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A Report On Statistical Accomplishments During The Year

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1. Meetings

The Commission's Statistician met with Mr. Richard Hennemuth, Chairman of the Statistics Subcommittee, at Woods Hole, Mass., U. S. A. on September 17-18, 1963 mainly to discuss and outline the procedures to be followed concerning those recommendations made at the 1963 Annual Meeting at Halifax. Other items of a statistical nature were also discussed at that time.

2. Statistical Bulletin, Volume 12 for the Year 1962

Volume 12 of the Statistical Bulletin for the year 1962 has been compiled and edited in accordance with the recommendations made by the Statistics Subcommittee and was submitted to the printer on April 1, 1964. The processing time at the Secretariat has now been shortened from that of earlier years by six months. In earlier years the compiled data had been reaching the printer by October 1 of the second year following that to which the catch figures pertained. During 1962 and 1963 it was submitted by August 1 of the second year following. It has, in 1964, been submitted to the printer by April 1 of the second year following.

3. Preliminary Statistical Releases

Mimeographed drafts of Tables 1 and 3 from the Statistical Bulletin, Volume 12 for the year 1962 were released by the Secretariat on December 2, 1963 to all member countries in accordance with the Statistical Subcommittee's recommendation of June, 1963. (Vide Serial No. 1210.)

4. Summary of the Fishery in the Convention Area (1952-62 incl.)

During the Thirteenth Annual Meeting (1963) in Halifax several of the Commissioners and Scientific Advisers requested copies of the statistical charts which were prepared by the Commission's Statistician and exhibited in the Convention rooms. These historigrams have been photographed and are reproduced in Document No. 7 for your easy reference giving total fish landings (all species) taken from the Convention Area by country and year and by year and country up to and including 1962. Further to this are also included several simple line graphs showing cod, haddock, redfish, halibut, flounder, pollock, silver hake, herring and scallop landings from the Convention Area by years up to and including 1962.

Other species may be added in future years at the request of interested scientists et al. These data along with the advanced release of Tables 1 and 3 which were abstracted from the Statistical Bulletin, Volume 12, for the year 1962 (Serial No. 1210) will assist somewhat in the preliminary forecasting of fishery policy.

5. Comparative Summary of Data from Statistics Form 3

A summary of comparative statistics on fishing effort for the years 1961 and 1962 were circulated to member countries in April, 1964 as recommended by the Statistics Subcommittee. (Vide Serial No. 1204 - Document No. 2.)

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6. Survey of Geographical Grid Systems

A survey of geographical grid systems was completed during the year and is reported upon as recommended by the Statistics Subcommittee. (Vide Serial No. 1299 - Document No. 10.)

7. Scientific and Common Names of Species

At the Thirteenth Annual Meeting (June, 1963) a group of three specialists reviewed the comparative list of common and scientific names of fishes used by ICNAF and ICES and recommended twenty-two changes. These changes have now been incorporated into the original "List of Species With Names Used In The Statistical Bulletin And Scientific Names" and have been reproduced as a meeting document. (Vide Serial No. 1302 - Document No. 12) (Ref.: Redbook 1963, Part 1 : Recommendation 55, page 70).

8. Provision of Subarea 1 Statistics to ICES

At the Thirteenth Annual Meeting the Subcommittee considered the proposal of the CWP to eliminate the duplication in collection of statistics for Subarea 1 by both ICNAF and ICES and recommended that the ICNAF Secretariat provide ICES with landing statistics for Subarea 1 if ICES should desire this arrangement. At the request of ICES, early in 1964, the ICNAF Secretariat provided ICES with Statistics by species and countries for Subarea 1 (ICES Subarea XV) for the year 1962.

9. Assistance By FAO in Compiling Annual Meeting Statistics for ICNAF

The Secretary of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, Mr. L. P. D. Gertenbach, has agreed to tabulate the Annual Meeting Document on "Groundfish and Herring Landings From the Convention Area in 1963 Arranged By Species, Countries and Divisions". This arrangement came about during a meeting of Messrs. L. P. D. Gertenbach, R. J. H. Beverton and L. R. Day in late January, 1964, at which time it had been decided to have tables with 1963 data similar to those distributed by the ICNAF Statistician (Tables 1 and 3) under ICNAF Serial No. 1210 on December 2, 1963. Since not all countries report fully on all species it is not feasible at this time to fulfil the original arrangement.

