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the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Three-alpha Code for Use in Logbooks to Identify North Atlantic Species Names

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

At its 1975 Annual Meeting, the Commission adopted the recommendation of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) to establish a set of standard entries for inclusion in all logbooks (Proc. Annu. Meet. June 1975, p. 61). Among the standard entries recommended for joint use by NEAFC and ICNAF were two which included the use of FAO codes, namely "type of gear" and "species names".

The FAO standard definitions for gears and their codes were initially set up for international use and these have been adopted by several inter-governmental bodies, including ICNAF, for use in collecting and reporting statistical data. However, the FAO 3-digit codes for "species names" was previously set up for internal use in data processing and was never intended for general use outside FAO. In fact, the 3-digit code has been declared defunct by FAO and any regional or national agencies that may have adopted this code for general use are urged not to refer to this code as an FAO code. The only official FAO codes for "species names" are the 14-character taxonomic codes, and these are completely unsuitable for the purpose intended when the system of standard logbook entries were drawn up by ICNAF and NEAFC in 1975.

The matter of a simplified code for use as an identifier of species names in logbooks was discussed by the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fisheries Statistics (CWP) at its meeting in August 1977. Since FAO does not now have a coding system for species suitable for general use, and in view of the urgent need for a suitable substitute, Secretariat representatives of ICNAF and ICES were requested by the CWP to study the possibility of establishing 3-alpha species codes for the North Atlantic which would cover the needs of ICNAF and ICES (and NEAFC) in their logbook requirements.

The resultant 3-alpha coding system, including English and scientific names of many of the North Atlantic species is given in the Appendix. Initially the list covered a selected number of species (those without asterisks) for the ICNAF and ICES areas, and such a list was presented to the 1977 Annual Meeting of ICES (early October 1977). Information has been received that the list was adopted for use by ICES.

Subsequent to the preparation of codes for the selected list of species, the ICNAF Secretariat has updated the list to include codes for all finfish and invertebrate species and species groups mentioned in the official ICNAF List of Species. Thus, while further adjustments might be required on the part of ICES, the appended list contains codes for all of the Northwest Atlantic species.

The appended list of 3-alpha codes is presented for consideration as a replacement for the previously mentioned 3-digit code of FAO, with regard to the standard entry in logbooks for "species names".

