SUMMARY MINUTES

THIRD MEETING

STANDING COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGY AND RESEARCH

(February 9, 1954 - 11:30 a.m.)
The Chairman referred to the Committee a question by the Deputy Secretary for the Commission as to whether Mr. Gawel, a representative of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, should be permitted to attend the Committee meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that he should be admitted to the meeting as an observer, inasmuch as the FAO is one of the international organizations invited by the Commission to send observers to the conference. The Deputy Secretary introduced Mr. Gawel to the Committee.

Dr. Needler reported to the full Committee the results of the scientists' discussions at a meeting just concluded, and indicated that the group had covered the first item on its Agenda (Doc. BR/2) and had made some progress on the second item, as follows:

I. Preparation for September (1954) meeting. It was agreed to prepare brief reviews of present knowledge and proposed research programs (for exchange in advance of the September meeting, as previously agreed (Doc. BR/2, item 5 (b)) under the following headings:

Salmon

A. Sea life. A broad study, with special attention to the problems raised in the Protocol and to the following lines of attack:

1. Study of seasonal movements as indicated by the fishery;
2. Tagging;
3. Marking of seaward migrants;
4. Differentiation of stocks by morphological, physiological or biochemical characteristics;
5. Special high-seas fishing to study movements and the factors controlling them;
6. Study of oceanography - physical and biological.

B. Salmon in or near fresh water. Research to assess degree of utilization and to provide basis for conservation measures, as required by Article III 1 (a), Article IV and the Annex.
Halibut. Research to assess degree of utilization and to provide basis for regulatory measures, as required by Articles III 1 (a), Article IV and the Annex.

Herring. As for Halibut.

King Crab. Research to assess need for conservation measures and recommend them if necessary.

It was agreed that the above headings should not be regarded as indicating either order of priority or most logical arrangement of the material, but should rather be considered as reminders of subject matter which should be included in the material prepared for the September meeting.

II. Program in 1954

Research planned for 1954 on salmon on the high seas was discussed briefly. It was stated that Canada had made no provision for such work in 1954, although willing to help and hoping to participate actively in 1955. The United States expected to be able to carry out some work (after July 1) and invited suggestions as to what phase of the problem to attack. Dr. Fujinaga outlined briefly Japan's rather extensive program which included the operation of the "Tenjo Maru" (217 tons) from April to August, the leasing of a 60-ton boat for tagging and, possibly, some use of a 1,000-ton research vessel now under construction.

It was agreed to defer detailed discussion of research in 1954 on salmon on the high seas and of techniques, such as tagging, to a later meeting of the group when it need not delay the Commission meetings as a whole.

One item of the proposed Japanese research in 1954 should be 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° W longitude. The vessel would not engage in commercial fishing, and participation of a Canadian or United States scientist in this operation is invited.
The Chairman complimented the scientists on their progress to date and invited questions, especially with regard to the Japanese research proposals.

At this point Mr. Bates joined the meeting and indicated that the next Plenary Session had been scheduled tentatively for the morning of February 10, and suggested that at that time the Commission might outline detailed instructions to the Committee with regard to the Japanese research proposals. Mr. Bates also suggested that the Committee have ready for the Commissioners a progress report outlining accomplishments to date. He advised the Committee to call attention to questions facing it and to points which appear to require further instructions from the Commission.

The Chairman stated that the Committee would turn its attention at the afternoon meeting to the preparation of a progress report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m., the scientists to meet again at 2:00 p.m., and the full Committee at 4:00 p.m.

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