

REPORT OF THE
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

23 - 25 May 1984

and

18 July 1984.

Edinburgh

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION POUR LA CONSERVATION DU SAUMON DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION
COMMISSION DU GROENLAND OCCIDENTAL

CHAIRMAN (ACTING):	MR EARLE McCURDY
CHAIRMAN (ELECTED AT 18 JULY MEETING)	MR E JOHN SPENCER
RAPPORTEUR (FOR 23-25 MAY MEETING)	MS M DORAN
RAPPORTEUR (FOR 18 JULY MEETING)	MS A MECKMANN
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TEXT OF EMERGENCY REGULATORY MEASURE

WGC (84)40
REPORT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION
OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
EDINBURGH 23-25 MAY AND 18 JULY 1984

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 The meeting was opened on 23 May 1984. The first session took place from the 23 May to 25 May 1984. In view of the resignation of the previous Chairman, Mr Andreasen, prior to that meeting, and in accordance with Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure, the Vice-Chairman, Mr McCurdy, acted as Chairman.
- 1.2 The meeting was reconvened on 18 July 1984 (second session), under the Chairmanship of Mr McCurdy, Vice-Chairman.
- 1.3 The list of participants is given in Annex 1.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 2.1 The Commission adopted the agenda after making two additions to the draft agenda:

Item 4: Consideration of the draft report of the inaugural meeting.

Item 7: Election of Chairman.

The agenda is contained in WGC (84)10, (Annex 2).

3. NOMINATION OF A RAPPORTEUR

- 3.1 The Commission nominated Ms M Doran (EEC) rapporteur for the 23-25 May session of the meeting.
- 3.2 The Commission nominated Ms A Meckmann (EEC) rapporteur for the 18 July session of the meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING

- 4.1 The Commission adopted the report of the inaugural meeting (NASCO - WGC I/5 (Revised)), (Annex 3).

5. ACFM REPORT FROM ICES ON SALMON STOCKS

5.1 The ICES observer, Chairman of the ACFM, Mr D Griffith, presented the scientific advice from ICES (Annex 13 to the report of the first annual meeting of the Council of NASCO). This report was prepared in response to a request from the Commission, the terms of which were drawn up at the inaugural meeting in January 1984. In response to questions from delegates, Mr Griffith clarified many aspects of the report. He mentioned several possible reasons for the low West Greenland salmon catch in 1983, but agreed that at present the only reason for which empirical conclusive evidence existed was that of low stock abundance in several Canadian and European river systems for which there could be many causes. The Commission took note of the scientific advice presented by ICES.

6. RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

6.1 The delegate of Canada proposed, as recommended by the Chairman of the ACFM, that:

In order to improve the data base currently available for the West Greenland fishery, the Commission recommends that the following actions be taken by the relevant contracting parties of NASCO:

- (a) An attempt should be made to collect catch per unit effort data in the West Greenland fishery.
- (b) The annual commercial landings sampling program at West Greenland should be expanded to include a sampling location in southern Greenland so that the commercial landings can be more uniformly sampled.
- (c) The database for discrimination analysis used to identify continent of origin of salmon caught at Greenland should be tested every two years beginning in 1985. The test database should also be expanded to include scales from salmon from additional stocks known to contribute to the West Greenland fishery.
- (d) Discrimination should be attempted of country of origin of salmon in commercial catches.

The Commission adopted this proposal.

.../...

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 7.1 The EEC proposed Mr John Spencer be elected as Chairman of the Commission. The Canadian delegate seconded this proposal and the proposal was unanimously adopted.
- 7.2 The Acting Chairman confirmed that under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure the Chairman would take office at the conclusion of the meeting.

8. REGULATORY MEASURES

- 8.1 At the 23-25 May session, the delegate for Canada made a proposal as follows:

'The total allowable catch of salmon in the West Greenland Commission area for 1984 shall be 310 metric tons. The fishing season shall not commence before August 10 1984.'

This proposal was supported by the USA and Canada but opposed by the EEC. Accordingly, the proposal was rejected under Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Canadian delegate requested that the 'Statement on requirements for regulatory measures at West Greenland' by L S Parsons, be appended hereto in WGC (84)11, (Annex 4).

- 8.2 At the 18 July session the Commission studied several compromise suggestions tabled by its members. Following the compromise put forward by the US delegation on the level of the TAC, the Commission finally decided by a unanimous vote to adopt the proposal in WGC (84)12, (Annex 5), for an emergency regulatory measure. In adopting this proposal the Commission recognised:

- (a) Stringent Canadian regulatory measures restricting its 1984 commercial and recreational salmon fisheries as described in Annex 6;
- (b) The statement by the Canadian delegation under Article 15 of the Convention that the Canadian authorities intend that a similar conservation program will also be in place in 1985;
- (c) Statements by the Canadian, EEC and United States delegates that the burdens and benefits of salmon conservation measures should be fairly shared by the Members of the Commission.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 There was no other business.

10. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 No decision was taken, it being presumed that the next meeting of the Commission would coincide with the second annual meeting of the Council.

11. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING

11.1 The Commission agreed that the draft report would be circulated to the Acting Chairman and the Heads of Delegations by mail.

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION
MEETING HELD 23-25 MAY 1984 AT GEORGE HOTEL, EDINBURGH

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

* MR L S PARSONS	<u>Representative</u> Atlantic Fisheries Service, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
DR G A NADEAU	<u>Representative</u> Faculté des Sciences de l'Éducation, Université Laval, Quebec
MR E McCURDY	<u>Representative</u> Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers' Union, St John's
DR W M CARTER	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St Andrews
MR B APPLEBAUM	International Directorate, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
MR R STEIN	International Directorate, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
MS D PETHICK	International Directorate, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
DR W G DOUBLEDAY	Fisheries Research Directorate, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
MR D MEERBURG	Resource Research Directorate, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa
MR R STEWART	Restigouche Salmon-Net Fisherman Association, Restigouche
MS E FELDMAN	Dept of External Affairs, Ottawa
MS S SAUMIER-FINCH	Dept of External Affairs, Ottawa
MR Y COTÉ	Dept of Recreation, Fish and Game, Quebec
MR F PINHORN	Newfoundland Dept of Fisheries, St John's
MR B MUISE	Nova Scotia Dept of Fisheries, Musquodoboit Harbour

EEC

* MR J PEARSON	<u>Representative</u> Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC Commission, Brussels
MR J SPENCER	<u>Representative</u> Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC Commission, Brussels
MS M DORAN	<u>Representative</u> Directorate-General for External Relations, EEC Commission, Brussels
MS E TWOMEY	Dept of Fisheries, Dublin
DR R G J SHELTON	Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Edinburgh
MR J MOELLER-JENSEN	Ministry of Greenland, Copenhagen
DR D J SOLOMON	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Lowestoft
MR A BORDES	Ministère de la Mer, Paris
MR J MCGHEE	Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Edinburgh
MR R WILLIAMSON	Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Edinburgh
MS S J NASON	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London
MS A M HENRI	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London
Mr E HUTCHINSON	Dept of Foreign Affairs, Dublin
MR F ERSKOV	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen
MR E LEMCHE	Greenland Home Rule, Copenhagen
MR P J ELIASSEN	Ministry of Fisheries, Copenhagen
MR A WORM	Ministry of Greenland, Copenhagen
MS M SIMS	General Secretariat, Council of the European Communities, Brussels
Mr G R ZBYSZEWSKI	General Secretariat, Council of the European Communities, Brussels

USA

* MR A E PETERSON JR	<u>Representative</u> National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Mass
MR R A BUCK	<u>Representative</u> Restoration of Atlantic Salmon in America Inc, Dublin, New Hampshire
DR F E CARLTON	<u>Representative</u> National Coalition for Marine Resource Conservation, Savannah, Georgia
DR V C ANTHONY	National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Mass
MR B J KEFAUVER	Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs Dept of State, Washington, D C
MR J H KUTKUHN	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept of the Interior, Washington, D C
MR D REIFSNYDER	Office of Oceans and Fisheries Affairs, Dept of State, Washington D C
MR N A SINGER	Consul General, Edinburgh
MR S APOLLONIO	New England Fishery Management Council, Saugus, Mass
MR G MANUEL	Atlantic Sea-Run Salmon Commission, Augusta, Maine
Mr T LILLESTOLEN	Office of International Fisheries, Washington, D C
MR A W NEILL	National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Mass
MR A V STOUT	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Hanover, New Hampshire

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION

MEETING HELD 18 JULY 1984 AT CALEDONIAN HOTEL, EDINBURGH

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

* MR L S PARSONS Representative
Atlantic Fisheries Service, Dept
of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa

MR E McCURDY Acting Chairman of Commission
Newfoundland Fisherman, Food and
Allied Workers' Union, St John's

DR G A NADEAU Representative
Faculté des Sciences de l'Éducation,
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DR W M CARTER Representative
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MR R STEIN International Directorate, Dept of
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DR W G DOUBLEDAY Fisheries Research Directorate,
Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa

MR D MEERBURG Resource Research Directorate, Dept
of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa

MR R L ABLETT Dept of External Affairs, Ottawa

EEC

* MR J PEARSON Representative
Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC
Commission, Brussels

MR J SPENCER Representative
Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC
Commission, Brussels

MS A MECKMANN Representative
Council of the European Communities,
Brussels

EEC

MR S E McDONALD Irish Permanent Representative,
Brussels

MR B WIGOTSKI Danish Permanent Representative,
Brussels

MS S J NASON Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food, London

MR J McGHEE Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries
for Scotland, Edinburgh

