

THIRD ANNUAL MEETINGProgress Report on Statistics

At the Second Annual Meeting of the Commission, the following recommendations were made in regard to Commission statistics:

- (2) "That, in view of the usefulness of such information, the compilation of readily available statistics according to established commercial size categories be attempted by the Commission's staff.
- (3) "That the Commission compile and publish its statistics in terms of Metric Tons and round fresh weights (weights of entire fish as they come from the water).
- (4) "That the Commission's statistician be requested to review the situation regarding conversion factors in close cooperation with F.A.O. and I.C.E.S. and make a progress report to the Committee at the Third Annual Meeting.
- (5) "That the Executive Secretary be asked to attempt to bring together for all vessels fishing in the Convention area information on the number of vessels of various types and sizes, and the number of days spent by vessels of each category on the fishing grounds, and that he also be requested to review the availability of more refined data on catch per effort for parts of the fishing and report his findings at the Third Annual Meeting, on the understanding, of course, that the actual collection of such statistics must be the work of the various governments themselves.
- (6) "That the Executive Secretary be requested to inquire of the various governments what information is now available as a basis for development of a standard unit of fishing effort, and to make a progress report at the Third Annual Meeting.
- (7) "That the Commission request the governments concerned, and its Secretariat, to work towards the compilation of statistics of catches and fishing efforts on a monthly basis.
- (8) "That, in view of the importance of information on economic and other factors influencing catch, governments be requested to provide a brief commentary on the operation of such factors when submitting their statistics annually to the Commission.
- (12) "That the Commission adopt the statistical areas defined in the "Report to the Committee on Research and Statistics by the Sub-Committee on Division of Commission Subareas" as a tentative framework for the compilation of statistics, and review, at the time of the next Annual Meeting, the suitability of the areas and the progress in their use.

After the Second Annual Meeting, the document dated Oct. 1, 1952, attached to this report was distributed. That document was prepared according to the above recommendations.

It requested statistics on landings by Subareas (Subarea Subdivisions when possible) by species, by size categories commonly culled, according to grouping of vessels by type and size. It requested corresponding fishing effort data such as number of trips, days absent from port, days on the fishing grounds, days fished and all other information available, particularly dory hours and hours trawling. It was also requested that an effort be made toward submitting statistics broken down on a monthly basis. A form was suggested for reporting the statistics to the Commission. In order to facilitate recording and in order that an annual summary of the vessels having fished in the Northwest Atlantic may be presented, a form was suggested for recording such details as name of vessel, gross tonnage, fishing gear, etc. A statement on conversion factors was asked from each country in order that quantities landed may be converted more accurately and at Commission Headquarters, to round fresh weights (weight of the entire fish as they come from the water). Each country was also asked for a statement on economics and other factors affecting or having affected the catch during the year.

During their respective trips to Europe, the former Executive Secretary and the Statistician reviewed the basic requirements of the Commission with the authorities responsible for submitting statistics to the Commission. The former Executive Secretary and the Statistician wish to say that they received full cooperation in each of the countries visited and that their respective trips were most beneficial to Commission work.

Statistics for 1952 received at the Commission Secretariat to date, show that a real progress has been made and that a great deal of effort is being made by each country toward the collection of more refined statistics to meet the basic requirements of the Commission.

Recommendation (2)

Although all countries do not report their statistics according to size categories commonly culled, the progress made up to date indicates that in a year's time such statistics can be expected from all ten countries. The breakdown of the catch by size categories is particularly important for estimating the number of fish caught, and the size of the catch made of smaller immature fish. Over the years, such data will provide one of the means for assessing the degree to which the stocks are affected by fishing and will give indications of the strength of the stocks. These data can be used in conjunction with more refined data collected by the various research stations. Attention should be given to a breakdown of the statistics by size categories not only of cod statistics but also for other species, particularly haddock.

Recommendation (3) and (4)

The value of the statistics on catches published by the Commission, depends largely not only on the accuracy of the statistics submitted to the Commission on landings of fish in various states of dressing, but also on the accuracy of the conversion factors used at Commission Headquarters in converting weights landed to weights round fresh. Statistics showing

the landings in terms of round fresh weights are of primary importance for international comparison of statistics and for biological research purposes.

The progress report on conversion factors distributed at this Third Annual Meeting (Document No. 16) expresses the necessity for research to be done. Present conversion factors used in Commission Statistics are not all considered sufficiently accurate. It would be most desirable if by 1954, each country could provide the Commission with results of their research on this problem. A reassessment of the statistics would then be possible.

Recommendation (5)

The first part of the recommendation was dealt with in the document dated Oct. 1, 1952. It is now possible to assess the number of vessels fishing in the Northwest Atlantic according to type and size and days spent on the banks. Other details are also available.

The second part of Recommendation (5) and Recommendation (6) are dealt with by the Executive Secretary in a separate report.

