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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1966

Report and Recommendations of the ICES Comparative Fishing Committee, 1965

Chairman: Mr Steinar Olsen; Rapporteur: Dr H. Bohl

Proceedings

Two meetings of the Committee were held, on October 5th and 8th. Changes in the Committee's membership were notified for Belgium, for England, where Mr R. J. H. Beverton is being replaced by Mr M. J. Holden, for Germany, where Dr H. Bohl replaces Dr J. Scharfe, and for the Netherlands, where Mr J. J. Zijlstra is now a member instead of Mr L. K. Boerema.

The Administrative Report for 1964 was checked and adopted.

(1) Matters arising from Recommendations of the 1964 Meeting

(a) Publications. The Committee was informed that the Review of Methods used by Member Countries to measure Fishing Effort and Catch per Unit Effort has now been published in the Statistical Newsletter series. It was also noticed that the Reviews of Net Materials in Commercial Use, included in the 1963 Administrative Report was published in the 1964 Procès-Verbal de la Réunion.

(b) Statistical Leaflets. The Convenor of the Editorial Group informed the Committee about the progress made in the preparation of the Statistical Leaflets, and it was agreed that provisional editions of the three next Leaflets shall be distributed directly to the members of this Committee for their comments.

(c) Double top-sides. No written contributions on this item were received, but verbal reports were given by USSR and Poland on the work going on in these countries on testing new types of codends which would not need additional topside strengthening, and with topside chafers of very large mesh-size. These experiments seemed to be very promising and the Committee, therefore, agreed that it would be desirable if also other countries would try to undertake similar experiments.

(d) Mesh measuring. There was only one written contribution to this Committee on the mesh-sizes in commercial use as measured with an ICES Gauge, and it was stressed that information on this item from more countries is needed, especially for assessment purposes.

The same contribution also contained information on comparison between mesh-measurements by Inspectors using the hand-wedge gauge and measurements made by the ICES Gauge. These comparisons confirmed the results reported by other countries last year that the ICES Gauge nearly always gives lower readings than the hand-wedge.

There was considerable discussion in the Committee on a number of aspects with regard to the whole issue of mesh-measuring, such as gauges for scientific and enforcement purposes as well as devices which are simple for the fishermen to use; comparisons between measuring methods, the pressure to be executed etc. The discussion indicated, however, that at the present state of knowledge no new advice can be given.

(2) Gear and Selectivity

The Committee expressed its appreciation to the author of Document No. 83, Dr A. von Brandt, this contribution containing a most valuable review of the numbering systems and netting twines for trawls used in ICES countries. The author was asked to prepare a revised version of this paper to be appended to the new Review of Net Materials in Commercial Use forthcoming in 1967.

New data were reported on the selectivity of polypropylene which confirmed the previous findings that the differential in selection factors between this material and manila is clearly less than 10%.

One contribution describing a new type of shrimp trawl was given. It was stated that this trawl (or modified versions of it) which facilitates small flatfish to escape is used to some extent in the French and Dutch shrimp fisheries.

A review of the report of the ICNAF Subcommittee on Gear and Selectivity was given, and in view of the mutual interests of the Comparative Fishing Committee and that of ICNAF Subcommittee, it was suggested that in future closer contact between these Committees should be established, and that recommendations made in both Committees on the same subject matter should be co-ordinated.

(3) Acoustic Methods in Abundance and Distribution Studies

The report of the FAO Working Party on Direct and Speedier Estimation of Fish Abundance was reviewed. The Committee discussed at length how it could encourage further work on hydro-acoustic methods, and decided to hold a special session on this item at the next year's meeting.

(4) FAO Meeting on Fish Behaviour in Relation to Fishing Techniques and Tactics

The Committee welcomed the information that FAO is planning a special meeting on Fish Behaviour in Relation to Fishing Techniques and Tactics. A general program for this meeting was discussed and it was accepted that the scope of the meeting should be directed towards topics which are relevant to research on and development of fishing techniques and tactics. It was suggested that the spring of 1967 would be a suitable time, and an invitation from the Institute of Marine Research to hold this meeting in Bergen was greatly appreciated.

(5) Joint ICES/ICNAF Sampling Meeting

The report of this meeting was reviewed and the Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Sampling Meeting.

(6) Election of Chairman

Mr Steinar Olsen was re-elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

Recommendations

C.Res.1965/4:5 The Committee recommends that more countries should undertake experiments testing new types of codends which would not need additional topside strengthening, and with chafers of very large mesh-size. A report should be given to the Committee at its next meeting, but if information becomes available before the mid-year meeting of the Liaison Committee, which is to take place in the middle of February, data should also be submitted to the Secretary of the Liaison Committee.

- C. Res. 1965/4:6 The Committee endorsed the request made by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission for information on the actual mesh-size in use in the various trawl and seine-net fisheries and recommends that all countries should submit to the Secretary of the Liaison Committee as soon as possible, but not later than January 1966, a report on the meshes at present being used as measured with the ICES Gauge. It was emphasized that these reports should contain actual measurements.
- C. Res. 1965/4:7 It was recommended that the Comparative Fishing Committee should each year have a review of the report given by the ICNAF Subcommittee on Gear and Selectivity.
- C. Res. 1965/4:8 In accordance with a recommendation passed by ICNAF, the Committee recommends that in reporting to ICES the resultant tex number should be used to characterize netting twines.
- C. Res. 1965/4:9 The Committee took note of the comprehensive report of the FAO Working Party on Direct and Speedier Estimation of Fish Abundance, and of the recommendations made by the FAO-ACMRR. It stressed the great importance of further work on hydro-acoustic methods and recommended that all member countries should submit to the next meeting of ICES a report on the research work and application of acoustic methods in their countries with a view to holding a special session on this specific item at the next meeting of the Committee.
- C. Res. 1965/4:10 The Committee heard the Report of the Joint ICES/ICNAF Sampling Meeting and endorsed the recommendation made.