



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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EXTENSION OF MESH-SIZE REGULATIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1959

Regulations fixing a minimum mesh-size for the haddock and cod fisheries in the northwest Atlantic will be extended on March 1, 1959, to cover additional areas, the Department of the Interior announced today. The regulations will appear in the Federal Register at an early date.

Present mesh-size regulations provide for a four-and-a-half inch minimum in sub-area 5, which includes Georges Banks south and east of Cape Cod. On and after March 1, the four-and-a-half inch minimum will apply to sub-area 4, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and near-by waters; a four-inch minimum will apply in sub-area 3 which includes the famous Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland.

The mesh regulations have been recommended by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries following biological and gear research by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with Canada and several European countries.

The purpose of the research is to devise ways to conserve the fishing resources by preventing the loss of young haddock and cod and to determine the optimum size of these species for harvest. The results are still considered in the trial stage.

The United States, Canada and 10 nations of Europe are parties to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention. Recommendations of the International Commission are put into effect by each of the member nations with respect to their own nationals.

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