

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR



THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

Report of the ICES Statistical Committee
1965

STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. B.B. Parrish
Rapporteur: Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach

I. Proceedings

The Committee met on Tuesday 5th and Friday 8th October. Members from most member countries attended the meeting, together with Observers from ICES, OECD and FAO. Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach (FAO), Secretary of the FAO/ICES/ICMMP Continuing Working Party was appointed Rapporteur.

In opening the meeting, the Chairman expressed the Committee's regrets that Dr. Fridriksson was unable to attend the meeting, and it was agreed that a telegram expressing the Committee's best wishes for a full and speedy recovery should be sent to him.

He welcomed the Assistant Secretary General, Mr. Tambs-Lyche, and also expressed the Committee's warm appreciation of Miss E. Christiansen's valuable services to the Council after 40 years with the Secretariat, the most recent of which had been in the Statistical Office.

The list of Committee members was checked, and alterations to the membership for Belgium, England, Germany, Norway, Poland and the USSR were noted.

The following Agenda items were dealt with.

1. Bulletin Statistique
 - (a) Progress with publication
 - (b) Review of lay-out of Tables and their contents
 - (c) Fishing Effort Statistics
 - (d) Other Items
2. Publication of ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960'S
3. Publication of List of Common and Scientific Names of Species
4. STANA Reporting Procedures
5. Factory Trawler Statistics
6. List of Fishing Craft and Inventory Fleet Statistics
7. Statistical News Letter
8. Relations with other International Bodies
9. Other Items of Business
10. Election of Chairman

1. Bulletin Statistique

(a) The Chairman announced that Volume 47 of Bulletin Statistique for 1962 had been published since the last Annual Meeting, and drew attention to the proofs of Tables 1-4 of Volume 48, which had been circulated at this meeting. The Assistant General Secretary announced that it was hoped to publish this volume before the end of the year.

(b) The Committee noted with approval that advance copies of Tables 1-5 of the Bulletin Statistique for 1964 had been prepared by the Fishery Statistics Section of FAO, as FAO Fisheries Circular No. 57. It was agreed that this service by FAO was of great value to the Council, and the Committee expressed the hope that the issue of these tables at or before each Annual Meeting would be continued. Mr. Gertenbach informed the Committee that this should be possible and intimated that the earliest date of issue of the Tables was governed by the promptness with which countries submitted their statistical data. If all countries submitted them by the May 31 deadline, the Tables could be issued well in advance of the Annual Meeting. It was, therefore, agreed that the importance of adherence to the prescribed deadline should again be brought to the notice of countries.

It was also agreed that, because of its importance to workers in member countries, more copies of this document should be made available within countries than were distributed at this meeting. Mr. Gertenbach offered to do this on receipt of a request from countries.

(c) The form and lay-out of the Tables in the Bulletin Statistique were reviewed in the light of recommendations passed at the 4th Session of the CWP.

It was agreed that

- (a) the word "Quantity" should be followed by the words "Nominal Catch" in Tables 3 and 4,
- (b) the "Species Group" headings should be inserted along with the individual species in Table 4,
- (c) the heading of the Total Quantities columns in Tables 3 and 4 should be revised to make it clear that they refer only to the ICES Statistical Area North, and exclude the catches for the West Greenland Area and the Southern Waters,
- (d) the percentages occurring in Tables 3 and 4 should be retained,

1. (concluded)

(d) The Committee discussed at length whether the publication of "Value" Statistics in Tables 1, 3 and 4 should be continued. It was agreed that their publication be continued in the next volume of the Bulletin Statistique, and that further consideration should be given to this matter at the next meeting of the Committee, in the light of the outcome of a request for them, which the Secretary of the CWP will make to those countries which have not supplied these data in the past.

(e) It was agreed that the inclusion in Tables 3 and 4 of the total catches of countries from all areas in addition to those taken in the ICES area would provide useful additional information. It was agreed that this matter should be examined by the General Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary of the CWP.

(f) The Committee noted that no further progress had been made in obtaining detailed statistics for the ICES Statistical Area South (i.e. for catches made south of latitude 36°. Mr. Gertenbach informed the Committee that FAO would, as a part of its normal routine publication of fishery statistics, produce Fisheries Circulars covering statistics of catches in this area as well as other parts of the Atlantic. It was agreed that FAO should be requested to make these statistics available to ICES on a routine basis. The Committee noted that the species composition of the catches in this area would be different from those taken in the ICES Statistical Area North, and that it might not be possible to accommodate them adequately under the species classification used in Table 4; eventually a new table might have to be designed for accommodating these details, providing that the countries fishing in that area were in a position to provide the details broken down adequately by species and fishing areas.

Note was also taken that a Symposium on the fish stocks in this area might be held by the Council in the near future. It was agreed that no further steps should be taken to improve the collection of statistics from this area pending this Symposium, where it was hoped a full discussion of the problems of obtaining adequate statistics for this area would be held.

