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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

Report of a Meeting on FAO, ICES and ICNAF Statistics

Charlottenlund, 9-10 February 1966

At its 53rd Statutory Meeting, Rome 1965, the Council provided funds for the Chairman of the Statistical Committee to visit Copenhagen in order to discuss with the Secretary General of ICES matters relating to the processing and publication of statistical data in the Council's statistical journals and other aspects of the Council's statistical program. FAO and ICNAF were requested 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 (C. Res. 1965/2:6). Unfortunately, the ICNAF Assistant Executive Secretary, Mr Kowalewski, could not attend the meeting, but the following were present:

Mr B. B. Parrish, Chairman of ICES Statistical Committee
Mr L. P. D. Gertenbach, Secretary of the Continuing Working Party
Mr H. Tambs-Lyche, Secretary General of ICES.

The following items were discussed:-

1. List of Fishing Craft and Inventory Fleet Statistics

The participants felt that the usefulness of an international fishing vessel list depends largely upon its completeness. It should in any case be reasonably ascertained that the major fishing countries would be in a position to provide the requested lists of individual fishing vessels before a firm decision about the printing of such an international list is taken by ICES. They did not have sufficient information on this point to recommend that ICES should immediately start the collection of detailed information on all fishing vessels above 150 tons from the ICES member countries. They, therefore, recommend that the problem should be approached in the following way, which will allow the Statistical Committee to follow closely the development of the project without losing time (the next ICNAF list will appear in 1968):-

- a) The Secretary of the Continuing Working Party will submit to the 1966 Statutory Meeting of ICES a proforma for collection of information. The proforma will be based upon the ICNAF requirements, such as they are formulated in Annex I to the Report of the ICNAF Committee on Statistics (1965). He will also, in consultation with the other two participants, provide a short explanatory introduction to the proforma.

The proforma will be ready in time to be tabled for information during the forthcoming ICNAF meeting in June. It will be presented as a meeting document to the Statistical Committee of ICES in October, together with the comments that may arise from the ICNAF meeting.

- b) After decisions as to the details of the proforma have been taken by the Statistical Committee of ICES in October 1966, the member countries should be asked to provide lists of fishing vessels of their respective countries according to the requirements of the proforma and to submit these lists as meeting documents to the 1967 ICES meeting.

- c) With this material in hand the Statistical Committee will be able to decide on the further development of such a list and to recommend if it should be either
 - (i) an internationally printed ICNAF/ICES list, or
 - (ii) nationally produced lists, which are made available on an exchange basis.

The participants discussed Table 8 in the Bulletin Statistique. They feel that those countries, who are not providing information to the Table (USSR, Norway, Spain and the Faroes) should be requested to do so, and both the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party and the Secretary General of ICES were asked to get in touch with the responsible contacts in those countries urging them to give what information they can, even if it does not fully cover or conform to the breakdown now used in Table 8.

The participants were informed that FAO is continuing its work on a World Fishing Fleets inventory system, and they will, therefore, not now propose to make any changes in the reporting procedure or in the table layout.

2. Developments in the Processing of Statistical Data within the International Statistical Offices, and the Need for more Facilities and/or Staff

The timetable for the production of Bulletin Statistique was thoroughly discussed, and it was considered very important that the following deadlines could be met:

- a) preprints of Tables 1 to 5 of Bulletin Statistique, covering the calendar year A should be available at the next meeting (year A+1) of ICES, and
- b) the printed Bulletin for calendar year A should be available before the meeting of ICES (year A+2).

Details in the arrangement and in the proforma to be used were discussed.

The participants were aware of the intentions of FAO to mechanize the data processing of their fishery statistics by means of computers, and they were informed that there is a good chance that a study of the feasibility of an EDP system will start relatively soon.

They feel that this data processing may very likely be of great importance for the statistical work of ICES, and they recommend, therefore, that its development should be closely followed. They also recommend that major changes in the processing of the Bulletin Statistique should await the progress of the FAO scheme.