Recommendation (7)

Five of the countries pertaining to the Convention have already submitted statistics compiled on a monthly basis. Such statistics are necessary to assess the seasonal distribution of the catch, the displacement of the stocks and also to assess the amount of the catch made during the spawning seasons.

Recommendation (8)

Very few countries have contributed information on the operation of economics and other factors on fish catching. More attention should be focussed on this aspect of fisheries information and each country should be able to submit a report yearly. It is important to know what the incentives are to fish more, or to fish less. This information is one of the means to assess the affect on the stocks of more or less incentives to fish.


Recommendation (12)

At the Second Annual Meeting of the Commission, each Subarea was subdivided in sub-units. These Subarea -Subdivisions were adopted as a tentative framework, according to which countries should try to submit their statistics. Statistics received to date show that a breakdown of the catch by Subarea Subdivisions was achieved only for Subarea 1. From the time the Subarea Subdivisions were adopted as a tentative framework to the present time, objections have been raised (Document No. 18) to the effect that the Subarea Subdivisions for Subarea 2 and 3 particularly, were too numerous and were not corresponding to the natural habitat of the various stocks. It is of primary importance that permanent Subarea Subdivisions be adopted at this Third Annual Meeting. This has a very serious bearing on the administration involved in the collection of statistics by the ten countries and by the Commission Secretariat. It is at the same time of the greatest importance relative to the long term value of the statistics, for biological research purposes. (To be added as Recommendation 11 at the end of this report).

In the light of the above report and in the light of the Executive Secretary's reports on fishing effort and the need for a standard unit of fishing effort, it is recommended:

- 1) That Recommendation 2, be reworded to read: "That in view of the usefulness of such information, the ten countries pertaining to the Convention, compile their statistics of landings according to established commercial size categories".
- 2) That Recommendation 4, be replaced by: "That the ten countries pertaining to the Convention make all the necessary research to provide the Commission with conversion factors as accurate as possible".
- 3) That Recommendation 5, be replaced by: "That each year the ten countries present to the Commission in a summary form, information on the number of vessels over ten tons having fished in the Convention area during the year, by types, sizes and gross tonnage. That details on the type and amount of fishing gear used be also indicated together with all other details usually included in a register of fishing vessels".
- 4) "That the compilation of data on fishing effort requested in the Document of October 1, 1952 be continued, it being understood that further additions to details already requested will be made following the Third Annual Meeting.
- 5) "That the Secretariat, after the problem has been discussed by the Committee on Research and Statistics, be requested to plan and arrange the collection of more refined fishing effort data for representative types of vessels and methods of fishing, to provide the Commission with indices of abundance.
- 6) "That in the light of the Executive Secretary's report on the needs for a standard unit of effort, Recommendation 6 be reviewed and reworded in such a way that it will postpone the problem of a standard unit of fishing effort until the time the management of the fisheries will become a necessity. A standard unit of fishing effort is not a primary necessity at this stage of investigations of the fisheries.
- 7) That Recommendation 7 be reworded as follows: "That the ten countries concerned compile their statistics of catches and fishing effort on a monthly basis".
- 8) "That Recommendation 8 remains as read".
- 9) "That special attention be given to recording the quantities of fish discarded at sea".
- 10) "That more use be made of the suggested form (Document Oct.1, 1952) for submitting statistics to the Commission. (It being understood that the suggested form will be refined after the Third Annual Meeting, but will remain basically the same.)

The table attached to this report shows for 1951-1952 the details in which statistics are collected by each country for the Commission.


J. Côté,
Commission Statistician.

PROGRESS TABLE

Information submitted

1951 - 1952

Countries	No. of Vessels	Type	Size	No. of Trips	Crew	Fishermen	Days Absent from Port	Days on the Banks	Days Fished	Hours Fished	Dory Hours	Hours Trawling	Statistics by Subarea	Subarea not Indicated	Statistics for Subarea Sub-divisions	Monthly Stat.	Species by size	Statement on Economic Factors
Canada	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Denmark	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
France	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Iceland	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Italy	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Norway	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Portugal	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Spain	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
U.K.	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
U.S.A.	1951 1952	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

* Crew plus fishermen.

(See note over)

N O T E

Comparability is valid only between the two years for each country. No comparison between countries should be made from this table. The sign (-) does not necessarily mean that the data to which it refers was not submitted in all cases. The sign (-) means that the data to which it refers was not submitted or does not apply to the method according to which a country fishes. It should be noted that under "Species by sizes" only cod is involved except for the United Kingdom for haddock statistics. This table should be viewed as being of limited use.

