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"SEARCHING TIME" AND "FISHING TIME"

by the Secretary, CWP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics during its Seventh Session (Rome, Italy, 10-16 November 1971) recommended that the Secretary of the CWP write to all national offices requesting them to report on the feasibility of recording "searching time" separately, in addition to including it as an integral part of "fishing time" when the latter is expressed in "days fished".

1.2 Paragraph 9.1 of the Report of the Seventh Session of the CWP reads as follows:

" 9.1 The CWP noted that "searching time" has always been considered an integral part of what has been defined as "fishing time" when it is expressed in "days fished". The regional commissions have expressed the wish to continue to have the amount of "searching time" included in "fishing time" but also to have "searching time" reported separately. The CWP recommends that the CWP Secretary write to all national offices and request them to report on the feasibility of recording "searching time" separately in addition to including it as an integral part of "fishing time" when the latter is expressed in "days fished"."

1.3 In March 1972 the Secretary of the CWP consequently sent a "Special Inquiry" to the relevant national offices and asked for replies, preferably before 15 April 1972

1.4 By 10 May 1972 eight (8) countries had sent their answers to the Secretary of the CWP. A compilation of their comments is given in paragraph 2.

2. REPLIES RECEIVED UP TO 12 MAY 1972

2.1 Canada

"Feasibility recording searching time separately from fishing time. Possible to ask info but doubtful of ability of skippers to provide meaningful info in view of relatively short duration of trips in our fishing operations. Expressed in days searching time could easily be overstated as only small part of day might be involved."

2.2 Denmark

"The Danish catch statistics do not include data on this subject"

2.3 Federal Republic of Germany

"searching time" has been recorded since 1 January 1972 for all trips by trawlers and luggers and that they can be recorded in the report for 1972. '

2.4 Norway

"Up to now we have been able to give fishing effort data only for trawlers fishing for cod, haddock, saithe and similar species.

In our statistics a day is recorded as a whole "day fished" if the trawler has set the trawl at least once during the day (twenty four hours), regardless of the possible other activity of the vessel during the day. This means that searching time (as well as interruptions in fishing due to bad weather, damaged gear etc.) during a day on which the trawl has been set at least once, is included in "days fished". We do not find it possible to divide such days into hours fished, hours for searching etc.

Other searching time, for example days spent entirely for searching, is not included in number of "days fished". Such days are not recorded in the log books used by the trawlers at present, and can consequently not be reported to the international organisations, neither as an integral part of "days fished" nor separately. The number of days spent entirely for searching is comparatively small for Norwegian trawlers, and the number of "days fished" would probably be only insignificantly larger if "searching days" were included in the figures."

2.4 Norway (cont'd.)

" In connection with our new data registration and processing system at present under development log books will be introduced also for some other classes of fishing unit than bottom trawlers, and the log book for the latter will be somewhat revised. We will bear your enquiry in mind and, if possible, incorporate questions in the log books enabling us a few years from now, to include searching time more complete than at present in days fished, and to report searching time separately. "

2.5 Portugal

" Portuguese Statistics on Fishing include the "searching time" in the "fishing time" whenever the latter is expressed in "day fished".

We, therefore, keep on including the "searching time" in the "days fished" as we have been doing, up to the present moment, in every information supplied to international organizations.

At this moment, we are carrying out thoroughful study regarding a future improvement of Portuguese Statistics on Fishing. These studies are inclined to regard the "searching time" as a sub-total of the "fishing time". "

2.6 United Kingdom

" Though we fully appreciate that an additional information as to the separate figures of "searching time" would be useful, especially to pelagic fishing, we unfortunately do not find it feasible to record it separately from other "fishing time".

Our enquiries to this and have convinced us that it would be practically impossible to obtain such an information in a form which can be said to be both comprehensive and accurate. "

2.7 United States

" In regard to your special enquiry concerning the prospect of reporting "searching time" separately in addition to this time being included in "days fished", "United States vessels fishing the ICNAF Convention area do not expend time "searching" as per the agreed definition (FAO Fisheries Circular No. 248 Rev.1). There will, therefore, be no problems in this matter relative to present U.S. fishing customs. "

2.8 Ireland

No information about fishing time available.