MR R WILLIAMSON Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries
for Scotland, Edinburgh

USA

* MR A E PETERSON JR Representative
National Marine Fisheries Service,
Woods Hole, Mass

MR R A BUCK Representative
Restoration of Atlantic Salmon in
America Inc, Dublin, New Hampshire

DR F E CARLTON Representative
National Coalition for Marine Resource
Conservation, Savannah, Georgia

MR D A REIFSNYDER Office of Oceans and Fisheries
Affairs, Dept of State, Washington, D C

MR J H KUTKUHN US Fish and Wildlife Service, Dept
of the Interior, Washington, D C

MR T LILLESTOLEN Office of International Fisheries,
Washington, D C

OBSERVERS

NORWAY MR K E SAGEN, Norwegian Consul, Edinburgh

SECRETARIAT

DR M L WINDSOR Secretary

MS K M MILLER Temporary Personal Assistant to
Secretary

MS A SANDS Temporary Assistant

WGC (84)10

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION
23-25 MAY 1984, GEORGE HOTEL, EDINBURGH
18 JULY 1984, CALEDONIAN HOTEL, EDINBURGH

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Nomination of rapporteur
4. Consideration of the draft report of the inaugural meeting
5. ACFM Report from ICES on salmon stocks
6. Recommendation to the Council on scientific research
7. Election of chairman
8. Regulatory measures
9. Other business
10. Date and place of the next meeting
11. Consideration of draft report of the meeting

Edinburgh, July 1984

ANNEX 3

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION

NASCO - WGC I/5 (Revised)
DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION OF NASCO

DRAFT REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION OF NASCO
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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened on 18 January 1984 under the chairmanship of Mr. BORDES, representing the depositary, the Council of the European Communities.

2. Adoption of Rules of Procedure

The Commission adopted its Rules of Procedure which had been prepared during the three preparatory meetings (doc. WGC I/2) (Annex_I)

3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

The Commission elected Mr. L.E. ANDREASEN (EEC) Chairman and Mr. E. McCURDY (Canada) Vice-Chairman.

From then on, the Chairman presided over the meeting.

4. Adoption of agenda

The Commission amended the draft agenda submitted by the EEC delegation (doc. WGC I/1) by inserting the following items :

- Nomination of a rapporteur, and
- Date and place of next meeting

and then adopted the agenda (doc. WGC I/3) (Annex_II)

At this occasion the Commission interpreted the item "Recommendations to Council on scientific research" as embracing also "Recommendations to Council on scientific advice from ICES".

5. The Commission nominated Mr. R. STEIN (Canada) rapporteur for this meeting.

6. Regulatory measures

The Commission agreed that the subject of regulatory measures should be discussed at its next meeting after having received and examined the scientific advice from ICES.

7. Recommendations to Council on scientific research

A document dated 18 January 1984 entitled "Draft request by NASCO - West Greenland Commission - for scientific advice from ICES" prepared jointly by representatives of the three members, was considered by the Commission and it was agreed to submit it to the Council for transmission to ICES (Annex III).

The representative from Canada, for purposes of clarification emphasized the distinction between items 3 and 4 of the Request in terms of the mandate of the Commission to make regulatory measures. He added that item 4 is of particular relevance in light of the drastic measures Canada will be taking in 1984 with respect to its home water salmon fishery bearing in mind the need for equivalent measures in other areas.

The representative from the EEC responded that in his view item 4 is of no less importance than item 1 to 3 and is justified by paragraphs (b) and (c) of Article 9 of the Convention.

The representative from Canada pointed out that it was not his intention to imply that item 4 was of a lesser importance or that there was any question regarding its justification under the Convention.

The Commission did not discuss at this meeting the document entitled "Draft Proposal for a Statement by the NASCO Council on Research Priorities".

8. Date and place of the meeting

The Commission agreed that its next meeting should be held at the same time and place as the next meeting of the Council.

9. Other business

None.

10. Consideration of draft Report of meeting

The Commission agreed that a copy of the Report of this meeting will be given to the heads of delegation for their consideration and will be given formal approval at the next meeting of the Commission.

Edinburgh, July 1984

ANNEX 4

**NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION**

WGC (84)11

**STATEMENT ON REQUIREMENTS
FOR REGULATORY MEASURES AT
WEST GREENLAND**

Statement on Requirements
for Regulatory Measures at
West Greenland by L. S. Parsons

I do not wish to repeat at length the remarks of Dr. May at the Inaugural Meeting in January. However, I believe it is important to note that the Canadian delegation looks forward with considerable interest to the outcome of the deliberations of the West Greenland Commission at this, its first substantive meeting. NASCO faces a major challenge, namely that of promoting and facilitating the conservation of the Atlantic salmon resource at a time when the resource is in desperate need of bold new measures to arrest the recent alarming decline in stock abundance. Article 3, paragraph 2, of the Convention states the objective of NASCO shall be "to contribute through consultation and cooperation to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks, taking into account the best scientific evidence available to it".

