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Collaboration between FAO and ICNAF 1960/61

By FAO Fisheries Division

The following notes report action taken by FAO Fisheries Division in response to recommendations in the report of the Tenth Annual Meeting of ICNAF and other aspects of the current work of the Division of interest to the Commission. The paragraph numbering follows that given in the previous Report in ICNAF Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Proceedings and Selected Reports 1960 Annual Meeting p. 70-74.

1. Follow-up of Joint Scientific Meeting of ICNAF/ICES/FAO, Lisbon, 1957.

1.1 Publication of Report and Contributions

The Report has been published and distributed; supplies of copies have been provided for ICNAF and ICES. The second volume will be available before the end of 1961.

1.2 Standard Notation and Terminology for Fishery Dynamics

The dictionary has now been printed, and 400 copies supplied to ICNAF.

1.3 An International Journal for Fishery Dynamics

Cost estimates have been made of various ways of publication, and these discussed with a provisional editorial board.

1.4 Mathematical Tables for simplifying stock assessments.

The situation has been changed by the programming of a computer at U.B.C., Vancouver, for population models. It is understood that U.B.C. will soon be publishing the required tables.

2. Methodological Manuals

Sampling Manual is expected to be completed and published this year. The Manual on field methods has been published, and a new edition dealing with both field and laboratory techniques is nearly complete. Now that the gear selectivity working group of ICES has completed its work, its convenor, Mr. Pope (Aberdeen) is preparing a manual based on the ICES report, for publication by FAO. FAO has compiled, and will publish summaries of gear selectivity data for areas other than the N. Atlantic, adopting the same tabulation format as ICES. The manual on fish tagging will be based on the ICNAF Symposium report.

3. Co-ordination of fisheries statistics

The 1st ESTANA meeting was held as planned during the 1960 ICNAF meeting in Bergen and the second ESTANA meeting is being held in 1961, again in conjunction with the ICNAF meeting.

4. Other Meetings

4.1 The FAO meeting on the Economic Effects of Fishery Regulations will take place in Ottawa after the 1961 ICNAF meeting. Dr. L. Dickie (Canada) prepared for this a review of the biological basis of regulation.

4.2 Copies of the report and papers of the FAO World Meeting on the Biology of Sardines and Related Species will be made available to ICNAF. A similar meeting, on tunas, will be held in June-July, 1962, probably in the United States; announcement of the meeting has met enthusiastic response from tuna-fishing countries. Regional meetings on tuna biology have been held in Africa and the Mediterranean.

4.3 A sub-committee on oceanography, under ECOSOC, has been set up, at FAO suggestion, to coordinate the activities of the Secretariats of U. N. Agencies concerned with this subject. It's first meeting was held in Rome in March 1961; participating agencies were UNESCO, FAO, WMO, IAEA and the U.N.

FAO has invited several fishing nations, which are members of FAO but not of UNESCO to participate in the first meeting of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) under UNESCO, to be held in Paris in September of this year. FAO has also drawn the attention of the fisheries agencies of all its member governments and of its regional fisheries councils to the importance, for fisheries research, of the forthcoming IOC meeting.

4.4 An assessment of uniform mesh regulation in the North West Atlantic.

The Division has been very pleased to cooperate with ICNAF by the participation of one of its staff in the Working Group on Uniform Mesh Assessment.

4.5 Symposium of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council on Fish Behaviour, Colombo, 1958.

The Report and papers from this symposium, have now been published, copies made available to ICNAF Secretariat.

5. Mr. Wise's synopsis on the biology of cod has been revised on the basis of comments received from many N. Atlantic countries, and a second draft will be issued soon. Synopsis on biology of all tuna species are now being prepared by consultants for the tuna meeting.

6. Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries

The Bibliography continues to be compiled with the collaboration and assistance of ICES and several national laboratories. 16 parts of the printed revision has now been published, and copies supplied to ICNAF Secretariat for use in making the ICNAF list. From 1962 it will be possible to supply ICNAF with manuscript cards so that this list will not be affected by delays in publication.

7. Intelligence Service

The World List of Periodicals for Fisheries Science is now in press. A news service on fisheries research programs and activities etc. will be published as a supplement to the "Current Bibliography" as from 1962.

8. Bio-geography of Marine Organisms and World Fisheries Atlas

FAO and ICES are now represented on the editorial board for the "Serial Atlas of the Marine Environment (N. Atlantic)" now being published by the American Geographic Society with the support of several other bodies. Any oceanographic and other synopsis of data which FAO prepares for parts of the N. Atlantic regions (including the North Sea Synopsis) will be published in the Serial Atlas. WMO has agreed to prepare the climatological and hydrological sections of these synopses.

9. Vessel Characteristics Related to Fishing Power

Now that ICNAF has tabulated propellor characteristics and other pertinent data for vessels fishing in the area, the Division will prepare suggested indexes to be correlated with relative fishing power, and will study these in collaboration with ICNAF member countries proposing to compare and analyze per unit effort data for individual vessels.