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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 351 final

Brussels, 13 July 1977

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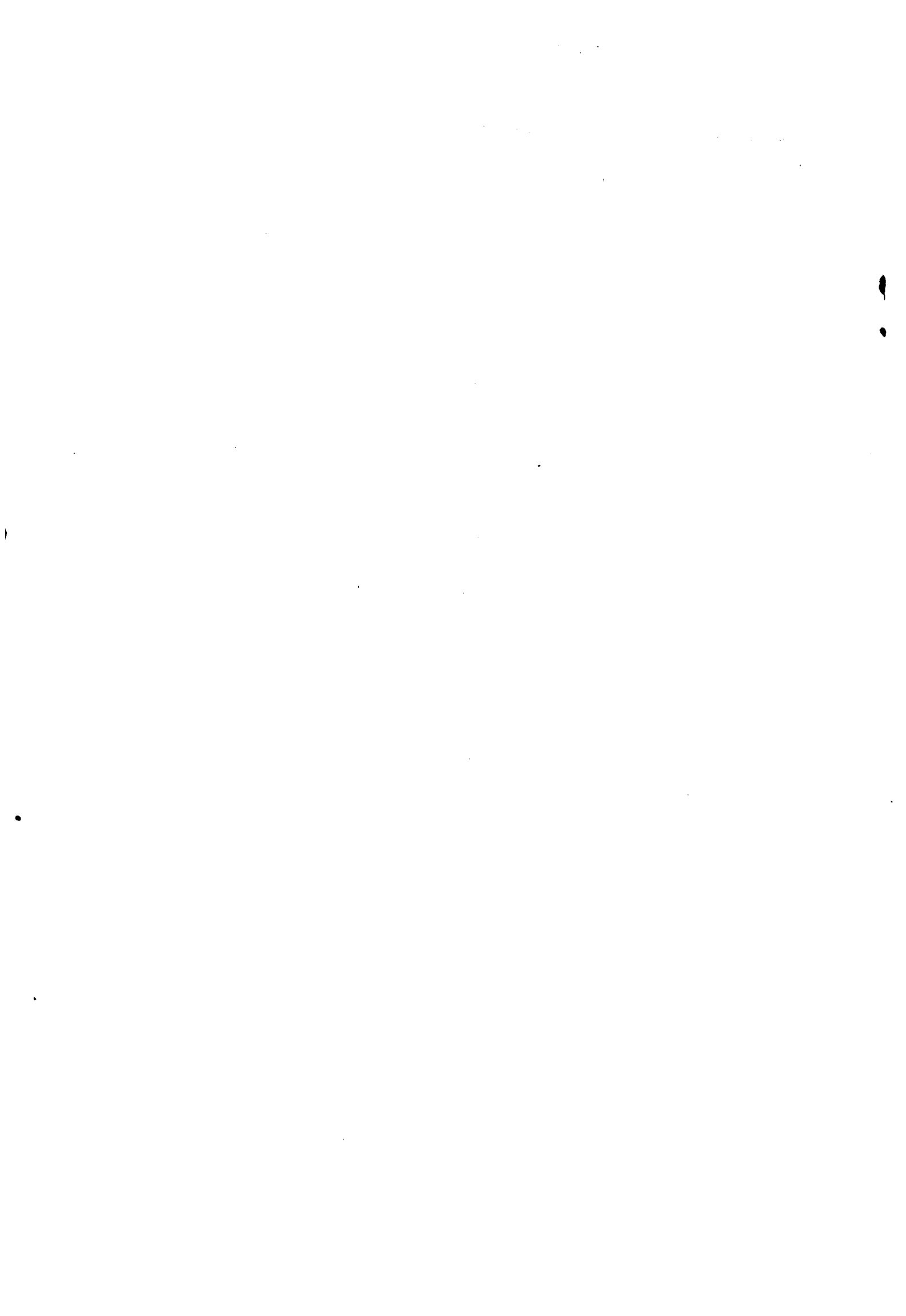
PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 350/77 in respect  
of certain interim conservation measures prohibiting  
the fishing of Norway pout.

