INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
First Meeting
Washington, D. C. - February 1, 1954

SUMMARY MINUTES
FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION
(February 2, 1954 - 10:15 a.m.)
Mr. Bates called the meeting to order and suggested that the Commissioners consider the desirability of meeting daily in closed session at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., rather than attempting to hold sessions with experts, advisers and observers present. Individual experts might be invited to particular sessions, but, as a general rule, the Commissioners would arrange to meet separately with their advisers. He further suggested that no verbatim minutes be kept of these sessions. These suggestions were accepted.

Mr. Bates then suggested that the Commission begin its deliberations by studying its terms of reference, reading the Convention article by article and discussing it. This also was agreed.

In commenting on the Preamble, Mr. Bates suggested that, since one of the objectives of this Commission was to promote and coordinate scientific studies, the scientists of the three governments be asked to meet immediately in order that they might come to know each other and each other's work.

The United States Delegation explained that because of technical difficulties, it had been unable to accredit to its Delegation certain scientists whom the United States Commissioners would desire to have present at such a meeting. The United States Delegation asked that those scientists, who were attending the meeting as observers, might be permitted to attend.

The Japanese Delegation raised some question regarding the status of these observers and expressed the desire to limit the meeting to accredited scientists. After some discussion of the matter, the three Delegations agreed that accredited scientists, as well as those American scientists attending the meeting as observers, would be asked to meet informally at 3:00 p.m., February 2, 1954, and that the meeting would be closed to the press. The Delegations agreed also to provide each other with a list of the names of the scientists who would attend this meeting when the Commissioners met again at 3:00 o'clock.

It was agreed that the problem of determining the status of the persons whom the United States Government had invited to attend the Conference as observers would require further study before a decision could be reached.
The Chairman expressed the hope that for the present meeting, at any rate, the Japanese and Canadian Delegations would take a sympathetic view of the problem which confronted the United States Delegation, keeping in mind that the matter could be settled once and for all in the adoption of rules for future meetings.

The Commission then proceeded with the reading of Articles I and II of the Convention, the Chairman bringing to the attention of the Commissioners a number of problems which would require some thought, and suggesting that the Commission might wish to appoint committees to deal with these problems.

The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m. to meet again at 3:00 p.m. in Executive Session.