INTERNATIONAL NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING--1966
Vancouver, B.C., November 7, 1966

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE PLENARY SESSIONS

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COMMENTARY ON THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE PLENARY SESSIONS

(Distributed 60 days in advance of the 1966 Annual Meeting)

AGENDA ITEM 1. ADDRESSES AND INTRODUCTIONS

This item has customarily occupied the opening plenary session, on the forenoon of the Monday of the meeting week (November 7). It is expected that there will be a brief speech of welcome by the Mayor or his representative, an address by a representative of the host-country, statements by spokesmen for the national sections (in alphabetical order but with the host delegation last—in this case Japan, the United States, Canada), and an address by the Chairman of the Commission. The Secretariat prepares a program for the session after consultation with the national sections. Copies of opening addresses should be furnished to the Secretariat in advance, so that translations and copies for distribution can be prepared. All addresses will be interpreted into Japanese or English, as the case may be, preferably paragraph by paragraph, and speakers should bear this in mind in preparing and delivering their speeches.

AGENDA ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

This is usually the first item of business at the second plenary session, which is scheduled for the afternoon of November 7.

AGENDA ITEM 3. REPORT ON DELEGATION MEMBERSHIPS

Rule 6 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure requires that each national section submit at or before the commencement of the meeting a list of the advisors and experts whom it has selected to accompany its delegation. It will help the Secretariat greatly if the national sections will give consideration to furnishing the following lists as early and in as complete form as possible, so that it will not be necessary to make frequent subsequent revisions:

a. The names of all members of their delegations and their assignments to the various committees, in the form and order in which it is desired that the names appear in the list of participants in the Proceedings of the annual meeting. (See, for example, pages 9 to 13 of the Proceedings of the 1965 Annual Meeting.)

b. The names of its nationals who are to receive copies of the bound Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting (1966). Under the policy recommended by the Committee on Finance and Administration at the 1957 Annual Meeting, distribution of the Proceedings has been limited to accredited participants and other persons specifically designated by each national section.
AGENDA ITEM 4. MEETING PROCEDURES

4(a) Attendance at meetings

The following resolution on attendance at meetings was adopted at the 1956 Annual Meeting and has been followed at each annual meeting since:

"The first plenary sessions of annual meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public unless otherwise decided by the Commission. All non-public meetings of the Commission and meetings of its standing committees shall be open to guests and observers who have been invited by the Commission, except meetings which may be held in camera."

Established policy with respect to the ad hoc committees on the Protocol and on abstention is that attendance at their sessions is limited to members of the committees and advisors specifically designated by each national section. However, all Commissioners, ex officio, may attend meetings of the ad hoc committees.

4(b) Schedule of sessions

Under this agenda item the Commission should consider the tentative schedule of meetings prepared by the Secretariat and approve or amend it, so that chairmen of the various committees can coordinate their meeting plans.

4(c) Press policy

Past policy has been to allow the press to attend only the public opening plenary session. At the second plenary session each national section names a member to a press committee, which prepares such press releases as are required with the assistance of the Secretariat. At the close of each annual meeting, the Secretariat has drafted a press release which, after review and approval by the press committee and the Chairman of the Commission, has been released to the press by the Secretariat.

4(d) Minutes

Under past procedure, the Secretariat has drafted summary minutes of each plenary session and submitted them directly to a person designated by each national section to review them. After amendment and correction, final drafts of the minutes are submitted to the Commission at a subsequent plenary session for consideration and approval. Minutes of the final plenary session are circulated to the national sections by mail for consideration and approval.

AGENDA ITEM 5. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The address of the Chairman at the opening plenary session has customarily been adopted as the Chairman's Report to the Commission.
AGENDA ITEM 6. SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat expects to submit the following reports to the Commission prior to or during the 1966 Annual Meeting. Referral of these reports to the appropriate committees has customarily been done at the second plenary session.

6(a) Accounts and audit

The Commission's auditors, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., audited the Commission's accounts in July. Their report, accompanied by an explanation prepared by the Secretariat, will be circulated to the Commissioners prior to the annual meeting and will be submitted to the Commission at the second plenary session for referral to the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration.

6(b) Budget estimate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1967

A budget estimate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1967, will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and will be transmitted to the Commissioners prior to the annual meeting. It will be submitted to the Commission at the second plenary session and, in accordance with Section III of the Financial Regulations, should be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration for examination and report, following which the Commission should adopt a budget for the 1967/68 fiscal year.