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BASIC STATISTICAL REQUIREMENTS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

First Annual Meeting:

At the First Annual Meeting the following basic fisheries statistics for all subareas were considered to be the minimum requirements essential to the purposes of the Commission:

- (a) the total weights landed annually, in statistical regions corresponding to the Commission's Subareas, by species for at least five principal species and by commercial size categories for those species commonly culled;
- (b) data on fishing effort expended per annum, (such as, for example, number of days absent from port by fishing vessels, number of vessel-days spent in actual fishing, etc.); and
- (c) estimates of the quantities caught but not landed, for each of the principal species.

The above statistical requirements were not all met by all countries. The degree of detail and the period for which annual statistics were submitted to the Commission vary widely among countries. In all cases a great deal of time and effort has been allotted by individual countries to this work.

It is important that statistics from each country be integrated according to Commission requirements. Statistics should be submitted in such a form that they would be comparable. Compilation, analysis and publication by the Commission would at the same time be facilitated.

It is suggested that in reporting statistics and other information, Document VIII which was submitted at the Second Annual Meeting of the Commission may be of assistance, as it gives an overall view of the Commission's needs for statistics to reach the purposes of the Convention.

Second Annual Meeting:

At the Second Annual Meeting the basic requirements for statistics were reconsidered. Greater refinement in the submission of statistics to the Commission was recommended.

It was agreed that fishing effort statistics should include such information as the number of vessels of each type and size and the number of days spent by vessels of each category on the fishing grounds. Statistics on landings could then be related to fishing effort data. It was further agreed that Governments be requested to provide a brief commentary on the economic or other factors having influenced the catch when submitting their statistics annually to the Commission.

In order to facilitate the compilation of the statistics for submission by Governments to the Commission, it is suggested that the attached prescribed form may be used as a framework for reporting statistics.

Conversion Factors:

The Commission has been directed to compile and publish its statistics in terms of metric tons and round fresh weight (weight of entire fish as they come from the water).

In order that the best information on conversion factors is used in Commission statistics, it is requested that a statement on this matter accompany the statistics. Statistics will record weight as landed and information is required by the Commission Statistician concerning the relation of the statistics of landings to weight of fish as they come from the water.

Monthly Statistics:

The Commission was directed to work toward the compilation of statistics on a monthly basis. If statistics are readily available by month or by season, it is suggested that a separate report be submitted providing statistics in such greater detail.

Division of Convention Subareas:

At its Second Annual Meeting, the Commission adopted the attached divisions of the Convention Subareas as a tentative framework for the compilation of statistics. If statistics can be compiled accurately according to this proposal it is suggested that a separate report be submitted providing statistics in this greater detail.

Classification of Vessels:

The Commission requests information from each Government on the number of vessels of various types and sizes. In order that an annual summary of the vessels fishing in the Convention Area may be presented, it is suggested that a register of fishing craft should be kept at each Government fisheries office. The register might include one index card for each vessel, on which such details as name of vessel, gross tonnage, fishing gear, etc. would be recorded. A sample form for keeping such a register is attached and may be found useful.

Assistance from Commission Headquarters:

Advice concerning the mechanics of compilation of statistics to meet the Commission requirements is available from the Commission Secretariat upon request.

The Secretariat is working toward improvement of Commission statistics and would be pleased to assist Governments in discussion of problems related to collection and compilation of the statistics required by the Commission. At the Second Annual Meeting cooperation between the Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea relative to mutual problems was emphasized.

At the Second Annual Meeting of the Commission many delegates did indicate the ability of their countries to submit statistics in the details required and recommended by the Commission.

