



Serial No.1900  
(G.c.)

ICNAF Res.Doc.67/101

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Proposed Refinements of Fishing Effort  
Measures and their Definitions

by

L.P.D. Gertenbach  
Secretary, Continuing Working Party on  
Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area

- A. The following is an extract from the Report of the Fifth Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area:

"13.2.6 The Continuing Working Party recommended that all countries should be urged as a matter of vital importance to ensure that all the national statistics collecting systems would produce the data required by national offices to report on the STANA forms all of the following three effort details:

- (a) either { (i) no. of hours or 1000 hooks fished (line 1)  
(ii) no. of hauls, drags or sets made (line 2)  
(b) no. of days fished (line 3)  
(c) no. of days on grounds (line 4)

The effort measures mentioned under (a) should be considered as alternatives, but (a), (b) and (c) should not be treated as alternatives. The national offices should therefore complete on the STANA 1E and 1W forms either lines (1) or (2) and then also both lines (3) and (4).

- 13.2.7 It was felt that although information on (1) no. of days absent from port and (2) no. of trips made might not be of much importance to biologists, they could be of great importance for economic studies.
- 13.2.8 The Continuing Working Party decided that the FAO representatives and the Secretary should look at all these questions and re-draft section 4 of the Notes for both STANA 1E and STANA 1W."

- B. ICNAF does not request information on either "no. of days absent from port" or "no. of trips made". These kinds of information are required by ICES only, and provision for their insertion under the effort measures on the STANA forms is made only in the case of STANA 1E.

C. The following is an extract from the "Notes for the Completion of Form STANA 1W":

"4.12 In giving data on fishing effort the following priorities are to be followed:

First priority: both lines 1 and 3

Second priority: line 2 ("No. of hauls, drags or sets made") should be completed only when information on "No. of hours or 1000 hooks fished" (line 1) is not available;

line 4 ("No. of days on grounds") should be completed only when information on "number of days fished" (line 3) is not available."

D. It is proposed that Section 4.12 be revised and that one of the following two alternative phrasings, amended if necessary, be adopted in place of the phrasing quoted in paragraph C above:

first: In giving data on fishing effort measures it is essential that either line (1) or (2), as appropriate for the type of fishing gear specified in box (1), is completed. It is essential to complete also not only line (3) but also line (4).

second: In giving data on fishing effort, lines (1), (3) and (4) should all be completed. If data to complete (1) cannot be obtained, line (2) should be completed.

E. In Section 4.2 of the "Notes for the Completion of Form STANA 1W" the number of hours fished is defined as follows:

"No. of hours fished: for otter trawls this is defined as "the total number of hours during which the trawl was on the bottom and fishing"; if countries are unable to report so precisely they should give the nearest approximation, with the precise definition of the approximation used.

No. of hours fished: For dory vessels this is defined as "the number of hours the dory fleet is absent from the mother vessel times the number of dories"."

In a letter from the U.S.S.R. authorities it has been indicated that in their statistics the number of hours fished "includes the time from stopping trawl wires up to hauling trawls".

F. In Section 4.2 of the "Notes for the Completion of Form STANA 1W" the number of days fished is defined as follows:

"The number of days (24-hour periods, reckoned from midnight to midnight) on which any fishing took place.

For those fisheries in which searching is a substantial part of the fishing operation, days "on grounds" in which searching but not fishing took place, should be included in the days fished data.

Taking into account the inclusion of "searching time" the definition of "number of days fished" could be further refined at the national level if possible as follows: "The number of days (24-hour periods, reckoned from midnight to midnight) on which the fishing craft was on the fishing grounds, intent on catching fish (not counting the time spent steaming to or from port and between grounds) minus the number of fishing days lost through delays from weather, breakdown or other factors"."

In a letter the U.S.S.R. authorities indicated that they include under the number of days fished (24 hour periods) the following:

- "(a) the time required for preparing fishing gear and fishery inventory for fishing;
- (b) time of immediate work with fishing gear (lifting and setting of trawls, shooting of nets, drifting of gears, hauling of nets, etc.);
- (c) hauling time and time for distribution of catch;
- (d) time for fish searching and making trip from one square to another, etc."

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany reported that their definitions of number of days fished is as follows:

"The time from the first to the last haul of each trip, minus the time losses due to short trips on the ground or between the grounds, bad weather conditions, breakdown or other factors."

G. It is obvious that the types of fishing activities performed by the crews and by the fishing vessels included in the definitions of number of hours fished are more restricted than those included in the number of days fished. These discrepancies in the coverage of the so-called fishing activities prevent the number of hours and the number of days from being made comparable by simple multiplication or division by 24.

H. It is also proposed to amend the "Notes for the Completion of Forms STANA 1E and 1W" by specifying quite clearly that the national offices in completing these forms should treat fishing operations such as pair trawling as a single unit, and that for all purposes such as the number of hours fished the data should refer to the two boats as a single unit, and that the hours should not be duplicated by indicating them separately for each of the two boats involved. A suitably worded paragraph along these lines is to be inserted in the Notes for the Completion of the STANA 1E and 1W Forms.