3. The Form and Layout of the Bulletin Statistique and the Council's other Statistical Journals

- a) Bulletin Statistique, Table 4

This table was thoroughly discussed in view of the request of the Statistical Committee of ICES that figures for total catches, including those taken outside the ICES area, of the different countries, broken down as to species groups or species should be provided. The desirability of avoiding a horizontal expansion of the present Table 4 was also considered.

The participants found that the Statistical Committee's request could best be met with by the insertion of a new Table (4A) and a new, smaller introductory table. The Table 4A would be as follows:

	ICES Area (North)	ICES Area (South)	ICNAF W. Greenland	Other Areas	Grand Total (All Areas)
Country					
Species		1)	1)		

1) These columns will be removed from the present Table 4.

The introductory table will be of the following form:

	196A+3		196A+2		196A+1		196A	
	Nominal Catch		Nominal Catch		Nominal Catch		Nominal Catch	
	All regions	North- east Atlantic only	All regions	North- east Atlantic only	All regions	North- east Atlantic only	All regions	North- east Atlantic only
Country	1)		1)		1)		1)	
Species Groups								

1) These totals may be taken from the FAO Yearbook on Fishery Statistics

The recommendation as to the insertion of a new Table 4A will be presented to the Statistical Committee at the 1966 meeting, while the Editor will try to insert the new introductory table in the manuscript to Bulletin Statistique (Volume 49 for 1964).

b) List of Fish Names

The layout of the List of Fish Names was discussed and the Editor's suggestions supported.

It was recommended that sufficient off-prints should be provided, so that all participants in the next Annual Meeting of ICES can get a copy, and that the list ought to usefully be included in the proposed FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics covering North Atlantic Fish Names. The combined ICES/ICNAF statistical area chart will be included in the off-print.

c) Value Statistics in Bulletin Statistique

In view of the extensive economic information now presented in the FAO Yearbooks on Fishery Statistics and in view also of the fact that there is considerable uncertainty (for example, values refer to landed quantities, while catch data in the same tables refer to live weight) involved in the value figures in the Tables 3, 4, and 5 of the Bulletin Statistique, so that they are not comparable, and further in view of the amount of work involved in collecting and compiling the data, the participants felt that unless new information will be available at the next meeting of the Statistical Committee of ICES, the value column of the three tables should be discontinued.

d) News Letters Issues

It was recommended that the word Yield in the title of all the News Letter issues shall be replaced by Nominal Catch.

Table 82 in the Statistical News Letter No. 23 was discussed, and the Editor's intention of including monthly catch data only when effort data are given in the same breakdown was supported. It was recommended that this table should in future be issued as a separate News Letter with the following title:

NOMINAL CATCH AND FISHING EFFORT
BY MONTHS AS REPORTED ON STANA FORMS

The rest of the present issue should then have the following title:

DEMERSAL SPECIES
NOMINAL CATCH AND FISHING EFFORT
STOCK RECORD DATA

The Herring Stock Record issue should have the following title:

HERRING
STOCK RECORD DATA (Year)

The last yearly issue should be called:

HERRING
NORTH SEA
NOMINAL CATCH AND FISHING EFFORT

4. Survey of the Completeness with which Countries Report Data to ICES, with Special Reference to Fishing Effort Data in Table 5 of Bulletin Statistique

It was considered highly desirable that an appraisal be made of the completeness with which countries are reporting catch and effort data to ICES. This should be done before the next meeting of the Continuing Working Party (Reykjavik, March-April 1967).

The Secretary of the Continuing Working Party informed the other participants that in November 1965 he had written to the countries for their definitions of effort measures and their national classes of fishing units, and that he had received some answers. Two papers based on this material will be presented to the forthcoming ICES meeting.

The separate reporting of stern- and side-trawler effort was discussed, but it was felt that the question could only be usefully considered when the national group classification and definition of effort measure units are available.

It was agreed that effort data on steam trawling ought to be retained separately in the catch/effort tables.

It was further agreed that the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party should request countries to report the figures in STANA 1E to the nearest metric ton, without decimals.