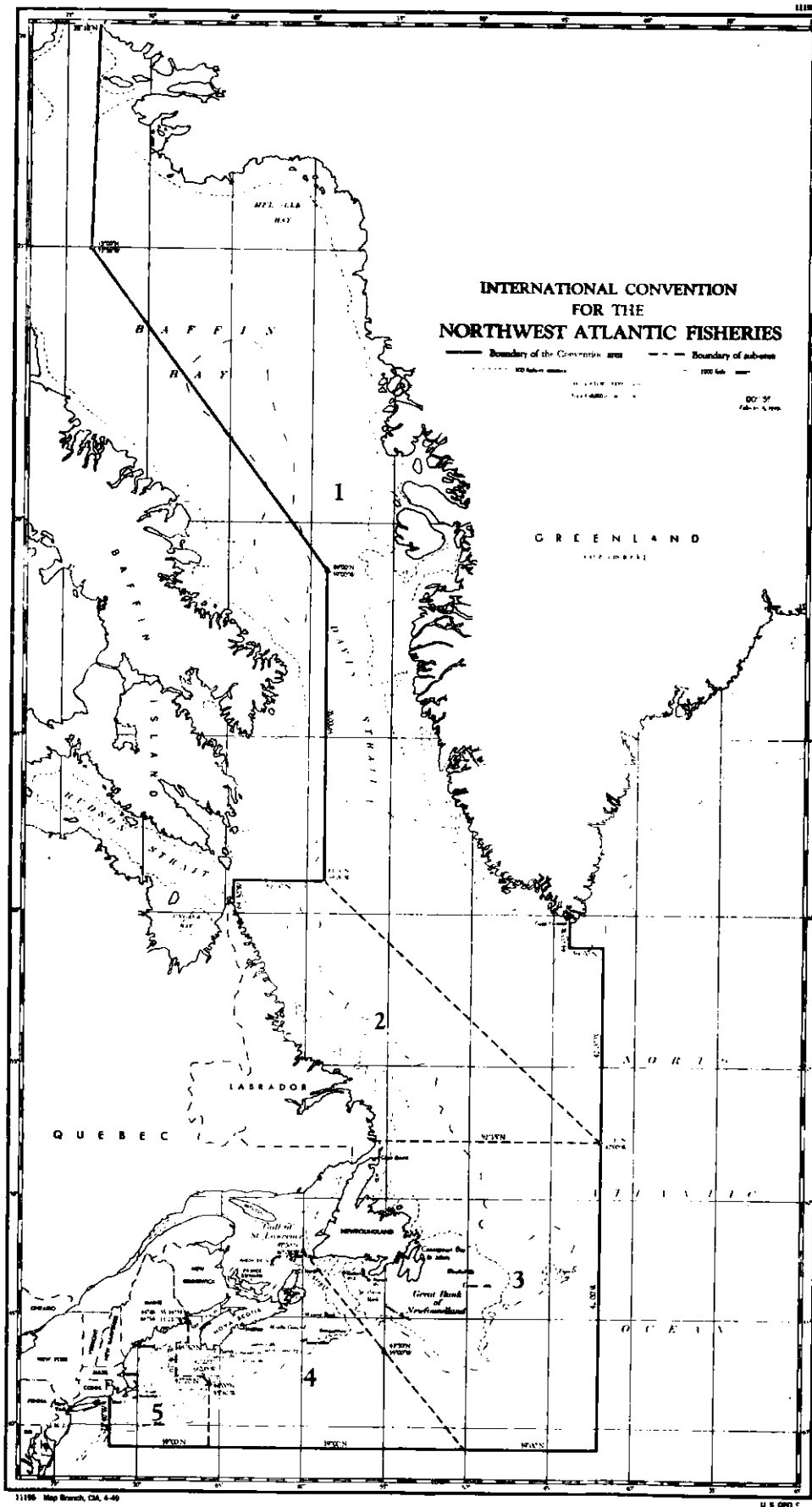
It is suggested that gaps in the statistics submitted and summarized for each country in Document VII of the Documents distributed at the Second Annual Meeting be reviewed in relation to Commission requirements and that an attempt be made by each