10. Graphical Presentation of Trends in ICNAF Fisheries

During its work of the past two years members of the Assessment Group have spent appreciable time in compiling landings and effort statistics into a form which would permit appraisal of recent trends. Realizing that development of a standard graphical presentation of pertinent data would be of general interest the group recommended to the Research and Statistics Committee that the Secretariat be asked to draw up and maintain a series of such charts for use at Annual Meetings. During the early part of 1964 the Secretariat initiated the beginnings of such a program and have reproduced all such responses up to date in Serial No. 1295, Document No. 6 entitled "Standard Graphical Presentation of Pertinent Data for Use by the Assessment Group".

11. Sampling Yearbook, Volume 7 for the Year 1962

Volume 7 of the Sampling Yearbook for the year 1962 was compiled, edited and typed on stencils and submitted to the printer on April 1, 1964 for running and binding. It was mailed out to all member countries during the latter part of April, 1964.

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11. Sampling Yearbook, Volume 7 for the Year 1962 (cont'd)

The amount of data has increased considerably from the previous year but the regular size of the volume has been retained by increasing the number of columns in the Length Frequencies Tables of Cod. In the 1961 volume there were 193 pages while in the 1962 volume there were 201 pages. The number of pages for cod were reduced from 106 to 78 pages. The data for redfish increased from 50 to 73 pages. The number of tables has increased from 86 to 115.

12. Otolith Exchange Programmes

- (a) Cod: All 16 samples have now been circulated among the following interested countries and a report on the results of their readings will be circulated in the near future:

Canada (N)  
Canada (M)  
Germany, Federal Rep.  
Norway  
Spain

Samples originating in the U. S. S. R. and circulated by that country to other member countries are being submitted to the ICNAF Secretariat. A decision should be made by the Statistics Subcommittee concerning further circulation of these samples by the Secretariat or whether or not they should be returned to the originating country. These samples, if they are to form part of the original cod otolith exchange program, will hold up considerably the finalizing of the ultimate report.

- (b) Redfish: All 8 samples have now been circulated among the following interested countries and the results of their readings have been reported upon in Document No. 9:

Canada (N)  
Denmark (G)

- (c) Halibut: The International Pacific Halibut Commission which has been co-operating in the reading of ICNAF otoliths, has now further co-operated by providing a sample from their laboratory. All 2 samples have been circulated among the following interested countries and the results of their readings have been reported upon in Document No. 8:

Canada (N)  
Denmark (G)  
Iceland

13. Discards and Industrial Fish

In order to ensure the collection of total catch statistics, and in anticipation of future trends in the fisheries, it is considered that data on industrial fish, such as fish meal, are required in addition to discard data, by species and divisions. Such statistics should eventually appear in the Statistical Bulletin to provide a complete record of catches rather than of landings only. The revised Statistics 4 Form has been circulated for use in the year 1963 and is to be reported upon at the 1964 Annual Meeting in Hamburg. All data received up to the time of the printing of this paper are reported in Document No. 17.

14. Redfish Depth Zones

All member countries have been requested to sample their 1963 redfish statistics in an attempt to report the distribution of redfish effort in

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14. Redfish Depth Zones (cont'd)

six depth zones from 51-350 fathoms for each gear, division and month. Countries reporting redfish statistics by depth zones were asked to make an analysis of them, by comparing statistics of catch and effort and size composition of fish in relation to depth zone, with a view to assessing their usefulness and the possible need for alternative depth stratification. These replies are being circulated as 1964 Annual Meeting Documents.

15. Sampling Methods Used in Member Countries

At the 1963 Annual Meeting, the Working Group on Sampling examined in detail the information supplied by countries on their methods of age sampling which were in reply to a directive sent out by the Chairman of R. & S. on February 22, 1963. At the request of R. & S., the Secretariat circulated to all member countries copies of these replies, together with a worked example of the use of the stratified sampling of age. Member countries were also reminded that during the year 1963 they should examine their sampling methods, both of research vessel catches and of commercial landings from the ICNAF area, with a view to determining the relative efficiencies of different methods, and to adopting where possible the most efficient one (vide Serial No. 1193 dated October 7, 1963). The results of these analyses are to be reported upon at the 1964 Annual Meeting.

16. Financial Statements and Books of Account

The Commission's Books of Account were closed out for the 1962/63 fiscal year and the financial statements were prepared for and approved (intact) by the Auditor. All banking and books of account were maintained for the 1963/64 fiscal year and preliminary budgetary and financial statements were passed on to the Executive-Secretary for disclosure in the 1964 Administrative Report.