5. Timing and Procedure for Implementation of Recommendations

It was decided to put at the end of the Agenda for each meeting of the Statistical Committee the following item: "Final Approval of the Notes for the Completion of the STANA Forms, to be Distributed Early Next Year".

It was also decided that ICES will provide FAO with ICES title pages for those meeting documents, which will be provided by FAO.

It was agreed that the report of this meeting should be included in "The Statistical Editor's Report" for the next meeting of the Statistical Committee.

6. Statistics for ICES Statistical Area (South)

It was felt that the following questions should be discussed at the forthcoming Symposium on the "Study of the Living Resources of the African Atlantic Continental Shelf, the Stocks of such Resources and their Fisheries between the Strait of Gibraltar and Cape Verde", if that Symposium is arranged:

- a) the boundaries and sub-divisions of the ICES statistical area (south) (the Eastern Central Atlantic),
- b) what species or species groups should be identified in the area statistics,
- c) how the catch and effort reporting could be organized for the area, whether by some system like the STANA one, or otherwise.

There will, however, be a need for a paper giving the background information for such a discussion in any case, whether the Symposium comes off or not.

The Secretary General of ICES therefore undertook to provide for the other participants a first draft framework for such a working paper.

The designations: ICES Statistical Area (South) and ICES Statistical Area (North) were discussed in the light of the possibility that there may in the future be southern and northern demersal and pelagic Fisheries Committees in the organizational set-up of ICES. It was agreed that this might cause confusion, and it was further agreed that one possible solution would be to rename the statistical areas in accordance with FAO's Standard International Statistical Classification of Fishing Areas.

The ICES Statistical Area (North) would then be called: The Northeast Atlantic, while the ICES Statistical Area (South) would be designated: The Eastern Central Atlantic.

7. What to do with Catches made by Non-Member Countries in the ICES Area (North)

The Secretary General informed the other participants of his intention to give references to statistics of catches made in the ICES Area (North) during 1964 by non-member countries in the introduction to the 1964 Bulletin Statistique with - if suitable - a small summary table (Ref. C. Res. 1961/14:9). It was agreed that this would be useful.

8. Future Meetings

It was agreed that meetings of this kind would certainly be very useful also in the future, and it was recommended that an attempt be made to arrange such meetings at the time of the Liaison Committee's mid-season meetings in the years in which the Continuing Working Party does not meet.

February 1966

STATISTICS MEETING, CHARLOTTENLUND

9-11 February 1966

Provisional Agenda

1. List of Fishing Craft and Inventory Fleet Statistics.
2. Developments in the processing of statistical data within the International Statistical Offices, and the need for more facilities and/or staff.
 - 2.(a) Would it be possible to carry the statistical "working-up" of the News Letters tables one step further, if ICES had a professional statistician on the staff?
3. The form and layout of the Bulletin Statistique and the Council's other statistical journals, and comparison with ICNAF journals.
 - 3.(a) The value columns in Bulletin Statistique?
 - 3.(b) Total catches inside and outside the ICES area for member countries and species?
4. Survey of the completeness with which countries report data to ICES, with special reference to fishing effort data in Table 5 of the Bulletin Statistique.
 - 4.(a) Splitting up of trawl effort data in side- and stern-trawlers?
 - 4.(b) Retaining of steam-trawl effort data?
 - 4.(c) Reporting with decimals in STANA forms?
 - 4.(d) The implementation of resolution C.M. 1965/4:18.
 - 4.(e) The evaluation mentioned in IV Report of the Continuous Working Group, page 5, point b (present system of catch/effort reporting).
 - 4.(f) Factory trawler statistics?
5. Timing and procedure for implementing recommendations taken at Annual Meetings.
 - 5.(a) The implementation of the recommendations of the Statistical News Letters Working Group.
6. Statistics for ICES Statistical Area (south).
 - 6.(a) Can the column "Southern Waters" in Table 3 (Bulletin Statistique) be deleted and replaced by a more or less embryonal table giving data from Area (south)?
7. What to do with catches made by non-member countries in the ICES area (north)?