(g) The Secretary of the CWP informed the Committee that a number of countries had not yet informed him of their vessel and gear breakdown for reporting fishing effort statistics to ICES. It was agreed that he should make a further request for this information and report the position at the next meeting of the Committee.

The notice of the Committee was drawn to the major differences in the efficiency of the effort unit "Days fished" for stern and side trawlers. It was agreed that the Secretary of the CWP should make enquiries about this in his approach to countries for information on craft and gear breakdown.

2. Publication of the "ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's"

The Chairman announced that the preparation of the revised text of this document, the publication of which had been recommended at the last Annual Meeting was now nearing completion, and he hoped that it could be published in either Volumes 48 or 49 of the Bulletin Statistique.

3. Scientific and Common Names of Species

The Committee noted that the list of scientific and common names is now undergoing final preparation for publication. It was agreed that the Secretary General would not circulate it again but would make it ready for publication in either Volume 48 or 49 of the "Bulletin Statistique". The Secretary of the Continuing Working Party reviewed Section 7 of the Report of the 4th Session of the CWP (Document No. 4) and reported on the recommendation of the Continuing Working Party that FAO produce, as a "Bulletin of Fishery Statistics" a document in which would be tabulated the scientific, English, Spanish and French common names of all species appearing in the tables in the publications of ICES, ICNAF and FAO. He reported that this document would be prepared in time for the next ICNAF and ICES meetings. The Committee also took note of the report of the OMBD Observer on his organization's work on a Multi-Lingual Nomenclature of Fish and Fishery Products.

4. STANA Reporting Procedures

The Secretary of the CWP reviewed briefly the present procedures (STANA forms, methods, notes, etc.), used by him to request and obtain catch/effort data on behalf of FAO, ICES and ICNAF, from the countries fishing in the North Atlantic.

The Statistical Committee noted with approval that the introduction of drafting sheets, requested by several countries, greatly reduce the work involved in preparing for dispatch to the countries, the outgoing requests for "ICES Summary", "ICNAF Summary", and "General Summary" data. It also noted that any failure or delay on the part of the countries to return the completed forms to FAO before the deadline indicated in the notes accompanying the forms present the International Agencies with major difficulties in preparing preliminary tables of catches for the ICES meeting at the end of September.

The Statistical Committee, therefore, recommends most strongly that each national reporting office should take all possible steps to return final data (or if this is not possible, preliminary data) before May 31 for the STANA 2 forms designated "ICES Summary" and "General Summary".

4. (concluded)

The Committee approved the recommendation of the CWP that copies of STANA forms designated especially for FAO and one or the other of the two North Atlantic Agencies (ICNAF and ICES) be distributed only to FAO and the agency concerned and not to all three agencies.

The Secretary of the CWP informed the Committee that the stock of STANA IE forms, printed initially at FAO expense was now almost exhausted and that a new supply of forms will have to be printed. It was agreed that the Council be requested to meet the cost of printing these forms (about \$ 300), while the cost of printing the STANA 2 forms would be met by FAO.

5. Factory Trawler Statistics

The Committee noted that the CWP at its 4th Session had considered the growing problems involved in the collection of statistics for long range factory trawler fleets, and that it had recommended that its Secretary should initiate, through FAO, a study of this problem on a world wide basis. The Committee endorsed this recommendation, and expressed the hope that, in the meantime, those countries faced with this problem will take all possible steps to introduce effective statistical collection services for these fleets.

6. List of Fishing Craft and Inventory Fleet Statistics

(a) The Committee considered in detail the question whether ICES should commence the publication of a List of Fishing Craft comparable with that published by ICNAF. Note was taken of the views expressed by the CWP, to whom the matter had been referred, of the usefulness of such data for a number of purposes, and to the division by the CWP that it could not provide specific advice whether it should indicate such a publication. After detailed consideration of the problem the Committee decided that while a specific ICES Fishing Craft list was not justified, a list of craft fishing in the North Atlantic as a whole would be of valuable guide to the trends in developments in fisheries and for other purposes. It was thought that a list covering craft above 50 GRT in the ICNAF area and above 150 GRT in the ICES area would meet the requirements. It was, therefore, agreed that further consideration to the preparation of such a list should be given by the General Secretary in consultation with the Executive Secretary of ICNAF, the chairmen of the ICES and ICNAF Statistical Committees and the Secretary of the CWP, and their findings be reported to the 1966 Meeting of ICES and ICNAF. In its consideration of this matter the Committee agreed that a World List of Register of Fishing Craft would provide valuable information on the growth and developments in the worlds fisheries. It was agreed that the Secretary of the CWP be requested to investigate the possibility of FAO's establishing and maintaining a detailed register of all fishing craft above an appropriate tonnage throughout the world, and that ICES be kept informed of the results of this investigation.

6. (concluded)

(b) Consideration was also given to the tabular, inventory fleet statistics published in Table 8 of Bulletin Statistique, in the light of the comments in Section 6.2 of the report of the 4th Session of the CWP. The Committee agreed that the collection and publication of these statistics should be continued in their present form (tonnage and horse-power classes), and that consideration should be given at the next meeting to possible, further tabulations based on other characteristics, such as age.

