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INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION
OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SEA

Types of scientific information required for a fishery conservation programme

The Secretary-General has the honour to communicate the following summary of a paper, submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, by Professor P.A. Moiseev, Director of the Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, Vladivostok. The full text of this paper will be issued as A/CONF.10/L.14.

FLUCTUATIONS IN THE COMMERCIAL FISH POPULATIONS OF THE
NORTHWEST PACIFIC IN RELATION TO HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS,
FISHERY OPERATIONS AND OTHER FACTORS

by

P.A. Moiseev

SUMMARY

1. The Northwest Pacific is a vast fishing area with varied fauna and flora.
2. While the northeastern area of the Pacific and the northeastern area of the Atlantic Ocean differ in the number of species of fish living there, in each area one can observe a number of species to which there will be found to correspond similar species in the other area, particularly among such commercial groups as the clupeoids, cods, salmons, flounders and mackerels.
3. However, the biology of most of the commercial species that live in the northwestern area of the Pacific differs substantially from that of similar species existing in the northern area of the Atlantic Ocean, as a result of the peculiarities of the oceanographic regime, the relief of the ocean floor, the geological histories of the areas and other reasons. In some cases these differences manifest themselves in specific features in the biology of the commercial fish of the areas and in other cases give rise to considerable fluctuations in the numerical strengths of several commercial species.
4. A fairly large number of examples have been recorded showing that intensive fishing undertaken in certain areas of the Northwest Pacific without regard to the specific features of the biology and distribution of fish and other animals has led to overfishing of certain species. Extremely intensive fishing of certain populations of salmon, cod, herring, flounder and king crab has led to rapid reduction in their quantity.
5. All this goes to show that there is need for agreements to be reached between the countries concerned, on a rational utilization of the stocks of commercial populations whose living areas lie within the limits of territorial waters and the adjacent high seas so that highest possible catches can be obtained, maintaining the numerical strength of populations at a high level.
6. Unless the countries of the western area of the Pacific co-ordinate their efforts in the conservation and rational exploitation of the living resources of the sea, the latter may very soon become exhausted.