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(Submitted by the Commission to the Council)

COM(77) 351 final



## Explanatory Memorandum

1. In the framework of interim measures being taken to manage and conserve fish stocks in Community waters, Regulation 350/77 Article 5 prohibits Norway Pout fishing in the North Sea from 21st February to 31st March 1977, in the area illustrated in the Annex, and calls for the Commission to make new proposals on the basis of the latest available scientific evidence.
2. The main nursery areas for juvenile haddock are widely distributed throughout the northern North Sea in waters which are also widely fished for Norway Pout (see Annex ). The catch of Norway Pout for industrial purposes using small meshed nets has previously caused the capture of large numbers of undersizes haddock otherwise destined to augment the adult stocks fished for human consumption. A proposal before the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to prohibit the Norway Pout fishery for a defined period in part of the north western North Sea specified in the Annex was adopted by the Council in its above mentioned regulation.
3. In the northern North Sea west of 2°E longitude 80 % of the Norway pout catch is taken in the period from July to December. (see Annex, figure 2). Accordingly, the Commission proposes as a matter of urgency that fishing for Norway pout be prohibited in the area currently specified in Article 5 of Regulation 350/77 until 31 October 1977, awaiting the conclusions of scientific tests which will be taken on the initiative of the Commission.



ANNEX

1. Figure 1 illustrates :

1 a) the mean distribution of juvenile haddock (1 group)  
by statistical square 1965-1975

1 b)-the area of major interest to the Norway pout fishery

-the Norway pout box, defined in Article 5, Regulation  
350/77

2. Figure 2 illustrates :

the monthly landings of Norway pout as a percentage of  
the annual total catch by Denmark, Norway and UK for the  
North Sea for 1975 and 1976 for the area west of 2° E  
longitude.

Sources :

1977 ICES Liason Committee Report Part II, figures 19, 27-31.

1977 ICES Working Group on Norway Pout and Sandeel in the North Sea,  
C.M.1977 /F7, Appendix, Table 2,3, page 4.

Figure 1 a)