country to bring statistics up to Commission needs where and when possible. Statistics should cover as many past years as statistical records permit.

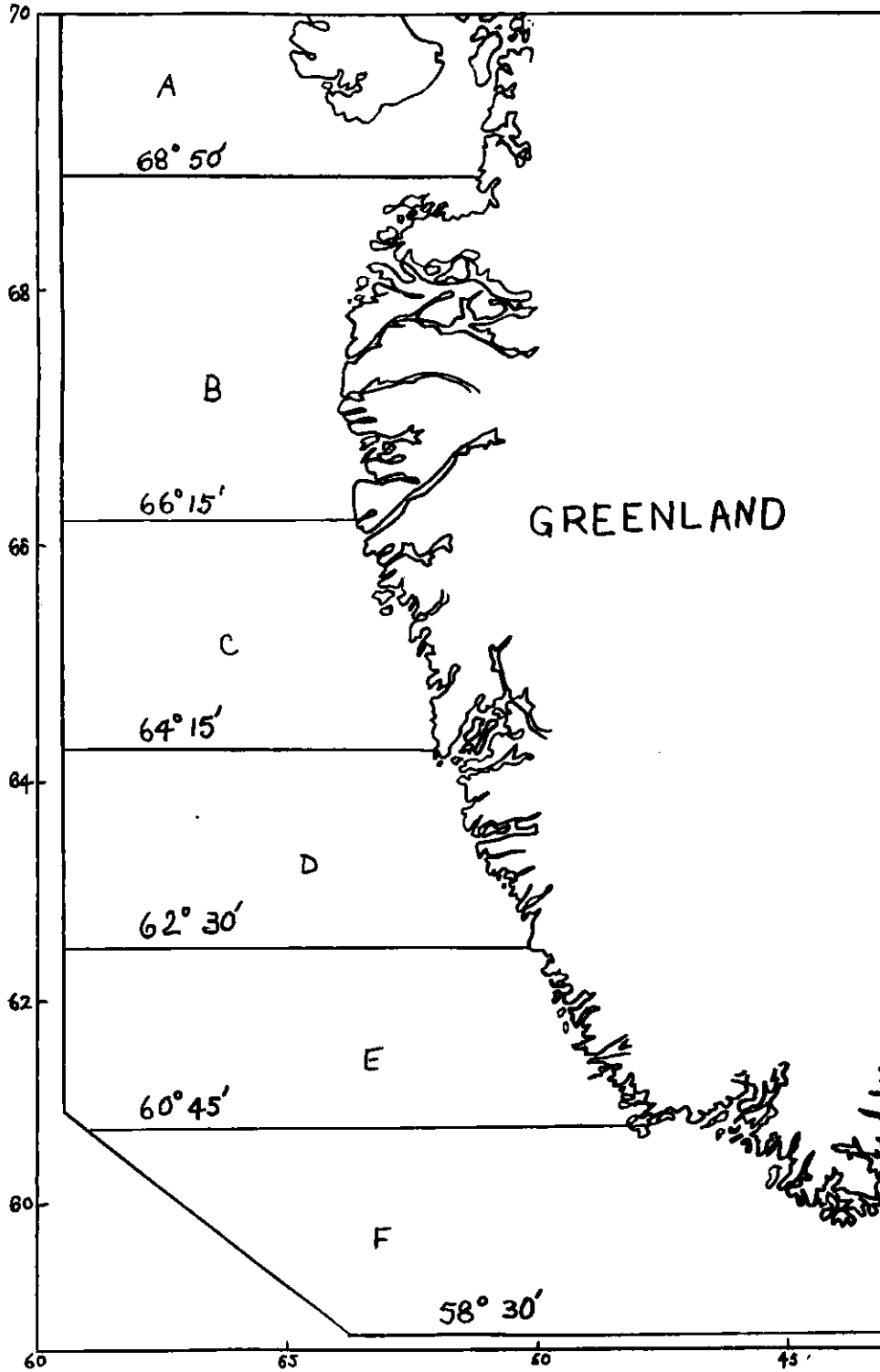
All information should reach Commission headquarters well in advance of the Third Annual Meeting.