We have just heard the report from ACFM. While that report is not as precisely quantified as the Commission might desire to facilitate its works because of data limitations, nonetheless it calls attention to a serious conservation problem involving salmon stocks both in the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic, stocks which intermingle and are fished in an interception fishery at West Greenland.

The scientific advice we have just received from ICES is alarming. We in Canada are not surprised because it confirms advice we received late last year from our own Canadian scientific advisory body (CAFSAC), advice which indicated that stocks in many of our Canadian Atlantic rivers are at a low level of abundance.

Since the January Inaugural meeting of NASCO the Canadian government has had to take some very difficult resource management decisions, decisions which involve considerable sacrifice on the part of the various user groups throughout the five eastern provinces of Canada.

Approximately a month ago, the Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans announced a multi faceted Salmon Management Plan aimed at conserving and restoring Canadian Atlantic salmon stocks, stocks which are also fished within the area of mandate of this Commission, and these measures involve the closure of commercial fisheries in certain areas (the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec) and considerable shortening of, and delays in, commercial salmon seasons throughout the Atlantic. Our scientists have estimated that these regulatory measures will reduce commercial catches in 1984 by 60 - 80% in the Maritime Provinces and by as much as 60 - 70% in certain key fishing areas of Newfoundland. In addition, throughout Atlantic Canada anglers are now prohibited from retaining any large salmon they might hook and are strictly limited as to the number of grilse they may retain.

All of these measures are painful and, in fact, will have immediate and significant economic impact upon commercial fishermen who earn a significant portion of their livelihood from the salmon fishery and also those who depend upon the recreational fishery for a livelihood.

But this Canadian Salmon Management cannot achieve its objectives unless complementary measures are taken to reduce the harvest of Canadian-origin salmon at West Greenland. Given these draconian measures which the Canadian government has been compelled to adopt in the interests of conservation, the Canadian delegation has no alternative in light of the ICES advice, but to request the West Greenland Commission to take steps to reduce substantially the harvest of Canadian origin salmon at West Greenland. The scientific evidence indicates that several of the major stocks which contribute most to the West Greenland fishery are in serious difficulty. Maintenance of the same levels of quota under these circumstances could result in substantially higher exploitation rates (ie harvesting greater proportions) of declining stocks. This is likely to exacerbate an already alarming conservation problem. In our view it is, therefore, imperative that the Commission adopt substantive measures which would result in lower exploitation rates in an attempt to restore these stocks.

The 1190 tonne quota in place at West Greenland for the last decade or so was first established under the old ICNAF regime. It was extended with slight modifications by an agreement between Canada and the EEC and relied upon the entry into force of the Atlantic Salmon Convention. In light of the current low abundance of the major contributing stocks as confirmed in the ICES Report, maintenance of that quota in 1984 is clearly unjustifiable.

I need not remind members of this Commission of the LOS principle that countries in whose rivers salmon originate should have "the primary interest in and responsibility for such stocks" and that most states having an obligation to cooperate with the state of origin to conserve these stocks. The responsibility for resource conservation must be shared by all users of the resource. The conservation of Atlantic salmon has now become a formidable challenge. The outcome of these deliberations will indicate whether NASCO is able to fulfill the vision of its originators and meet that challenge.

The Canadian delegation feels strongly that the quota at West Greenland should be substantially lowered this year to allow larger numbers of multi-sea-winter salmon to return to home waters to spawn in 1985. Indeed, what would probably be most appropriate is a moratorium on all salmon captures at West Greenland until such time as the stocks recover. In January, Canada called for a substantial reduction of the salmon catch at West Greenland "perhaps to a subsistence fishery only". This, coupled with the restorative measures which we have already taken in Canada for 1984, might be the only certain way of bringing about stock restoration.

Notwithstanding the fact that on biological grounds, a strong case can be made for a moratorium, we in the Canadian delegation recognize the serious economic hardships that would be faced by West Greenland fishermen if such a measure were implemented. There are many coastal fishing communities where the salmon harvest contributes in a major way to the livelihood of fishermen, areas where the social and economic impact of such a moratorium would be severe indeed. There is also in this area a subsistence fishery for salmon, the extent of which has never been adequately identified.

On the other hand, unless there is an immediate substantial reduction in the quota at West Greenland to complement the draconian measures already taken in Canadian waters, the long term consequences will likely be greater hardship for Greenlandic Canadian and European fishermen, as the salmon resource continues to decline to a lower level of abundance from which it may not readily recover.

Taking into account all these factors, we would propose for the consideration of the Commission that the Total Allowable Catch of salmon at West Greenland in 1984 be limited to the catch which was taken in 1983 (310 tonnes). Anything more would represent an excessive level of exploitation on stocks which are already at a low level of abundance. We urge the Commission to give this proposal serious and careful consideration.