6(c) Budget forecast for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1968

A budget forecast for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1968, will be prepared by the Secretariat, discussed with the Chairman of the Commission, and transmitted to the Commissioners prior to the annual meeting. It will be submitted to the Commission at the second plenary session and, in accordance with Section III of the Financial Regulations, should be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration for examination and report, following which it should be considered by the Commission and used for the guidance of the national sections; however, a budget for 1968/69 may not be adopted by the Commission until the 1967 Annual Meeting.

6(d) Administrative report for 1966

The Secretariat will prepare and distribute a report on administrative matters in advance of the 1966 Annual Meeting. The report will include information on those items which are the formal responsibility of the Secretary of the Commission. It will be organized in a manner that will allow convenient referral to the appropriate committees.

6(e) Comments on the form and nature of the reports submitted by Canada and the United States in 1966 under Articles III(1)(c)(ii) and X(2) of the Convention

These Articles of the Convention require in effect that the United
States report regularly to Canada and Japan and that Canada report regularly to Japan on the conservation measures taken with respect to the stocks under abstention and the enforcement of those measures. In practice Canada and the United States have annually forwarded to Japan and to each other through the Secretariat collections of documents containing information on these subjects. The Secretariat is under standing instructions to examine these collections of documents and comment in writing to the Commission concerning their form and completeness. The Executive Director's comments will be transmitted to the Commissioners in advance of the annual meeting.

6(f) Statistical Yearbook for 1965

The Secretariat annually prepares a compilation of catch statistics for the North Pacific fisheries of most direct concern to the Commission. The yearbook of 1965 statistics will be distributed before the annual meeting and, according to past practice, will be referred by the Commission to the Standing Committee on Biology and Research for examination and comment.

AGENDA ITEM 7. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS OF RESEARCH

7(a) Progress in research under the Protocol

Research required under the Convention has been assigned to the Committee on Biology and Research by the Commission since 1954. It is expected that the Committee will meet, as usual, during the two weeks preceding the first plenary session to review data submitted by the national sections and prepare a report to the Commission summarizing progress in this research to date. The report will be submitted to the Commission at an early plenary session to be considered for adoption.

7(b) Preparation of joint reports on salmon research

It is expected that the report of the Committee on Biology and Research will cover progress and prospects of the Commission's program of preparation and publication of joint reports on the results of its research program.

7(c) Research plans under the Protocol

It is expected that as usual the plans of each national section for research activities connected with the Protocol problem will be referred to the Committee on Biology and Research for study and reporting to the Commission.

7(d) King crab research

Since 1954 the Committee on Biology and Research has annually received, studied and reported on the results of research on eastern Bering Sea king crab stocks to aid the Commission in determining whether joint conservation measures are required for those stocks.
7(e) Statistics (Article III(1)(e))

This item will be covered by the Statistical Yearbook which will be distributed prior to the annual meeting. Referral to the Committee on Biology and Research for comment would be desirable.

7(f) Other matters

No comment.

AGENDA ITEM 8. CONSIDERATION OF SALMON PROBLEMS IN HIGH SEAS AREAS OF INTERMINGLING

This item is again included to provide an opportunity for discussion of this question similar to those which have been carried on at the last seven annual meetings. The question arises out of the difference of views within the Commission on the relations between high seas salmon fisheries and inshore fisheries and management programs and on the interpretation of the Protocol. At the last six annual meetings the Commission has concluded its deliberations on this agenda item by adopting a resolution urging that the Governments give full consideration to conservation needs.

AGENDA ITEM 9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL

At the second plenary session of the 1958 Annual Meeting, the Commission adopted terms of reference for an Ad Hoc Committee on the Protocol, requiring that Committee "to study and consider the results of scientific investigations referred to it by the Commission for the purpose of recommending to the Commission, as expeditiously as practicable, what action, if any, may be desirable or necessary for the discharge of the responsibilities set forth in the Protocol."

