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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1968

Extracts
from
ICES Procès-Verbal de la Réunion
Hamburg, October 1967

Note: This year, rather than reproduce *in toto* each of the pertinent reports from the 1967 ICES Meeting, the Executive Secretary has extracted the following from the reports, recommendations and resolutions as contained in *ICES Procès-Verbal de la Réunion, 1967*. A copy of the Procès-Verbal will be available in the meeting Secretariat for more complete reference, if required.

Executive Secretary

1. Gear and Behaviour Committee

(a) Gear and Selectivity

There were five written contributions dealing with selectivity. One report gave polyamide selection factors for hake in Region 3 of 3.2 to 4.2 obtained by covered codend experiments. The great variability might have been attributed to small catches and the experimental technique used.

Similar experiments in the Arctic with a codend made of polypropylene splitfiber gave selection factors of 3.68 for cod, 3.44 for haddock and 3.79 for saithe, indicating that this fiber does not differ significantly from polypropylene multifilament with regard to selection properties. A report on experiments with large-meshed chafers confirmed the previous observations that such chafers have little or no effect on escapement.

A preliminary report was submitted on Danish seine selection experiments in Arctic waters, giving estimates of selection factors for cod and haddock substantially lower than found in other areas. The results, however, might have been influenced by the experimental technique, and the material from which they derive was rather scanty.

The Report of the ICNAF Subcommittee on Gear and Selectivity was reviewed. The Gear and Behaviour Committee agreed that the estimates of selection factor reported for polyethylene is variable and concluded that further experiments would be required to establish more precisely the mesh differentials for this material (C. Res. 1967/4:2).

The Committee took note of ICNAF's decision to publish every 5 years tabular summaries of selectivity data for their area. Similar summaries would also be useful for the Northeast Atlantic, and the Committee therefore suggested that the Secretariat should explore the possibility of publishing a Joint ICES/ICNAF Summary covering the whole North Atlantic.

(b) Communications

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| B:6 | M.J.Holden
& B.W.Jones | "The effect of a Polish-type chafer on codend selectivity for haddock" |
| B:7 | J. Dardignac,
F. Lozano,
M. Lima Dias &
P. Meriel-Bussy | "Sélectivité de divers maillage dans la pêche du merlu" |
| B:9 | O. Annaniassen
& A. Hysten | "Preliminary report of selectivity experiments with Danish seine" |
| B:10 | A. Hysten | "Selectivity experiments with a codend made of polypropylene splitfiber" |

2. Statistics Committee

(a) Bulletin Statistique

The Committee decided

- (vii) A chart of the North Atlantic showing the ICES and ICNAF Statistical Areas and the NEAFC Regions should be published in each volume of the Bulletin Statistique. The ICES Secretariat will consult the Secretary of the CWP and the Executive Secretary of ICNAF on the preparation of a suitable chart for use by all three agencies.

(b) List of Fishing Vessels and Inventory Fleet Statistics

The draft ICES List of Fishing Vessels of 150 GRT and above, compiled by the Secretariat from information submitted by member countries since the last meeting of the Committee, was examined. It contained detailed information on the fleets of 8 member countries, while data from one additional country had been received after its preparation.

The Committee agreed that this, in conjunction with the ICNAF List, represented an encouraging first step towards the preparation of a comprehensive list of vessels for the North Atlantic as a whole, although it emphasized that the usefulness of such a list depended greatly on its completeness in covering the fishing fleets of all countries fishing in this area. It, therefore, decided that the General Secretary should make enquiries to determine whether the necessary data are available in those countries which have not yet submitted them. It was also agreed that the CWP should be asked, at its next meeting, to compare the draft List with the ICNAF one and to indicate to both ICES and ICNAF the changes which would be required to prepare a Joint North Atlantic Vessel List. A further consideration of the desirability and practicability of proceeding with its preparation will then be made at the next meeting of the Committee in the light of the results of the General Secretary's enquiries and the outcome of the CWP's and ICNAF's examination of the matter.