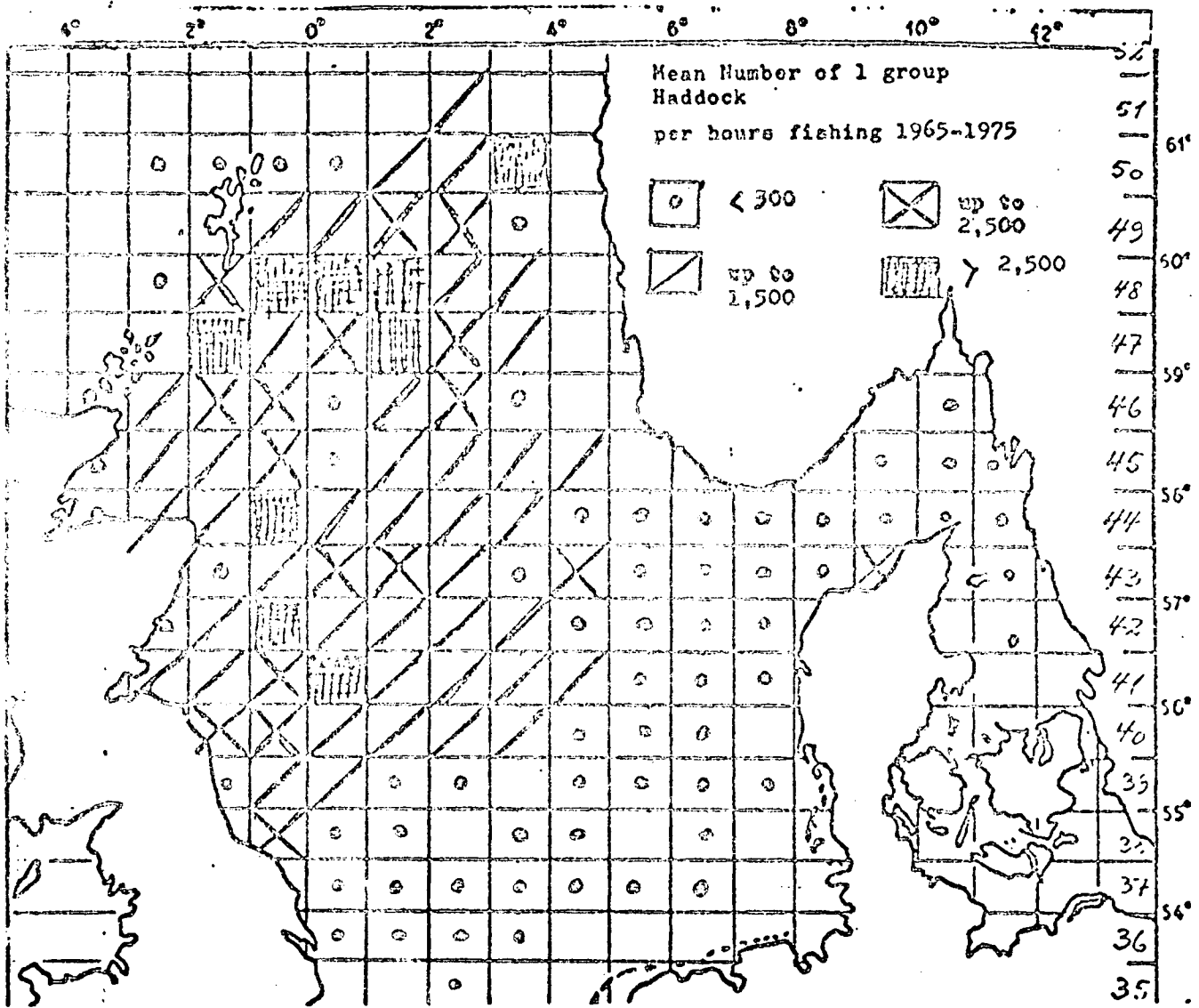
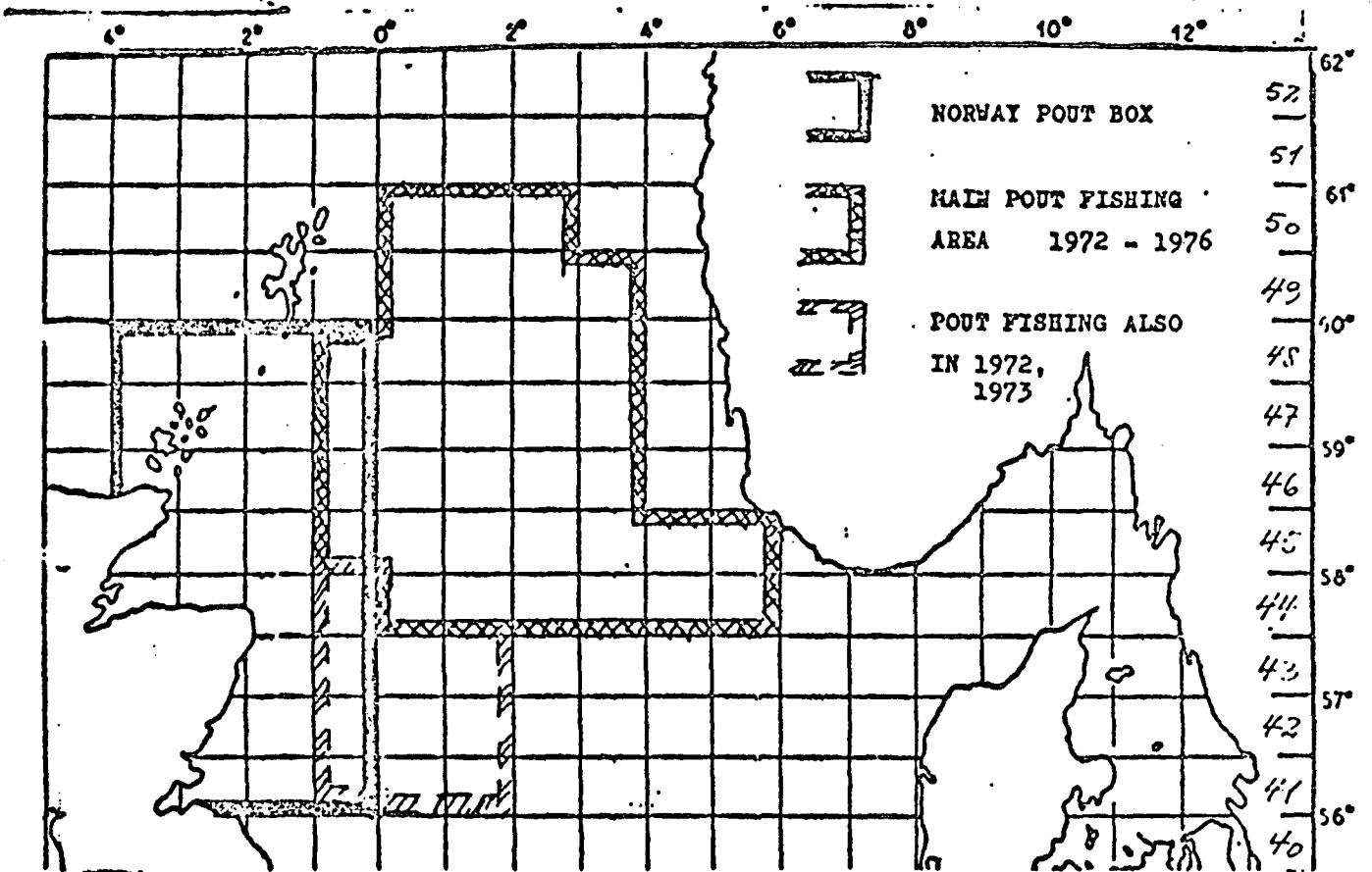
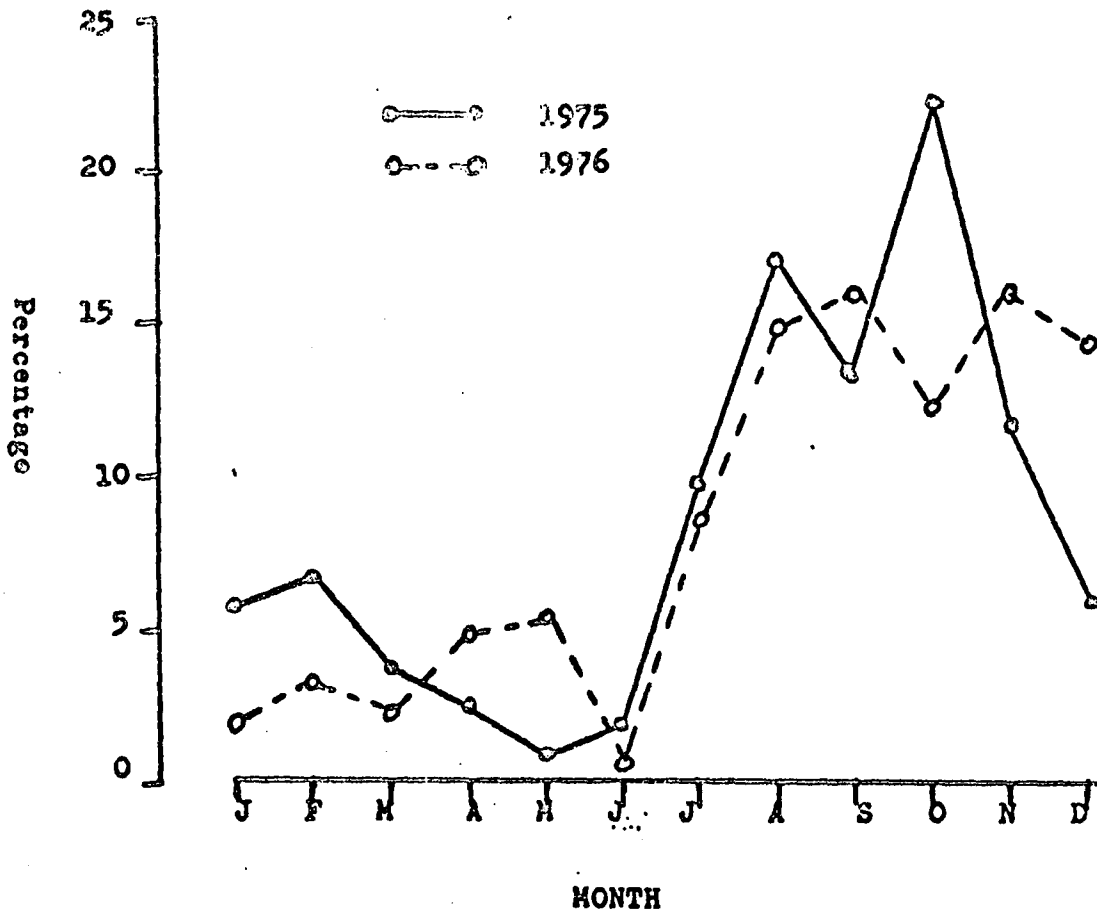


