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

SUMMARY MINUTES
FIRST MEETING
STANDING COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGY AND RESEARCH
(February 8, 1954 - 10:00 a.m.)
The Committee convened in closed session at 10:00 a.m. and elected Mr. Brooding Chairman for the duration of the present Commission meeting. The Committee then elected Mr. Edward Allen as its permanent Chairman for a term of one year and agreed that in the future the Chairman should be elected at the end of each Annual Meeting to serve a term of one year. The Committee also agreed that all of its members, scientists and Commissioners, might participate freely in the discussions.

It then examined its terms of reference, referring to Rule 19.1 (b) of the Rules of Procedure, noting that under the provisions of the Rule, the Committee had already had referred to it by the Commission several problems, these being: 1) the investigations required by the Protocol to the Convention; 2) the United States Government's request for a study of king crab in the Bering Sea; 3) the studies to be conducted under the provisions of Article III, 1 (a); 4) Item 13 of the Tentative Agenda, (Document 1, Rev. 1); and 5) the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Organization, adopted by the Commission at its Fourth Executive Session (Doc. ES/4).

The Committee then considered how it might best operate and requested Dr. Needler of Canada, recently Chairman of the Committee on Research and Statistics of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, to explain how that Organization had dealt with problems of operating procedure. Dr. Needler briefly discussed the operation of the Northwest Atlantic Commission and pointed out that the problems faced by the North Pacific Commission were somewhat akin to those faced by the Northwest Atlantic Commission. He pointed out that the North Pacific Commission's objectives were stated clearly in the preamble as being, first of all, to promote and coordinate certain scientific studies. He explained that the Canadian Delegation placed considerable importance upon this and felt that a long-term program, in which the three countries would take an active part and an agreed share, would have to be developed. He pointed out further that the development of such a program would take time and, indeed, that the Committee on Organization had foreseen this in recommending that the Standing Committee on Biology and Research hold three interim meetings between the present and the next meeting of the Commission.
After some discussion of the precise relationship between the Commissioners on the Committee and the scientists on the Committee, it was agreed that, generally speaking, the Commissioners and scientists operating as a committee would determine policies and formulate specific instructions, the implementation of these instructions being left to the scientists who would report to the Committee from time to time.

The Committee then turned to Item 13 of the Tentative Agenda, and Mr. Bates explained that some consideration had already been given by the full Commission to this Item and that certain issues had been partially settled. For example, it seemed clear that for the time being at any rate, the species to be considered were the salmon of the Bering Sea; king crab, halibut, herring, and salmon in the Pacific Ocean, other than the Bering Sea. With regard to priority, Mr. Bates pointed out that the Protocol clearly presents the Commission and the Committee with a problem of high priority. This much would be clear to the Committee. Before precise priorities could be established for the other problems, it appeared desirable that the scientists be asked to study them and give the Commissioners the benefit of their knowledge. Mr. Bates suggested that the Commissioners might well adjourn the present meeting, instructing the scientists to meet early in the afternoon and discuss Item 13 b of the Tentative Agenda and be prepared to discuss further with the Commissioners later in the afternoon.

The Committee agreed to this suggestion and instructed the scientists to meet at 1:30 p.m. to consider Item 13 b of the Tentative Agenda and report to the full Committee at 4:30 p.m. It was further agreed that the scientists, during their discussions, might consult with other scientists who might be available, particularly those from the two international fishery commissions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m., to meet again in closed session at 4:30 p.m.

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