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JAPAN'S VIEW CONCERNING HOW TO DEAL WITH ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES

by

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JAPAN'S VIEW CONCERNING HOW TO DEAL WITH ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES

ABSTRACT

Ecologically related species should be considered in relation to the purpose of the Convention, that is, the conservation of anadromous stocks. Research subjects to be jointly addressed should be identified before listing up ecologically related species. Japan proposes that carrying capacity for salmonids on the high seas be identified as an appropriate research subject, which includes the research on ecologically related species such as prey organisms.

1. BACKGROUND

Article II(6) of the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean states that "ecologically related species" means living marine species which are associated with anadromous stocks found in the Convention Area, including but not restricted to both predators and prey of anadromous stocks.

The interim terms of reference for the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics says that the Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission on which ecologically related species may be designated by the Commission as being of concern.

At the Inaugural Meeting of the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics in Vladivostok, Japan noted that ecologically related species need to be identified carefully in relation to the study of salmonids. From this viewpoint, Japan came to the following conclusions regarding the ecologically related species.

2. WHAT KINDS OF SPECIES ARE REGARDED AS ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES ?

In light of the objectives of the Convention, and according to the Article II(6) of the Convention, ecologically related species are living marine species including prey and predators of anadromous stocks and species belonging to some other categories which are related to the conservation of anadromous stocks in the North Pacific.

Regarding the other categories, competitors proposed by the United States might be a candidate for these (National Marine Fisheries Service 1993) but such categories can be discussed in CSRS when they become necessary.

3. HOW TO IDENTIFY ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES

It is our understanding that ecologically related species are identified when necessity arises in relation to research activities on anadromous stocks, and desirably, studies on such species are made jointly among scientists of member countries of the Convention.

In order to expedite scientific exchange, research subjects to be jointly addressed should be identified before listing up such species. Once a research subject is identified, species relating to the subject can be identified and designated by the Commission as being of concern.

4. RESEARCH SUBJECT AND ECOLOGICALLY RELATED SPECIES PROPOSED BY JAPAN

Study on carrying capacity for salmonids on the high seas is currently conducted by scientists of Pacific Rim countries and therefore such study including research on ecologically related species such as prey organisms (Fisheries Agency of Japan 1993) would be an appropriate subject to be jointly addressed. For the prey organisms, plankton should be identified by appropriate taxonomic groups, and other prey organisms such as small fishes and squids should be identified by species. Under the limited research activities on the high seas, scientists of member countries of the Convention should focus on the research for salmonids and its prey organisms for the time being. The other categories such as predators can be identified when they become necessary in future.

5. CONCLUSIONS

(1) Ecologically related species should be considered in relation to the purpose of the Convention, that is, the conservation of anadromous stocks.

(2) Research subjects to be jointly addressed should be identified before listing up ecologically related species.

(3) Japan proposes that carrying capacity for salmonids on the high seas be identified as an appropriate research subject to be jointly addressed, which includes the research on ecologically related species such as prey organisms.

REFERENCES

- Fisheries Agency of Japan. 1993. A Japan's view on conception of scientific research for the Committee on Scientific Research and Statistics. (NPAFC DOC.). Fisheries Agency of Japan, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kasumigaura, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100. 11p.
- National Marine Fisheries Service. 1993. Species ecologically related to North Pacific salmonids. (NPAFC DOC.). National Marine Fisheries Service. Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, NOAA, Seattle, WA 98115-0070. 15p.