Figure 1 b)





**Figure 2 : Monthly Landings of Norway pout**  
**in 1975 and 1976 as a percentage**  
**of total annual catch by Denmark +**  
**Norway + Scotland in Sub-Area IV,**  
**west of 2° E**

(Based on ICES Report of Working  
 Group on Norway pout and sandeel,  
 appendix)



proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 177

of

amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 350/77 in respect  
of certain interim conservation measures prohibiting  
the fishing of Norway pout.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EEC) No 350/77 laying down certain interim measures  
for the conservation and management of fishery resources (1), as last amended by  
Regulation (EEC) No 1417/77 (2), and in particular Article 5 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas in fishing for Norway pout for industrial purposes a high percentage of  
young fish of demersal species are taken in by-catches ;

Whereas the latest available information shows that, in order to limit the effects  
of such a situation, fishing for Norway pout should be prohibited until  
31 December 1977 in a particularly vulnerable zone where by-catches are likely to be  
highest ;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

Article 1

Fishing for Norway pout shall be prohibited until 31 December 1977  
in that part of the North Sea bounded by a line joining the following points :

- east coast of the United Kingdom at 50°00' latitude North,
- 56°00' latitude North - 00°00' longitude,
- 60°00' latitude North - 00°00' longitude,
- 60°00' latitude North - 04°00' longitude West,
- coast of the United Kingdom at 04°00' longitude West.

(1) OJ No L 48, 19.2.1977, p. 28.

(2) OJ No L 160, 30.6.1977, p. 20.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels

For the Council