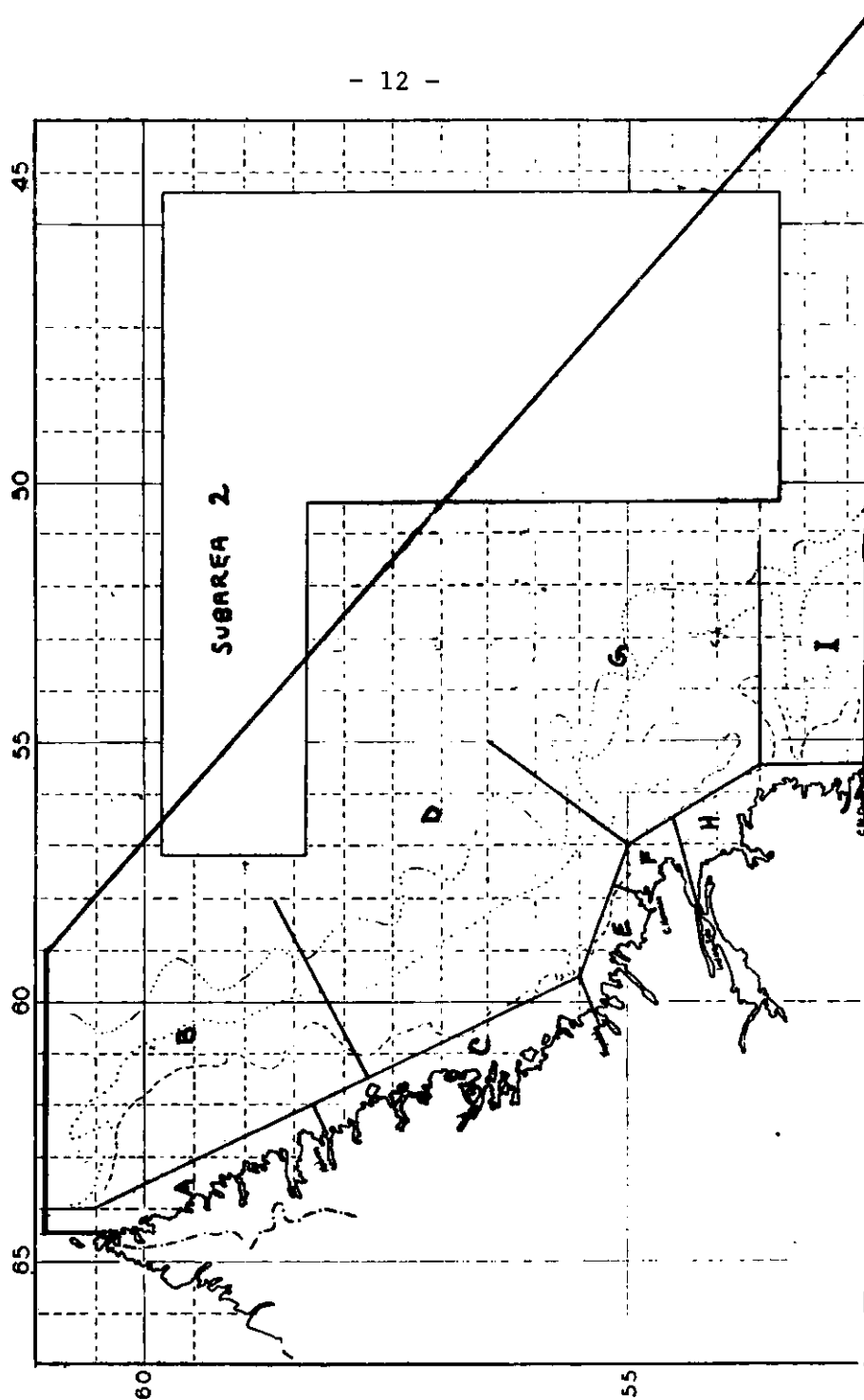
The Acting Executive Secretary is at present visiting Denmark, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom on official Commission business. The Commission Statistician will be visiting France, Italy, Portugal and Spain from November 1952 to January 1953. These members of the Secretariat are prepared to meet inquiries and give information on matters pertaining to the Commission.