The Committee took note, with interest, of investigations of fishing fleet statistics, currently being made by OECD. These investigations are in an early experimental stage of development and are aimed at producing a computer-based programme for handling fishing fleet statistics. Such a programme, if extended on a world-wide basis by FAO, could supersede the preparation of lists of fishing vessels as currently envisaged for the North Atlantic. The Committee expressed its approval of OECD's work in this field and its appreciation of that organization's offer to keep ICES informed of progress with its programme of developments.

(c) Future Programme for the CWP

The Committee considered the recommendations of the CWP regarding its future composition, terms of reference, title and status. It endorsed the CWP's view that despite the growing importance of fishing activities in areas other than the North Atlantic, it should continue to concentrate its activities, for the time being, on the statistical problems in the North Atlantic, with special reference to improving the quality of catch and effort statistics, but also to the development and improvement in "economic" statistics (e.g. products, prices, fishing fleets etc.).

The Committee also recommends

- (i) that the CWP's proposal regarding its future composition be approved by ICES, and that France be invited to replace Iceland on the Committee for the next two years,
- (ii) that the Council approve the new name of the Working Party as the "Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic,"
- (iii) that the Working Party be established on an inter-agency basis.

3. Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee

In accordance with the requests made by the Sampling Meeting, the Questionnaire on the sampling methods was circulated among the members of the Committee and answers were received from eleven countries, namely: Belgium, Denmark (Greenland), England, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and USSR. All member countries which presented their answers had used the total length measurements for demersal fish. Nine of eleven measured to "below". Two countries measured to "the nearest", but from the 1st January 1968 Norway will make length measurements to "below".

According to verbal information Canada is making measurements to "the nearest".

The measurements of demersal fish are made with intervals of 0.5 cm (for small fish) and 1 cm (for larger fish). The 0-group is measured in millimetres.

Most countries are using for calculation intervals of 5 cm (for large fish) and 1 cm (for smaller fish). In some countries (Iceland, Sweden, USSR) intervals of 3 cm are used for measuring of middle-sized fish. Spain is using an interval of 0.5 cm for small gadoids.

4. Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee

(a) Length Measurements

On a request of the Consultative Committee for information about the follow-up of the recommendations of the Joint ICES/ICNAF Sampling Meeting, stock was taken of the way in which pelagic fish in the area north of the ICES were measured. The following information was given by the various countries

Way of Measurement: TL = Total Length, F = Fork Length

	<u>Herring</u>	<u>Sprat</u>	<u>Mackerel</u>	<u>Horse-mackerel</u>	<u>Capelin</u>
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	TL	TL	TL	TL	TL
Canada	TL	-	-	-	TL N/1/2
Finland	-	-	-	-	-
France	TL	TL	TL + F	TL	TL
Germany	TL	TL	TL	TL	TL
Iceland	TL	TL	TL	TL	TL
Ireland	TL	TL	-	-	-
Netherlands	TL	TL	TL	TL	-
Norway	TL	TL	TL	-	TL
Poland	TL	TL	TL	TL	-
Sweden	TL	TL	-	-	-
UK	TL	TL	TL	TL	-
USSR	TL + F	TL + F	TL + F	TL + F	TL

Unit of Reporting: b = unit below; n = nearest unit

	<u>Herring</u>	<u>Sprat</u>	<u>Mackerel</u>	<u>Horse-mackerel</u>	<u>Capelin</u>
Belgium					
Denmark	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2+1 cm	b, 1/2 cm	-
Canada					n, 1/2 cm
Finland					
France	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm
Germany	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1 cm	b, 1 cm	b, 1 cm
Iceland	b, 1/2 cm	-	-	-	b, 1/2 cm
Ireland	b, 1/2 cm				
Netherlands	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	-	-
Norway	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1 cm	-	b, 1/2 cm
Poland	b, 1/2 cm	n, 1 cm	n, 1 cm	n, 1 cm	n, 1 cm
Sweden	b, 1/2 cm	n, 1/2 cm	-	-	-
UK	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2+1 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm
USSR	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1/2 cm	b, 1 cm	b, 1 cm	b, 1/2 cm

The enquiry showed that there was a fair degree of uniformity in measuring and reporting herring data, but that some improvement could be obtained for the other species. The Committee framed a recommendation for this purpose (C.Res.1967/4:13).

