SUMMARY MINUTES

FIFTH MEETING

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

(February 10, 1954 - 3:40 p.m.)
The Committee first examined the minutes of its first meeting, Document FA/1, and adopted it with the following changes:

1) In the third paragraph on page 1 in the 3rd line, after the word "year", delete the period and add, "and stated that it desired to have the same fiscal year as that observed in Japan, April 1-March 31, but did not insist on that, appreciating the position of the United States Delegation."

2) In the same paragraph, 2nd sentence, delete that portion of the sentence after "Canadian Delegation" and substitute "explained how this problem is handled in other commissions, pointing out that the Northwest Atlantic Commission has a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30, but that the Halibut and Salmon Commissions have no precise fiscal year, these organizations spending the money contributed by the United States during the United States fiscal year (July 1-June 30) and the money contributed by Canada during the Canadian fiscal year, (April 1-March 31)."

The Committee adopted the minutes of its second meeting, Document FA/2, with the provision that they be corrected to show that the agreement to or acceptance of individual financial regulations was tentative.

The Committee adopted the minutes of its third meeting, Document FA/3, with the following changes:

1) In the fifth paragraph on page 1 in the 9th line, delete the words "not approved by all" and substitute "disapproved by any of".

2) On page 3 in the 1st line of the Preamble to Regulation 5.2, "financial year" should be substituted for "financial years".

The Committee then adopted the minutes of its fourth meeting, Document FA/4, without change.

Turning then to Document 3, Revision 1, the Committee amended the wording of Regulation 3.2 so that it now reads:

"The annual budget estimates shall cover income and expenditures for the financial year to which they relate. They shall be presented in the currency of the United States."
Regulation 3.8 was amended by deletion of the words "in the currency of the United States."

Regulation 5.5 was renumbered to appear as 5.6 and a new Regulation 5.5 was adopted which reads:

"Payments made by a Contracting Party shall be credited to the contributions due in the order in which the Contracting Party was assessed."

The Committee thereupon adopted the financial regulations in their entirety as they appear in Document 3, Revision 2, subject to a further examination by the Secretariat for possible stenographic errors, and agreed to recommend them to the Commission.

The Committee then turned to the question of the selection of an Executive Director, agreeing at the outset that it should not now attempt to select an Executive Director. The Japanese Delegation explained that in the light of Mr. Bates' suggestion at the fourth meeting, it had discussed the possibility of providing a Japanese scientist on loan to the Commission for possibly the first year, but had been unable to find a suitable person. It felt that in the light of the suggestion of a loan from the United States or Canada, an offer of a temporary Executive Director from Canada would be welcome.

It was the thought of the Committee that it should recommend to the Commission that it appoint a new committee to deal with the selection of a permanent Executive Director.

Considerable discussion followed this suggestion, a number of points of importance being brought out, e.g., the desirability of appointing a temporary Executive Director to serve for a period of only a few months, as contrasted with the desirability of appointing him for one year; the strong probability that it would be impossible to employ a qualified permanent Executive Director with the amount of money provided in the first year's budget. In the latter connection, the Japanese Delegation indicated that it was doubtful if its Government would look with favor upon even the small budget agreed upon. Mr. Bates, who had joined the meeting, pointed out that very probably the Japanese
Government was at the moment spending more money on research which was of concern to the Commission than was either the United States or Canada, and possibly more than both of them combined, and suggested that the Committee keep this fact in mind. After further inconclusive discussion, the Committee agreed that, for the moment, it could do no more than recommend to the Commission that it authorize the Chairman to appoint a committee, consisting of one Commissioner from each National Section, to act with the Chairman in recommending, during the present meeting of the Commission if possible, a temporary Executive Director, and, if that were not possible, that the Commission empower this committee to employ a temporary Executive Director of its own selection after the Commission adjourns this meeting.

The Chairman took note of the fact that Mr. Hager of the Canadian Delegation had found it necessary to return to Canada immediately, and expressed the pleasure which the Committee had found in working with Mr. Hager and its appreciation for his contributions.

The Committee adjourned at 5:30 p.m. and tentatively agreed to meet at 9:30 a.m., February 11.