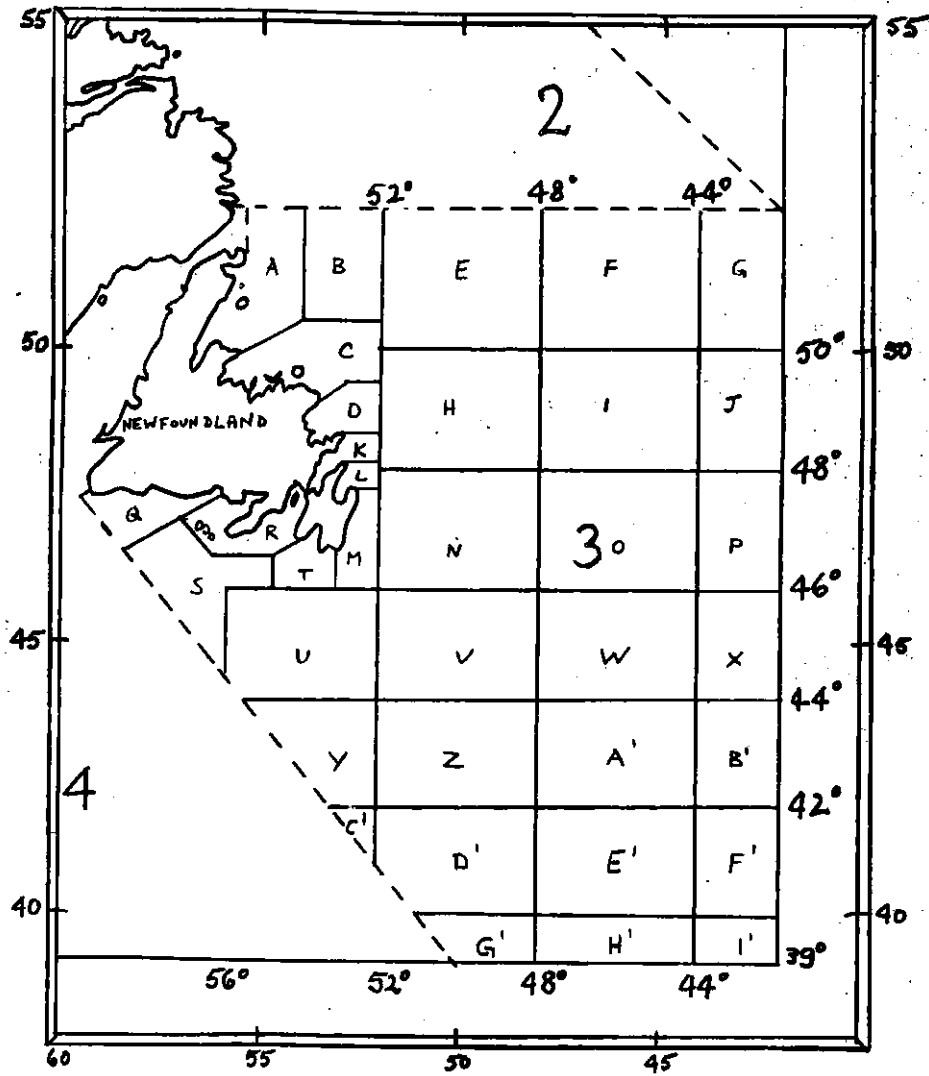
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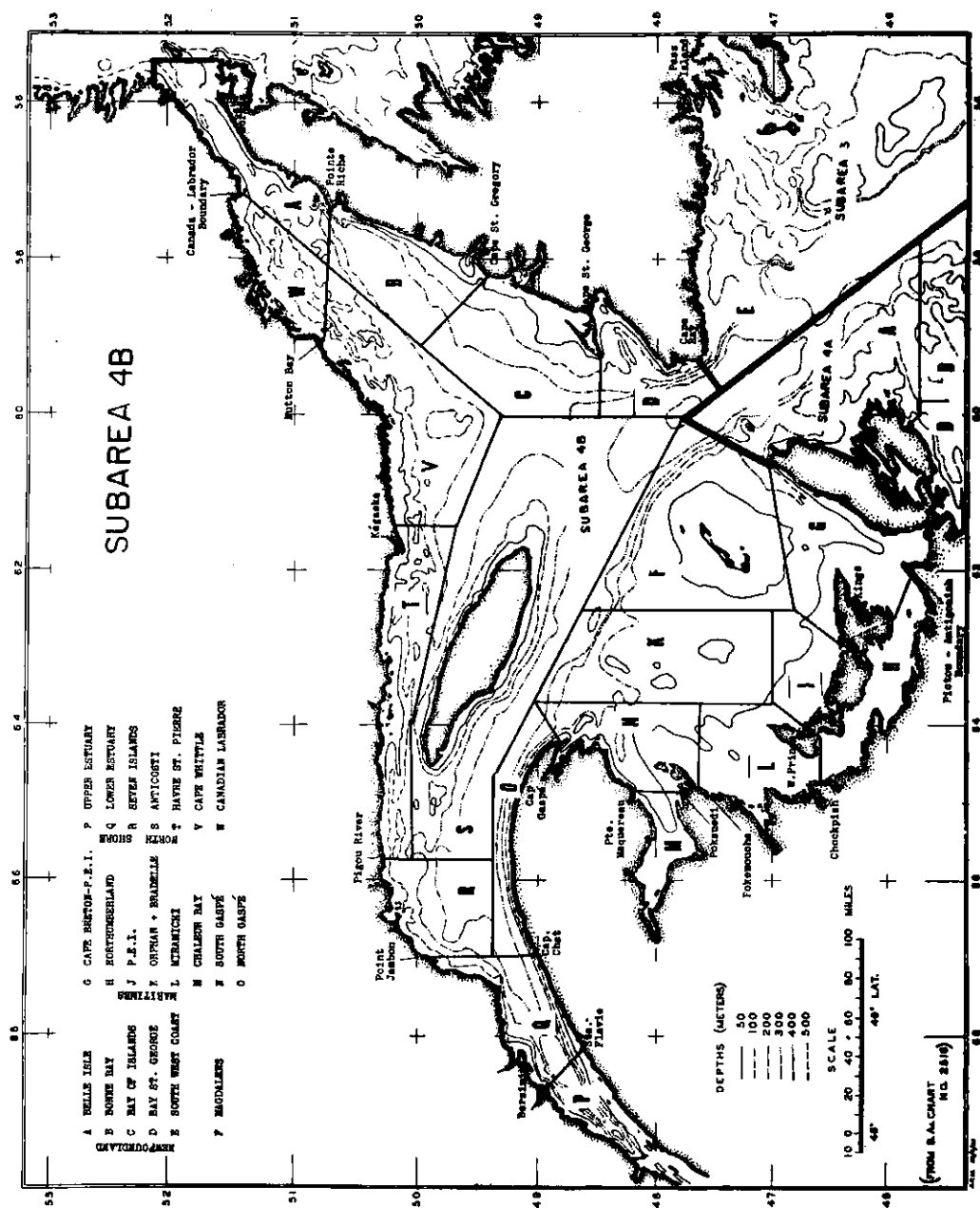

