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Report of statistical activities of the ICNAF Secretariat, 1966/67

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Since the Annual Meeting of the Commission in Madrid, 1966, all recommendations of the R&S and Sampling & Statistics Subcommittee have been fulfilled by the ICNAF Secretariat and the following statistical activities have taken place:

1. Timeliness of Reporting Statistical Data

Member countries supplied 1966 statistical data on STANA 2 forms during the month of April (deadline of 15 April). Two countries reported 10 May 1967. One report is still wanted.

2. Use of STANA Reporting Forms and Instructions

As a result of action taken by the CWP Secretary some countries have distinguished between side and stern trawler catches on STANA 1W forms submitted for 1966. Two of five reports submitted to date show separate side and stern trawler catch (Rec.25, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.53).

3. Information on Discards and on Industrial Fish turned into Fish Meal at Sea

A summary of statistics on discards, 1965, is presented as Res.Doc 67/7 and distributed in April 1967. Forms, revised at the 1966 meeting for use in submitting data on discards and fish turned into fish meal at sea, were distributed to member countries in March 1967, with detailed notes for their completion and with three worked hypothetical examples. Data from the new discard forms will be used to summarize the 1966 data submitted by 15 July 1967 (Rec 26, Redbook, 1966, Pt.I, p.54).

4. Conversion Factors

The question of conversion factors was discussed during the Fifth Session of CWP in Aberdeen, 1967. The results of this discussion are recorded in the Report of the Session (Res.Doc.67/9).

5. Review of Common and Scientific Names

FAO submitted a draft version of FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics subtitled "North Atlantic Species Names" (FAO Fisheries Circular No.99, Rome, November 1966) which includes the names of the ICNAF species listed in the Statistical Bulletin, Vol.14 (Rec.27, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.55).

The code number "43" (previously used for *Molva m. va*) has been assigned to the Argentines (silver smelts) - Argentine spp." (Rec.27, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p 55)

6. Preparation of ICNAF Statistical Bulletin Vol.14, 1964

The manuscript of this volume was delivered to the printer in May and distributed in November 1966.

7. Proposals for the Preparation of ICNAF Statistical Bulletin Vol.15 (1965) and Related Statistical Publications

The ICNAF Secretariat processed the 1965 data according to instructions given on page 56 of Redbook 1966, Pt.I. The Secretariat checked Tables 1 and 2 which were prepared by FAO on the basis of STANA 2 forms and which were published as FAO Fisheries Circulars 81 and 82. The Secretariat provided FAO with the final version of ICNAF Bulletin Tables 1 and 3 by 15 October 1966. These revised figures were included in the FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics "Catches in the North Atlantic, 1965".

The ICNAF Secretariat completed the manuscript of Tables 2, 4 and 5 for Volume 15 of its Statistical Bulletin in November 1966. Such an early preparation of manuscript was due to the excellent cooperation of all the member countries who had

submitted catch and effort data on STANA 1W forms at the required time and to the generous assistance of FAO (Mr Gertenbach) in collecting data from non-member countries. Statistical Bulletin Vol.15 for 1965 was distributed in mid March 1967. Data for the 1966 Tables 1 and 3 for the Boston meeting were prepared by the ICNAF Secretariat. Because of the lack of the report from one country, Tables 1 and 3 will be completed and distributed in Boston.

8. Extension of ICNAF Statistical Collections Southward

Proposals from USA, Canada and FAO for extension of the ICNAF statistical collection southward were presented to the CWP, Aberdeen, 1967 for suggestions. Res.Doc.67/44 prepared by Mr Gertenbach, Secretary of CWP, contains the CWP proposals for ICNAF consideration.

At the request of the ICNAF Secretariat catch statistics have been provided by Canada, USSR and USA for the region southward of the ICNAF Convention Area to the latitude of Cape Hatteras for the years 1963-1966 and are included in Res. Doc. 67/51 along with the common and scientific names of fish taken in the new region (Rec.13, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.57).

9. Content of ICNAF List of Vessels (1965)

The fifth issue of the List of Vessels did not distinguish between side and stern trawlers because of lack of pertinent reports by member countries. The recommended changes referring to the "sonar" and "echo sounder" have been fulfilled (Rec.13, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.57 and 58.).

The problem of combined list of ICES and ICNAF vessels for the North Atlantic region has been discussed during the Fifth Session of CWP in Aberdeen. The results of this discussion are presented in the CWP report (Res.Doc.67/9) (Rec. 14, Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.58).