The Committee agreed that no further changes should be made in tonnage classification used in these tabulations, but that countries be requested to specify the lower limit of the 0-25 GRT class in their submissions.

7. Statistical News Letter

The Chairman reminded the Committee that at last year's meeting, the proposals of the Statistical News Letters' Working Group concerning the reporting of catch and fishing effort statistics for fluctuation in the Statistical News Letters had been approved, and that it was hoped that all countries reporting such data would adhere to this scheme.

8. Relations with other international bodies

(a) FAO

The Committee took note of the FAO "Bulletin of Fishery Statistics" No. 6 (catches in the North Atlantic, 1963). Mr. Gertenbach explained that this series had been established by FAO to provide nominal catch data for the North Atlantic as a whole, broken down by ICNAF sub-areas and by groups of ICES divisions (corresponding with the NEAFC regions). He mentioned that a country break-down was given only for those species which were caught in both Commission areas; for others, only the catches of all countries combined were given. The Committee expressed the view that this series of publications provide a valuable additional series of data for the North Atlantic.

The Committee also expressed its warm appreciation of the assistance given to the Council in its statistical work by Mr. Gertenbach and the staff of the Statistics Section of the Fisheries Division of FAO.

8. (concluded)

(b) ICNAF

The Committee expressed its pleasure that it had been possible for the Executive Secretary of ICNAF and the Chairman of the Statistics Sub-committee of its Research and Statistics Committee to be present as Observers at the meeting. It welcomed the exchange of the reports of the Statistical Committees of both organizations.

(c) OECD

The Committee welcomed the attendance of the OECD Observer and expressed the hope that his organization would be represented at future meetings.

(d) Statistical Office of the European Communities

The Committee regretted that the Statistical Office of the European Communities had not been able to send an observer to this meeting of the Committee.

(e) Continuing Working Party

The Report of the 4th Session of the Continuing Working Party was considered in detail by the Committee, and all items of relevance to the ICES Statistical programme were dealt with under specific items of the agenda. The Secretary of the CWP informed the Committee that the next meeting of the CWP would take place in the autumn of 1967.

9. Other items

The Committee agreed that, with the rapid growth of the ICES Statistical Programme, and the developments in the joint STANA reporting system it was of great importance that the new General Secretary should have an early opportunity for detailed discussions with the Chairman of the Committee and a representative of the ICNAF Statistical Office and the Secretary of the CWP on all aspects of the processing and publication of statistical data by the Council

Mr. B.B. Parrish was re-elected Chairman for the coming year.

II. Communications

- No. 4 F.A.O. "Report of the Fourth Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic, Rome, March 9-12, 1965".
- No. 5 F.A.O. "FAO Bulletin of Fisheries Statistics: No. 6: Catches in the North Atlantic".
- No. 6 F.A.O. "Additional proposals for an international standard statistical classification of fishing craft".
- No. 7 L.P.D. Gertenbach "Notes for the completion of STANA forms to be used for reporting 1965 calendar year data during 1966".
- No. 8 L.P.D. Gertenbach "Nominal catches in the ICES statistical area (North) during 1964".

III. Recommendations

The Statistical Committee recommends:-

- A(1) That funds be made available for the Chairman of the Statistical Committee to visit Copenhagen in spring, 1966 to discuss with the General Secretary matters relating to the processing and publication of statistical data in the Council's statistical journals and other aspects of the Council's statistical programme, and
- that the Council request FAO and ICNAF to make arrangements for the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party and a member of the ICNAF Secretariat staff to take part in these discussions.
- A(2) That a sum of about D.Kr. 2,000.- be made available for the printing of a further supply of STANA 1E forms for the reporting by countries of their nominal catch and fishing effort data to ICES.
- B(1) That the Council remind countries of the importance of adhering to the proscribed deadlines for submitting their STANA 1E and 2 forms to the international offices.

III. (concluded)

- B(2) (a) That the General Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman of the Statistical Committee, the Executive Secretary of ICNAF, the Chairman of the ICNAF Statistics Sub-committee, and the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party explore during the coming year the possibilities of preparing a List of Fishing Craft, fishing in the North Atlantic, and report their findings at the next Annual Meetings of ICES and ICNAF,
- (b) that the Council express to FAO its interest in that organization's investigation of the possibility of preparing a World Fishing Craft Register for vessels over 500 GRT, and requests FAO to keep ICES informed of progress with this investigation, and
- (c) that the publication of inventory fishing fleet statistics in the Bulletin Statistique in tabular form be continued, but that countries be requested to supply information, with their submission, on the lower limit of the tonnage category 0-25 GRT.
- B(3) That the Council approve the recommendation of the Continuing Working Party that its Secretary should initiate, through FAO, a world-wide study of the methods used and problems involved in the collection of fishery statistics from long-distance factory trawler fleets, and that, pending the results of this study, member countries faced with this problem in the ICES area should be urged to take all possible steps to introduce effective systems of statistics collection for these fleets.