



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### SUOMELA NAMED CHAIRMAN OF NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

Arnie J. Suomela, Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife, has been elected Chairman of the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Mr. Suomela was chosen for the position at the annual meeting of the Commission held early in June in Montreal, Canada. He took office upon election. His tenure is for two years. Mr. Suomela succeeds Mr. K. Sunnana of Norway. Captain T. de Almeida of Portugal preceded Mr. Sunnana as Chairman of the Commission.

The International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries was established in 1951. It is made up of members of 12 nations whose fishermen operate off New England, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Labrador and Greenland. It is primarily concerned with the ground fishes including cod, haddock, hake, halibut, flounders, whiting and ocean perch.

The technical work of the committee is done by the fishery biological research units of the member nations. Recommendations for conservation measures, such as mesh-size limitations, when adopted by the Commission are passed on to the member nations. It is the responsibility of each member nation to effect the necessary measures for the guidance of its own fishermen.

The original ten members of the Commission are: Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. West Germany and Russia have since become members.

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