The manuscript of the List of Fishing Vessels and Summary of Fishing Effort in the ICNAF Convention Area, 1965 was sent to the printer in November 1966 and distributed in March 1967. As shown in the title of the issue a summary of fishing effort, 1965, has been added for the first time.

10. Factory Trawler Statistics

This problem was discussed by CWP Session and the results of this discussion are presented in the CWP report (Res.Doc.67/9) (Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p 59).

11. International Cooperation

The exchange of information with the ICES Statistical Committee was continued. The allowance for the attendance of an ICNAF representative at a meeting of FAO, ICES and ICNAF statistics personnel in the 1968 budget has been made (Rec 15. Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.59).

12. Sampling Yearbook and Age/Length Key Data

Sampling Yearbook Vol.10 (1965) was sent to the printer in March 1967 and was distributed in April 1967.

The summaries showing the sampling effort on particular species, by sub-areas and by member countries in 1964 and 1965, were prepared by the ICNAF Secretariat. (Redbook 1966, Pt.I, p.59).

The above part of our report reports on the actions required by the recommendations in the Redbook 1966, Pt.I. The other activities of the ICNAF Secretariat are presented below.

13. Proposed additions to Table 3 of the Statistical Bulletin

In accordance with a recommendation of the CWP in Aberdeen, 1967, Table 3 has been redesigned to include the NEAFC statistics for comparison. Copies of the new Table 3 will be available for discussion in the Sampling & Statistics Subcommittee meeting.

In the addition, the new Table 3 will show a proposed version of the arrangement of species and subtotals.

14. Fishing Effort for 1966

Due to the lack of the reports from several member countries, the summary of the fishing effort in the ICNAF Convention Area in 1966 cannot be completed. A summary of the data available will be prepared for the use of the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee.

15. Fifth Session CWP on North Atlantic Statistics, Aberdeen, 10-15 April 1967

The ICNAF Secretariat prepared a review of the ICNAF statistical program, 1965-1968 as a document for the CWP Session. The 1965 and 1966 ICNAF statistical and sampling publications were presented for critical assessment. The report and recommendations of the CWP are presented in Res.Doc.67/9.

The Executive Secretary represented the Commission at the CWP session.

16. Cooperation with International Agencies

The close cooperation on statistical field has been maintained with FAO, ICES, NEAFC and OECD directly and through CWP also. Exchanges of meeting reports and recommendations on statistical procedures have been promoted.

Statistical data have been provided to OECD as assistance in preparing its economic study of the development of the West Greenland fishery.

A working group established in 1966 by ICNAF with participation by OECD, NEAFC, ICES and FAO was supplied with required statistical data on catch and fishing effort.

17. Relations with Non-Member Countries

Because the ICNAF Secretariat is not in direct contact with some non-member countries fishing in the ICNAF Convention Area, complete statistical information is not available on fishing activity in the Convention Area.

Through the kindness of the CWP Secretary, limited information has been made available in recent years. Increasing fishing activity by non-member countries is apparent with an attendant increase in the magnitude of the possible error in the stock assessment. The ICNAF Secretariat asked the Fifth Session of CWP for some suggestions in resolving this problem.

18. Current statistical problems.

In addition to the problems of collecting the detailed catch and effort data from some non-member countries, and the delays and lack of reports by member countries, there are some minor current observations regarding the completion of the STANA 1W forms by the member countries:

- (a) Some countries are reporting fishing vessels by motor and steam engines separately;
- (b) The many kinds of inshore gears not accompanying fishing effort data are submitted. A review of the inshore gear classes might result in a reduction in number and produce incentive to provide the fishing effort data;
- (c) Significant amounts of fish are still being reported by some member countries as not specified in the species groups (e.g. Groundfish, not spec. or Flounders, not spec..) and as coming from unknown divisions and subareas;
- (d) Some countries are not reporting the fishing effort as required;
- (e) Many countries are still reporting catch in units less than a metric ton;
- (f) Some countries are reporting their total catch from the Convention Area as consisting of only one or of, at most, two species.

Some of these shortcomings, (c), (d) and (f), have a detrimental effect on the value of the statistics for assessment use by the ICNAF scientists. The Secretariat is therefore taking this opportunity to offer these and the other statistical problems for the consideration of the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee.

Dartmouth, N.S.
22 May 1967