Edinburgh, July 1984

ANNEX 5

WGC (84)12

PROPOSAL FOR AN EMERGENCY REGULATORY MEASURE FOR
FISHING OF SALMON IN THE WEST GREENLAND FISHERY

Noting with concern the indications from the scientific
advice that the salmon stocks in its area are depleted;

Recognising the necessity of implementing urgent measures
to conserve these stocks;

Noting the considerations developed in paragraph 8.2 of the
report of the meeting of the Commission held on 18 July
1984 ;

PROPOSES the following emergency regulatory measure in
accordance with Articles 8 (b) and 13 (5) of the Convention:

that the TAC for the West Greenland fishery be set at 870
metric tonnes for the 1984 season.

**NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION**

ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR CANADA 1984

1984 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN: MAJOR ELEMENTS

Atlantic Salmon Management Measures for Canada 1984

A. Introduction

The 1984 Atlantic Salmon Management plan was announced by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in the spring of this year. Additional measures including closures of the commercial salmon fisheries in the Miramichi and St. John Rivers were announced in subsequent months. The amended plan is attached. The plan contains many elements designed to increase the spawning escapement of Atlantic salmon stocks, particularly the multi-sea-winter (MSW) component of these stocks. These include reduced seasons and closures for the commercial fisheries, grilse-only harvests in most recreational fisheries, both mandatory and voluntary licence buyback programs in many zones, prohibition of new entry into the commercial fishery, strict controls on the transfers of licenses, more stringent bag limits in the recreational fishery and the prohibition of retention of salmon caught by non-salmon commercial gear. The aim of this paper is to calculate the impact of this plan on catches and escapement of MSW salmon. Although all of the measures will tend to increase the escapement of MSW salmon, the calculations only take into account seasonal changes in the commercial fishery and the new angling policy of grilse-only harvests. Although the other measures will also allow an increased escapement, and in some cases, their contribution may be substantial, they are more difficult to quantify. The impact of the new measures is calculated by examining what would have happened if this plan had been in effect over the past six years.

B. Angling Fisheries

In the angling fisheries, a regulation forbidding possession of large salmon is now in effect on the island of Newfoundland, and in the provinces of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. In addition, reductions in seasonal bag limits were introduced in Nova Scotia and, in Québec, a seasonal limit of seven has been placed on the fishery (there was no previous limit) and the daily bag limit is reduced to one in many areas (previously two or more). It is assumed that the average weight of MSW salmon caught in previous years in those areas of grilse-only harvests will escape the fishery under the present plan and in addition, the angling catch of MSW salmon will be reduced by 50% in the Québec fishery due to the bag limit restrictions. The weight of MSW salmon in the affected fisheries has averaged 91.9 tonnes over the past six years (1978-83).

C. Mainland Commercial Fisheries

The commercial salmon fisheries on the Canadian mainland have caught mainly MSW salmon of origins local to the fisheries. Seasonal regulations were put in place in 1984, reducing seasons and changing their timing in most areas such that most MSW salmon will have escaped to their river of origin before the season opens. Once in the river, they are not allowed to be retained by anglers and are not subject to a commercial fishery and hence, are assumed to contribute to spawning escapements. The reduction in season was 6 weeks to 2 weeks or

closure in New Brunswick (the Saint John and Miramichi fishing areas were closed this year), from up to 10 weeks to 3 weeks in Nova Scotia, and total closures were introduced in the Gaspé and Western North Shore areas of Québec. MSW salmon caught by these commercial fisheries in the past, outside of the new reduced seasons, averaged 104.0 tonnes over the past six years (1978-83).

D. Newfoundland Commercial Fisheries

In the Newfoundland commercial salmon fisheries, the season has been changed from a normal opening date of May 18 to a new opening date of June 5. In addition, a major fishery on Newfoundland's south west coast (area J₂) between Burgeo and Port-aux-Basques has been entirely closed. It is assumed that most MSW salmon previously caught prior to June 5 will escape the fishery and return to home rivers and that all MSW salmon previously caught in area J₂ will do likewise. Based on tagging studies, adjustments were made to account for the capture on the south and west coasts of Newfoundland once the new season opens of fish released from the north and east coasts of Newfoundland before the new season opens. The average catch of MSW salmon for the whole season in area J₂ and other areas prior to June 5 was 150.8 tonnes for the past six years (1978-83). After adjustment for potential later catches of salmon released due to the new season, it is estimated that an average 117.5 tonnes would have escaped the fishery.

E. Overall Canadian Impact of 1984 Management Plan on MSW Salmon Catches

From the summation of quantities of fish calculated in the previous sections (B,C,D) which would have been released historically due to angling restrictions and seasonal changes in the commercial fisheries only, an estimate may be derived of the total impact of the 1984 Salmon Management Plan on MSW salmon.

