AMENDMENTS TO APPENDICES I AND II OF THE CONVENTION

Other Proposals

A. PROPOSAL

Inclusion of *Clupea harengus* in Appendix I.

B. PROPONENTS

Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

C. SUPPORTING STATEMENT

1. Taxonomy

11. Class:	Osteichthyes
12. Order:	Clupeiformes
13. Family:	Clupeidae
14. Species:	*Clupea harengus L.*
15. Common names:	English: herring French: hareng Spanish: Arenque German: Hering Portuguese: Arenque
16. Code numbers:	N/a

2. Biological Data

21. Distribution: *C. harengus* occurs in most boreal sea water or brackish areas in the northern hemisphere.

22. Population: The herring is common in most of its ranges. It consists, however, of a number of subspecies (for example *Clupea harengus pallassi* in the Northern Pacific) or races (for example Atlanto-Scandinavian herring, Baltic herring, Downs herring) with clear behaviourial and morphometric differences. It is a pelagic schooling species, and as such, is sensitive to industrialised fishing methods.

During the late 1960's and early 1970's, herring stocks in the Northeast Atlantic were severely depleted as a result of the over-intensive fishing of the species. Annual indices from international larval surveys had shown the rapid decline of the North Sea Herring during the early 1970's, reaching a new low in 1975 *[1]*. An ensuing ban on the fishing of herring in the North Sea was implemented (1977-1983), and whilst it was apparent that in many areas the fishing ban had been satisfactorily enforced, in others it was clear that illegal fishing was preventing the recovery of stocks *[2]*.

Larval production of the North Sea Herring peaked in 1985, but subsequent years have seen a decline in the species to approximately half of that level *[3]*. Due to

over-fishing, several of the races or groups of North Sea herring are considered close to extinction (for example, the Icelandic herring), or indeed, are considered extinct (for example, the Danish Kobbergrund herring).

23. Habitat: *C. harengus* is a migrating pelagic species, and has well defined spawning grounds. The larvae and juveniles drift and migrate to a nursery area, and from there the adults migrate to feeding grounds. At an age of 2-3 years the adults return to the spawning grounds.

3. Trade Data:

31. National Utilization: A small amount of herring is eaten by the local populations of countries whose coastlines edge the North Sea, but the major part is processed by the fishing industry for human consumption or fish meal.

32. Legal International Trade: Industrialised herring products, both for human consumption and as meal, are widely exported throughout the world.

33. Illegal Trade: Herring is a major raw material in the fish meal industry. Due to regulations on herring fishery, the species is often illegally caught and reported as another species, such as the sprat, *Sprattus sprattus*.

4. Protected Status

41. National: *C. harengus* is protected by national regulations in most countries in the area of occurrence. However, these restrictions can only be enforced within the coastal limits of those countries which have regulations.

42. International: *C. harengus* is regulated by international organisations such as the EEC or the Baltic Fisheries Commission. However, there is no single treaty under which the management of North Sea herring fishery is regulated throughout its range.

5. Information on similar species: The family Clupeidae consists of a number of species distributed throughout the pelagic zone of most sea-water, brackish-water and fresh-water areas. The family provides the highest volume of catches in the world.

6. Comments from countries of origin

Countries of origin not consulted

7. Additional Comments

The number of international regulations relating to the North Sea herring clearly shows the importance of the protection of the species.

In 1977, herring fishery in the North Sea was completely banned following recommendations from the International Council for Exploration of the Sea. Despite this, significant catches were illegally landed, often designated as sprat, *Sprattus sprattus*, or other species.

After fourteen years of protection efforts, the stock has still not yet recovered to the size recommended by the International Council for Exploration of the Sea. Thus, if existing treaties endeavouring to regulate the herring population in the North Sea

have been limited in their effectiveness, there is clearly a need for additional protective measures, such as the regulation of herring products.

8. References

1. Nichols, J H and Brander, K M (1989). *Herring Larval Studies in the West-central North Sea*, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries an d Food, Suffolk, England.

2. Jakobsson, J (1985). *Monitoring and Management of the Northeast Atlantic Herring Stocks*, International Symposium on the biological characteristics of Herring and their implication for management, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.

3. Nichols, J H and Brander, K M (1989). *op cit.*

Additional sources of information

Burd, A C, *Recent Changes in the Central and Southern North Sea Herring Stocks*, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Suffolk, England.

Annual reports from the working groups of the International Council for Exploration of the sea