J. Côté,
Statistician.

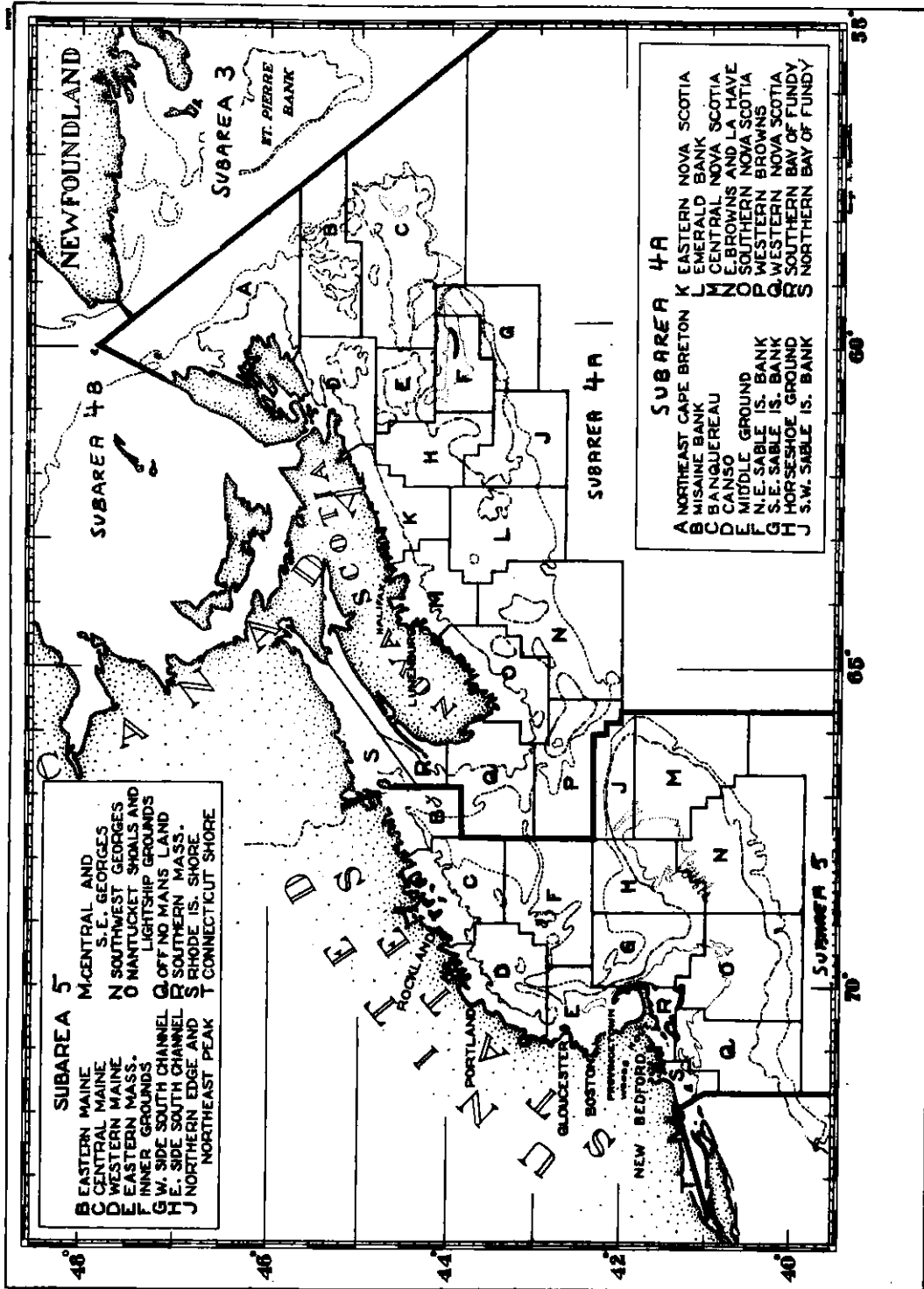












PREScribed FORM FOR REPORTING TO
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

Year

Subarea	Fishing Effort				Landings by Species				
	No of Trips	Days absent from port	Days on fishing grounds	Days fished	Cod	Haddock	Pollock	Halibut	Redfish
Line Fishing									
Small Store									
Line Boats									
Handlining									
Dory Schooners ..									
Long Lining									
Dory Schooners ..									
Long Liners									
Trawlers									
Pair Trawlers									
Otter Trawlers									
to 51 gr. tons									
51-150 gr. tons									
151-500 gr. tons									
over 500 gr. tons									

NOTES:

1. One table should be compiled for each of the Convention Subareas. Separate tables should be compiled for the subdivisions of the Subareas when reporting in this greater detail is possible.
2. Statistics should be compiled according to type and size of vessel in the manner indicated or according to a finer breakdown.
3. Fishing effort data should include as much detail as possible. Data should be sufficiently refined to include days fished, hours fished, dory hours, hours trawling, vessel crew, etc. Total number of columns for fishing effort data should be increased when necessary.
4. Total weights of landings by species should be given in terms of the condition of the fish as landed (eviscerated, green salted, etc.). The unit of weight measure (metric tons, kgs., quintals, etc.) should be recorded.
5. If data are available on landings by size categories commonly culled (small, medium, large, unsorted) columns may be added for each category under the appropriate species.
6. A list of common and scientific names used by countries fishing in the Convention Area is attached for guidance in reporting statistics. The common name 'redfish' has been adopted by the Commission for "Sebastes marinus".

Type..... Port.....
Name of Vessel..... Port letters + No.
Owners Agents
Date Built.....Steel or Wood.....Builders
Length Breadth Depth Gross.....
in ft...... in ft. in ft...... Tonnage Net.....
W/T R/T Type D/F Echo Sounder Type
Dynamo K.W.Volts.....Normal no. in crew
Fuel Coal Oil Diesel Petrol Petrol-paraffin
Particulars of motor-engine
.....H.P.
 Note. Strike out what does not apply

This type of information is collected in U.K.
for each 1st Class fishing vessel. Such an Annual
register of fishing craft is required to supplement
statistics obtained from trip records.