5. Anadromous and Catadromous Committee

- (a) Dr Carlin reported the results of the international tagging experiment in 1966. The Committee recommended that, in view of the success showing considerably different rates of recapture, some quite high, the experiment should be extended. It was mentioned that the experiment scheduled to be conducted in Canada in the spring of 1967 had to be postponed. Mr Th. Gudjonsson said that he would like to extend the programme to Iceland and would welcome tagging teams there.

The tag rewards were discussed, and it was agreed that where the rewards paid for tag recaptures are no longer commensurate with the cost of research programmes, member countries should consider raising the rewards.

- (b) The Chairman reported on the Joint ICNAF/EIFAC/ICES work on a synopsis on salmon. A first step has been taken in assembling an addition to Bergeron's Bibliography on Atlantic Salmon, which was distributed. Also a Bibliography on Baltic Salmon, prepared by the Working Group on Baltic Salmon, was laid before the Committee. The second step would be to select experts who would undertake the preparation of various parts of the synopsis. Nominations had been asked for and some received. Dr Carlin asked on behalf of EIFAC for further nominations. So far, Drs Went, Marr and Piggins have agreed to prepare various parts of the synopsis, but further nominations are urgently requested.
- (c) The salmon resolution of the International Biological Programme was discussed. It was felt that the returns from smolts released in the Atlantic area were not yet promising enough for the Committee now to recommend a salmon-rearing programme to the proposed extent.
- (d) The Report of the Third Meeting of the ICES/ICNAF Joint Working Party on North Atlantic Salmon was laid before the Committee by its Chairman, Mr B.B.Parrish. The recommendations of the Working Party were discussed at some length and were heartily endorsed by the Committee.
- (e) Prof.P.F.Meyer-Waarden presented a Bibliography on the Eel which he has prepared for FAO. The Committee expressed a great interest in this paper.
- (f) "Effects of river flow on salmon and sea-trout" was chosen as a special theme for the next meeting.

6. Resolutions passed by the 55th Statutory Meeting of ICES, 1967

- C.M.1967/2:2 A special meeting be held for one day in advance of the 1969 Statutory Meeting, for discussion of methods for and application of biochemical identification (i.e. by sera, proteins, etc.) of species and races of fish, with a special view to how these methods can be incorporated in the programmes for stock analysis.
- C.Res.1967/2:9 A Symposium on "Physical Variability in the North Atlantic" be held during the three days preceding the 57th Statutory Meeting of ICES in 1969.
- C.Res.1967/3:9 The IBP Project on Marine Mammals (N:4) should in principle be supported, and the Council would especially welcome a symposium on the lines proposed for 1969, on the understanding that it would be a comprehensive one in respect to representation by research workers, and to regions and subjects. It is assumed also that it would be essentially concerned with work in the general field of ecology.
- C.Res.1967/3:10 The International Biological Programme be informed that the possibility that the Marine Mammals Committee might act as the co-ordinating body had been considered, but it was felt that although they were in a sense interested in all work on

- C.Res.1967/3:10 (continued) marine mammals, a committee primarily concerned with a defined geographical sphere might not be appropriate; and that in this context the Committee was more on a level with other interested bodies, such as IWC, ICNAF, SCAR, BAS and IUCN. The Marine Mammals Committee should not enter into any commitment at this stage.
- C.Res.1967/4:2 In view of the rather variable estimates of selection factor reported for polyethylene, member countries be requested to carry out further experiments with polyethylene to establish more precisely the mesh differential for this material.
- C.Res.1967/4:13 Measurements of Northern Pelagic Fish should be reported to the interval "below". The interval being 1/2 cm in the case of herring, sprat, capelin and 1 cm in the case of horse-mackerel. All reports should refer to the "total length". Each list for ICES publications should show the actual unit and technique of measurement.
- C.Res.1967/4:14 Qu'une technique commune de mensuration sera retenue pour les thons (de l'extrémité du museau au milieu de la fourche caudale).
- C.Res.1967/4:19 It was decided that further comparative tagging tests should be made in Canada and Iceland.