Fishery	Average Canadian Catch of MSW salmon for the years 1978-83 (t)	Average Canadian Reduction of MSW salmon catches ^a for 1978-83 (t)	% Reduction
Recreational	130.6	91.9	70.4
Mainland Commercial	206.1	104.0	50.5
Newfoundland Commercial	880.7	117.5	13.3
TOTAL	1217.4	313.4	25.7

^a) if 1984 Plan had been in effect.

It is expected that fishing effort in the remaining seasons will decrease as voluntary buyback programs are expanded. Approximately 15% of the licensed fishermen in Newfoundland are voluntarily relinquishing their licences in 1984 under this program. Remaining fishermen remain under strict regulations prohibiting new entry into the fishery, and restricting the transfer of licences and amount of gear allowed to be fished. By-catches of salmon by other fisheries are now prohibited.

F. Summary

The calculated impact of the seasonal reductions in the commercial fishery and the restricted angling fisheries as a result of the 1984 Management Plan is 313.4 tonnes or approximately 26% of the catch of MSW salmon averaged over the past six years (1978-83). This calculation does not account for the expected significant decline in catch due to other measures of effort reduction and the prohibition of the by-catch, and hence may be taken as a conservative figure. Also, the expected low abundance of large salmon in 1984 is indicative of further reduction in catch given the constraints exercised on fishing effort.



Fisheries
and Oceans

Pêches
et Océans

Information

1984 ATLANTIC SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAJOR ELEMENTS

Canada

1984 Atlantic Salmon Management Plan

Major Elements

1. A delay in opening of the 1984 commercial fishing seasons for the province of Newfoundland. The fishing seasons will be:

Zones 1-2 (Labrador), 3-10, 11 (east), 14-
June 5/December 31.

Zones 11 (west), 13 - June 5/July 10.

All other existing regulations and weekend closures will apply. Immediate consideration will be given to a voluntary licence buyback program for all commercial salmon fishermen in the above zones. Zone 12 will be closed to salmon fishing.

2. Shorter seasons will be imposed for the commercial fisheries of the Maritime provinces. These seasons will be:

New Brunswick

Zone 1 Restigouche - July 9- July 20

Zone 2 Closed

Zone 3 Closed

P.E.I.

Zone 4 St Peter's Bay - Sept 3 - Sept 21
Gulf Shore - July 16 - August 10

Nova Scotia

Zone 5 Cape Breton East (including Louisbourg area) -
June 18 - July 6

Zone 6 Gulf Shore - July 2 - July 20

Zone 7 Eastern Shore - June 18 - July 6

Zone 8 Upper Bay of Fundy - July 23 - August 10

Zone 9 South West N.S. - June 18 - July 6

All other existing regulations and weekend closures will apply.

3. There will be no new commercial salmon fishing licences issued on an Atlantic-wide basis.
4. Transfers of commercial fishing licences will be allowed, throughout the Atlantic, among immediate family members on the condition that the recipients are full time fishermen.
5. Only the retention of grilse will be permitted for the recreational fisheries for the provinces of Newfoundland (insular portion only), New Brunswick, P.E.I. and Nova Scotia. All multi-sea winter salmon hooked by anglers will be required to be released immediately with the least possible harm to the fish. The Province of Quebec will be reviewing the adaptation of this program for the Restigouche river system.

6. The seasonal bag limit along with the possession and daily limits in Nova Scotia will be reduced to 10, 6 and 2 respectively which will now be required to be grilse.
7. The number of recreational salmon angling licences in each province should be limited to the levels of 1983, as an interim measure, pending the determination of appropriate angling effort by fishing districts for future years.
8. During 1984 the tagging system will be extended to all Atlantic provinces with the exception of Newfoundland where the system will be in place for 1985.
9. It will be illegal to retain, or be in possession of, salmon captured incidentally in non-salmon commercial gear.
10. Negotiations will be undertaken with native groups to: lower present fishing quotas, ensure the enforcement of regulations, and encourage the use of trap nets.
11. Negotiations will continue with all Atlantic provincial governments with the aim of developing and administering a surtax on all recreational licences. Subject to the development of a satisfactory recreational licence surtax mechanism a voluntary commercial licence buyback program will be established to further reduce commercial salmon fishing effort.
12. Development of programs to expand efforts in the enhancement of the Atlantic salmon resource will be continued and implemented as funding becomes available.
13. A Federal Provincial working group will be established immediately to develop mechanisms for the implementation of Proposal 7, 11 and 12 and to provide a forum for discussion of other aspects of a long-term comprehensive management plan for Atlantic salmon in conjunction with the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Board.
14. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will continue to seek a reduction in the quota for the West Greenland salmon fishery.

Information leaflets are issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to describe and explain departmental policies, programs and activities.

