International North Pacific Fisheries Commission
First Meeting
Washington, D. C. - February 1, 1954

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Corrigendum to
Summary Minutes
Sixth Plenary Session
(February 10, 1954 - 2:00 p.m.)

The Summary Minutes of the Sixth Plenary Session were approved by the Commission on February 12, 1954, with the following amendment:

Page 5, para. 3, line 4: delete the words "United States and Canadian".

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SUMMARY MINUTES

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

(February 10, 1954 - 2:00 p.m.)
The Chairman called upon Mr. Brooding, Acting Chairman of the Standing Committee on Biology and Research, for a progress report from that Committee. Mr. Brooding explained to the Commission that his Committee had met during the past two days to consider problems referred to it by the Commission, had examined its terms of reference and had adopted certain policies to guide it. Mr. Edward Allen of the United States had been elected Chairman for the term of one year. It was the thought of the Committee that this office would rotate among the three countries. He also pointed out that the Commissioners on the Committee had agreed that in the early stages of the Committee's life, at least, they would give the widest latitude to the scientists in their studies, providing only a minimum of guidance. Mr. Brooding then introduced Dr. Needler, of Canada, whom the scientists on the Committee had chosen as their Convenor, and asked him to report. The text of Dr. Needler's report follows:

"The scientific group has met for three half days in addition to the first session of the Committee on Biology and Research as a whole, and at the end of each of these half days the Commissioners joined us again and received a brief report.

"We are now giving, as you understand, only a progress report, as our work is not nearly done.

"The principal matter referred to the Committee was the development of a research program needed to carry out the duties of the Commission with respect both to the question raised in the Protocol and to the fisheries mentioned for abstention in the Annex, but also generally in accordance with the preamble. Now the development of an adequate program of research for the Commission requires careful and time-consuming discussion. It is not possible at the time of this meeting to complete such an assignment, and we have therefore given more attention to preparing ourselves for a second meeting later this year, at which we would hope to progress almost all the way towards the formulation of a program. We, as a scientific group, proposed, at the suggestion of our Japanese friends, that we meet in Tokyo in September. The suitability of this date, however, depends to some extent on the time and place of the next Commission meeting, which was unknown to us at that time."
"In discussing the program we first gave brief consideration to the species we should consider and to the interest which we expected on the part of the various nations. We could see or anticipate that all three countries would be very actively interested in the salmon problem, especially on the high seas; that Canada and the United States would have a very active interest in the halibut through joint activities, and in the herring separately but cooperatively, and although we had not at that time had the problem of the king crab in the Bering Sea referred to us formally, we could foresee the need for research there and anticipate that Japan and the United States will both be actively interested, and we hope that Canada might take a less important part.

"We have agreed, Mr. Chairman, in preparation for our meeting next September, to exchange brief reviews of the present state of our knowledge and our research and progress, and also proposed plans for research. These would prepare us for a more thorough and balanced consideration of the Commission's program than is possible at this meeting.

"We discussed at some length the subject matter of this material, and, without limiting the scope or arrangement of the statements, we have agreed that the following subjects should be included:

"For the salmon: First, for the sea life of the salmon, a broad study, with special attention to the problem raised in the Protocol and to the following lines of attack:

(1) A study of movements as indicated by the fishery itself;

(2) The use of tagging to study movements;

(3) The marking of seaward migrants;

(4) Differentiation between stocks by morphological or physiological or biochemical characteristics;

(5) Special fishing to study movements and the factors controlling them; and
(6) A study of the oceanographic background both physical and biological.

"For the salmon in or near fresh water, we didn't spell out the subject in detail, but research is required to assess the degree of utilization and provide the best basis for conservation measures as required by Articles 3 and 4. Similarly, such research to follow the utilization and provide the basis for regulatory measures is needed for the halibut and for the herring.

"We have now the problem of examining the situation as regards the king crab stocks in the Bering Sea and the research program needed to assess the need for conservation measures and recommend them, if necessary.

"In connection with these research programs, the importance of adequate fisheries statistics as a tool was recognized and we had a very brief review of the statistics which are now collected and published. In our next meeting, before the Commission meets again, we shall, as we examine the entire research program, consider the needs of each phase for statistics, and we plan to draw up a general statement at that time on the statistical needs of the Commission.

"We gave some attention to the 1954 program in the hopes that we might be able to make suggestions for better coordination and for improvement of the program. We plan to discuss this in further detail at a later meeting. The situation, as we see it now, is that Canada has little expectation of doing anything on the high seas salmon program this year, but that the United States wishes to have advice on how best to direct its efforts in cooperation with the Japanese program.

"Dr. Fujinaga, for Japan, outlined their quite extensive program, which includes the operation of two research vessels and part time, possibly, of a third, and included both oceanographic investigations and such matters as tagging.

"One item of the proposed Japanese research in 1954 is brought to the attention of the Commission because it may involve matters of principle which
the Commission may want to consider. Japan proposes to operate a research vessel, principally for the tagging of salmon, in the area between 175° and 170° West Longitude. The vessel would not engage in commercial fishing, and the participation of a Canadian or a United States scientist in this operation is invited.

"We had some discussion, Mr. Chairman, of the means by which we can bring the research of the three countries closer together, even in the immediate future, through the exchange of scientists and of information. We agreed to recommend that the exchange of scientists be arranged as occasion offered and that we exchange plans for research at an early date even this year, and that we exchange reports at as early a stage as possible some in advance of publication.

"We had some discussion of the costs of research or of the sort of research program which the Commission might need, although we could not, of course, go into details. We wish, however, to draw to the Commission's attention the fact that an adequate program is likely to involve some additional expenditures and that we plan to do as well as we can when we meet, perhaps, in September, to say something on the financial or cost implications of the various phases of the program which we formulate then.

"I think, Mr. Chairman, that's all I have to say."

Upon completion of the report, the Chairman asked for comments.

The Canadian Delegation felt it desirable that the Committee be informed that considerable thought had already been given to the possibility of holding the Commission's next meeting during the last week of October, 1954. The Canadian Delegation thought that the Committee might wish to keep this in mind in selecting the dates for its Tokyo meeting. The Commissioners agreed that the Committee should keep this date in mind, but that it should determine for itself the exact date of the meeting which the Commission expected it to hold in Tokyo.

The Japanese Delegation then explained that it would wish to study the stenographic record of the report before
commenting upon it in detail. The Chairman informed the Commission that the stenographic record would be ready in English before the end of the afternoon and suggested that the Commission take up the report on the following day.

The Chairman then asked the Commission to be prepared to name National Section Correspondents.

Finally, the Chairman suggested that the Commission had accomplished sufficient, in the way of business during the past few days, to permit it to arrange for a meeting with the press. The United States and Canadian Delegations agreed that such might be desirable. At this moment the Chairman was called from the meeting, and Mr. Fujita took the Chair. After expressing his appreciation of the honor bestowed upon him, Mr. Fujita asked for further comments on the matter of the press conference.

The United States Delegation suggested 4:30 in the afternoon, February 11, with the Canadian and Japanese Delegations agreeing. The Commissioners also agreed that the details, i.e., place of the meeting and number of persons to attend, should be left to the judgment of the Chairman. The Commission adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m. to convene again in Plenary Session at 10:00 a.m. on February 11.