At its 1959 Annual Meeting, the Commission asked the Contracting Parties to provide an agreed interpretation of the Protocol, noting its inability to apply the results of research in the absence of such agreement on the intent of the Protocol. There has been no response from the Contracting Parties over the past six years to the Commission's question, and the Commission has therefore been unable to deal with this part of its responsibilities. The item is again placed on the agenda because of the remote possibility that the Contracting Parties may present an agreed interpretation by the time of the annual meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10. CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE HALIBUT IN THE BERING SEA IN 1967

On the Commission's recommendation, the halibut of the eastern Bering Sea were removed from abstention on May 8, 1963. Since that time the halibut fishery in the eastern Bering Sea has been carried on under joint conservation measures recommended annually by the Commission and adopted by the Contracting Parties. The Commission will have the task at this annual meeting of developing recommendations for joint conservation measures for the 1967 fishing season. In its deliberations on this item, the Commission will have for its guidance the report of the Bering Sea
AGENDA ITEM 11. EFFECTS OF TRAWLING ON THE HALIBUT STOCKS IN THE CONVENTION AREA

Under this item the Commission considers the effects of trawling for other species of bottomfish on the stocks of halibut, particularly in the Gulf of Alaska, where the halibut are under the abstention provisions of the Convention. In its deliberations on this item, the Commission will as usual have for its guidance the report of its Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Committee, which will meet before the plenary sessions to study the most recent data on the distribution and interrelationships of halibut and other groundfish species, the extent of incidental catches of halibut, the viability of incidentally caught halibut and other aspects of the problem. At its 1965 meeting, the Commission initiated an attempt to obtain data on U.S.S.R. trawl catches in the Gulf of Alaska for study in connection with this problem.

AGENDA ITEM 12. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE III(1)(a) OF THE CONVENTION WITH RESPECT TO THE STOCKS LISTED IN THE ANNEX

Article III(1)(a) of the Convention requires the Commission to study for the purpose of determining annually whether the stocks listed in the Annex to the Convention continue to qualify for abstention. The Ad Hoc Committee on Abstention conducts this study and considers requests by the national sections for submission of data relevant to the qualifications of stocks for abstention. At the 1965 meeting of the Committee, the Japanese National Section asked that additional time be made available for study of abstention questions at the 1966 meeting; the tentative schedule prepared by the Secretariat allows for several sessions of the Committee both before and during the week of plenary sessions. Attendance at the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on Abstention continues to be restricted (see 4(a) above), but the reports of the Committee have been adopted by the Commission in plenary session and included in the Proceedings at the last three annual meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 13. IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE III(1)(c)(ii) WITH RESPECT TO KING CRAB

Under this article, Japan and the United States have for a number of years carried on research on the king crab resource of the eastern Bering Sea to determine whether joint conservation measures are needed. At the 1965 Annual Meeting, the Commission was informed that the Governments of Japan and the United States, as part of a separate agreement on the eastern Bering Sea king crab fishery, had agreed to ask the Commission to continue and intensify its study of the resource, including an estimate of the maximum sustainable yield, and to transmit the results of its study to the two Governments. This the Commission agreed to do, and the 1965 Report of the Sub-Committee on King Crab Research and Planning of the Committee on Biology and Research was transmitted to the Governments of all three Contracting Parties.
AGENDA ITEM 14. CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL MATTERS

Information on the matters referred to in Agenda Items 14(a) through 14(f) will be provided in the various reports (listed in item 6 of this commentary) which the Executive Director will submit to the Commission prior to or during the 1966 Annual Meeting.

14(g) Schedule of future meetings

At the 1965 Annual Meeting, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommended to the Commission that the Fourteenth Annual Meeting be tentatively scheduled for the week of November 6 at Tokyo, Japan. The Commission should either confirm this date or select another.

AGENDA ITEM 15. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers of the Commission and its standing committees begin their terms upon adjournment of an annual meeting and remain in office until the adjournment of the subsequent annual meeting. Rule of Procedure 13 establishes a system of rotation for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Commission. In accordance with this Rule, the next Chairman of the Commission should come from Japan, the next Vice-Chairman from the United States and the next Secretary from Canada. A similar system of rotation was established at the 1954 Annual Meeting for the chairmanships of the Standing Committees on Finance and Administration and Biology and Research. In accordance with this procedure, the next Chairman of the Committee on Biology and Research should be from Canada, and the next Chairman of the Committee on Finance and Administration should be from the United States. Each ad hoc committee has followed the practice of electing its chairman at its opening session at each annual meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 16. OTHER BUSINESS

No comment.

AGENDA ITEM 17. CLOSING REMARKS

It would be appreciated if any formal closing statements that may be made could be handed to the Secretariat in writing in advance of the final plenary session so that translations and copies may be prepared.