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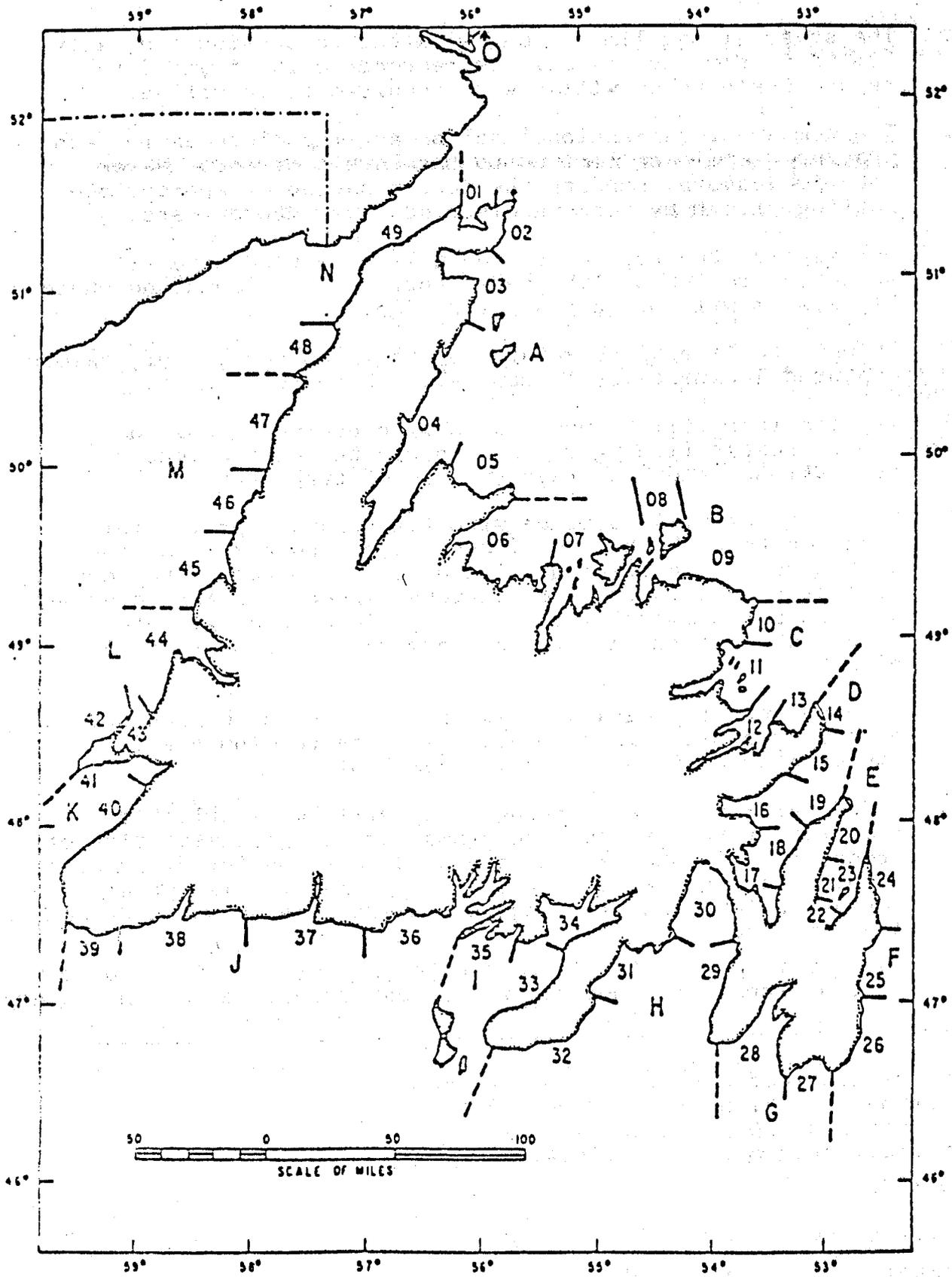
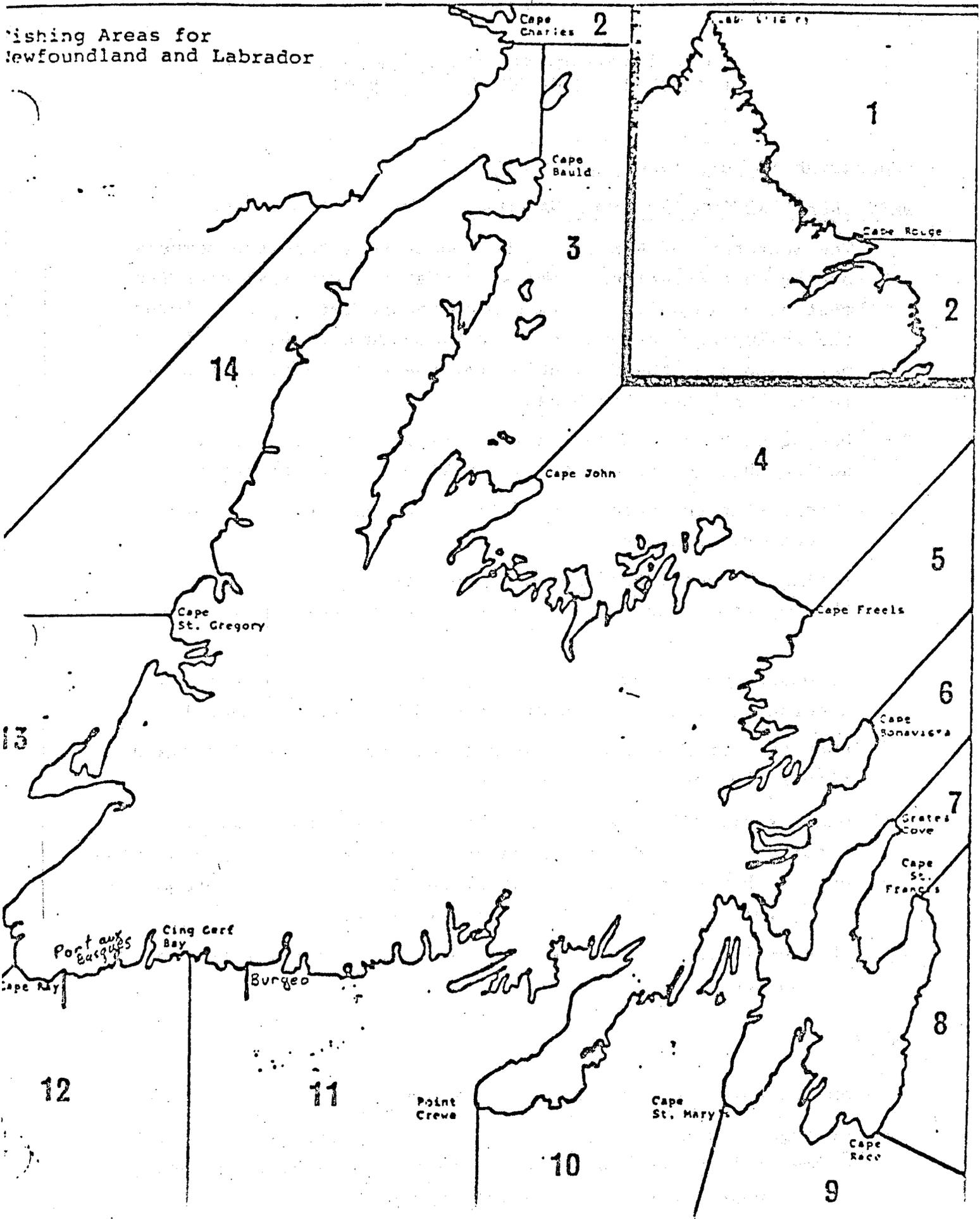


