ}53'N$  for the northern boundary of a Division in the middle and at  $7^{\circ}25'W$  for the southern boundary. While the former lies close to the boundary line between statistical rectangles 12 and 13 (by latitude), i.e.  $42^{\circ}N$ , the latter separates statistical rectangle E2 approximately by half. So, should it be considered feasible to comply with the Portuguese proposal, the northern interboundary should follow  $42^{\circ}N$  latitude and the southern interboundary might be drawn along either  $8^{\circ}W$  or  $7^{\circ}W$  longitude.



Formulation of request to ICES for scientific advice

Proposal by the Portuguese Delegation

As a consequence of the new regime of the oceans and the extent, by some member countries of NEAFC, including Portugal, of the fisheries jurisdiction areas, it can happen, as already stated in the report of the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC, that some stocks be shared between the areas of two or more Coastal States.

Under these circumstances, some management difficulties can occur if member countries do not report to ICES the catches made on a more detailed form as far as areas of fishing are concerned.

The Portuguese delegation is of the opinion that while being important to retain the present ICES fishing areas, on the other hand it is necessary that NEAFC envisage with ICES to establish, at the earliest date and where appropriate, subdivisions of these areas, for which the lines of separation be, at least approximately, the limits of jurisdictional waters adjacent to the borders of contiguous States. This would enable NEAFC and consequently its member countries the access to fisheries statistics prepared in such a manner to fulfil the national needs and facilitate the joint management of stocks.

So, the Portuguese delegation proposes, in this context, that the ICES Fishing Area IX be, in the near future, split into three sub-areas, the limits of that in the middle being a parallel through the mouth of the river Minho, in the north, and a meridian through the mouth of the river Guadiana, in the south.

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London

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