

III. To cover the period of adjustment and to render protection immediately available to the most badly depleted regions, a special programme for the first ten years might be formulated. Thus Area 2 could be closed for five years, its opening to be simultaneous with the closure of Areas 4 and 3. Subsequent to the first ten years, the provisions of section 11. could apply. This programme would be felt very slightly during the first five years, more in the second, and fully in the third, allowing in the meantime the exploitation of the least-depleted banks and protecting those in the worst condition. It would be advisable to close Area 2 for more than the five years during this first decade.

IV. There should be an emergency clause enabling a further closure of any area upon mutual consent of the conferees, a closure solely in addition to the prescribed minimum.

V. Provision could be made for the collection by each Government of data from the official log-books of the fishing-vessels, it being made compulsory for the masters of such vessels to supply in these books, over their signatures, the following information:—

(a.) Place and date of each fishing operation.

(b.) Amount of gear utilized and its nature (size of net, or space between hooks on long line).

(c.) Number and approximate dressed weight of halibut taken in each place. This should be collected by each Government and placed at the disposal of the other at the conclusion of each year, it being expressly stipulated that such data be placed in the hands of the scientific departments of both Governments, and that it be formulated by them, and in a way mutually agreed upon by the conferees. This should be the case in order that the latter could utilize the information obtained in making their decisions regarding the times of closure.

The discretionary power vested in the officers designated as conferees should lead the fishermen to furnish this information willingly, in the interests of their trade.

It appears to the writer that the principal objection which will arise will be one of inadequate amount of protection, but it is difficult to see how any other precaution than the granting of discretionary powers to the appointed officials could be taken. The objection is one which would apply to any measure.

There may be some injury worked to vessels unable to fish outside the three-mile limit, or those with limited cruising radius. This might be greatly magnified by opponents of the measure, but does not seem important in looking over the list of vessels. It must follow on the exhaustion of the banks in any case, or on the imposition of any other regulations.

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