Fig. 4: Boundaries of Statistical Section (numerically indicated) and Statistical Areas (alphabetical) in insular Newfoundland.

Fishing Areas for Newfoundland and Labrador



TEXT OF EMERGENCY REGULATORY MEASURE
(ISSUED BY TELEX ON 19 JULY 1984)

"Edinburgh 19 July 1984

WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION OF NASCO

1. The Secretary of NASCO has the honour to inform the members of the West Greenland Commission that the Commission at its meeting on 18 July 1984 in Edinburgh adopted a proposal for the following emergency regulatory measure under Article 13, paragraph 5 of the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.
2. Noting with concern the indications from the scientific advice that the salmon stocks in its area are depleted; recognising the necessity of implementing urgent measures to conserve these stocks;
noting the considerations developed in paragraph 8.2 of the report of the meeting (annexed below) held on 18 July 1984;
proposed the following emergency regulatory measure in accordance with Articles 8(b) and 13(5) of the Convention:
that the total allowable catch (TAC) for the West Greenland fishery be set at 870 tonnes for the 1984 season.
3. Under Article 13, paragraph 5, the members shall make best efforts to implement the measure, unless there is an objection by a member within 30 days after the Commission has proposed it. This proposal is dated 18 July 1984.
4. This notification has been copied to other parties to the Convention.

ANNEX

In adopting this proposal the Commission recognised:

- (a) stringent Canadian regulatory measures restricting its 1984 commercial and recreational salmon fisheries as described in an annex (to the Commission's Report);

.../...

- (b) the statement by the Canadian delegation under Article 15 of the Convention that the Canadian authorities intend that a similar conservation program will also be in place in 1985;
- (c) statements by the Canadian, EEC and United States delegates that the burdens and benefits of salmon conservation measures should be fairly shared by the members of the Commission.

Malcolm Windsor
Secretary"