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APPENDIX

ICES	ICNAF	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
ALB	ALB	ALBACORE	THUNNUS ALALUNGA
-	ALE	ALEWIFE	ALOSA PSEUDOHARENGUS
-	AMB*	AMBERJACKS	SERIOLA SP.
-	PLA	AMERICAN PLAICE	HIPPOGLOSSOIDES PLATESSOIDES
ANG	ANG	ANGLER (MONKFISH)	LOPHIUS SP.
ARG	ARG	ARGENTINES	ARGENTINA SP.
BON	BON	ATLANTIC BONITO	SARDA SARDA
-	BUT	ATLANTIC BUTTERFISH	PEPRILUS TRIACANTHUS
COD	COD	ATLANTIC COD	GADUS MORHUA
-	CRO*	ATLANTIC CROAKER	MICROPOGON UNDULATUS
HAL	HAL	ATLANTIC HALIBUT	HIPPOGLOSSUS HIPPOGLOSSUS
HER	HER	ATLANTIC HERRING	CLUPEA HARENGUS
-	LTA*	ATLANTIC LITTLE TUNNY	EUTHYNNUS ALLETTERATUS
MAC	MAC	ATLANTIC MACKEREL	SCOMBER SCOMBRUS
-	MEN	ATLANTIC MENHADEN	BREVOORTIA TYRANNUS
-	NFA*	ATLANTIC NEEDLEFISH	STRONGYLURA MARINA
RED	RED	ATLANTIC REDFISH	SEBASTES SP.
-	SFA*	ATLANTIC SAILFISH	ISTIOPHORUS PLATYPTERUS
SAL	SAL	ATLANTIC SALMON	SALMO SALAR
-	SAU	ATLANTIC SAURY	SCOMBERESOX SAURUS
-	SRA	ATLANTIC SEAROBINS	PRIONOTUS SP.
-	SSA*	ATLANTIC SILVERSIDE	MENIDIA MENIDIA
-	THA*	ATLANTIC THREAD HERRING	OPISTHONEMA OGLINUS
-	IUM*	ATLANTIC TOMCOD	MICROGADUS TOMCOD
-	MLW*	ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN	TETRAPTURUS ALBIDUS
-	ANC*	BAY ANCHOVY	ANCHOA MITCHILLI
-	HET*	BIGEYE TUNA	THUNNUS OBESUS
-	BDM*	BLACK DRUM	POGONIAS CROMIS
-	HSB	BLACK SEABASS	CENTROPRISTIS STRIATA
-	MLB*	BLUE MARLIN	MAKAIRA NIGRICANS
WHH	-	BLUE WHITING (POUTASSOU)	MICROMESISTIUS POUTASSOU
-	HBH*	BLUEBACK HERRING	ALOSA AESTIVALIS
BLF	BLF	BLUEFIN TUNA	THUNNUS THYNNUS
-	BLU	BLUEFISH	POMATOMUS SALTATRIX
-	-	BRILL	SCOPHTHALMUS RHOMBUS
CAP	CAP	CAPELIN	MALLOTUS VILLOSUS
CAT	CAT	CATFISHES (WOLFFISHES)	ANARHICHAS SP.
-	CHR	CHARS (NS)	SALVELINUS SP.
-	CUB*	COBIA	RACHYCENTRON CANADUM
-	POM*	COMMON POMPANO	TRACHINOTUS CAROLINUS
SOL	-	COMMON SOLE	SOLEA SOLEA
COE	COE	CONGER EEL	CONGER SP.
-	CVJ*	CREVALLE JACK	CARANX HIPPOS
-	CUN*	CUNNER	TAUTOGOLABRUS ADSPERSUS
USK	USK	CUSK (TUSK)	BROSME BROSME
DAH	-	DAB (COMMON)	LIMANDA LIMANDA
DGH	DGH	DOG FISHES (NS)	SQUALIDAE
PLE	-	EUROPEAN PLAICE	PLEURONECTES PLATESSA
FLE	-	FLOUNDER (EUROPEAN)	PLATICHTHYS FLESUS
FLX	FLX	FLOUNDERS (NS)	PLEURONECTIFORMES
FRF	-	FRESHWATER FISHES	***
-	FRI*	FRIGATE MACKEREL	AUXIS THAZARD
GAR	-	GARFISH	BELONE BELONE
-	SHG*	GIZZARD SHAD	DOROSOMA CEPEDIANUM
-	GRC	GREENLAND COD	GADUS OGAC
GHL	GHL	GREENLAND HALIBUT	REINHARDTIUS HIPPOGLOSSOIDES
-	GRO	GROUND FISH (NS)	***
-	GRU*	GRUNTS (GRUNTERS)	POMADASYIDAE
GUR	-	GURNARDS	TRIGLIDAE
HAD	HAD	HADDOCK	MELANOGRAMMUS AEGLEFINUS
HKE	-	HAKE (EUROPEAN)	MERLUCCIIUS MERLUCCIIUS

ICES	ICNAF	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
-	SHH*	HICKORY SHAD	ALOSA MEDIOCRIS
HOM	-	HORSE MACKEREL	TRACHURUS TRACHURUS
-	KGM*	KING MACKEREL	SCOMBEROMORUS CAVALLA
LEM	-	LEMON SOLE	MICROSTOMUS KITT
LIN	LIN	LING	MOLVA MOLVA
-	LUM*	LUMPFISH (LUMPSUCKER)	CYCLOPTERUS LUMPUS
MEG	-	MEGRIM	LEPIDORHOMBUS WHIF
MUL	MUL	MULLETS	MUGILIDAE
-	HVF*	NORTH ATL. HARVESTFISH	PEPRILUS ALEPIDOTUS
-	KGF*	NORTHERN KINGFISH	MENTICIRRHUS SAXATILIS
-	PUF*	NORTHERN PUFFER	SPHOEROIDES MACULATUS
NOP	-	NORWAY POUT	TRISOPTERUS ESMARKII
-	OPT	OCEAN POUT	MACROZOARCES AMERICANUS
-	PEL	PELAGIC FISH (NS)	...
-	PIG*	PIGFISH	ORTHOPRISTIS CHRYSOPTERA
PIL	-	PILCHARD	SARDINA PILCHARDUS
POC	POC	POLAR COD	BOREOGADUS SAIDA
POL	-	POLLACK	POLLACHIUS POLLACHIUS
POK	POK	POLLOCK (SAITHE)	POLLACHIUS VIRENS
-	PUR	PORBEAGLE	LAMNA NASUS
-	RDM*	RED DRUM	SCIAENOPS OCELLATA
-	HKR	RED HAKE	UROPHYCIS CHUSS
-	RPG*	RED PORGY	PAGRUS SEDECIM
EEL	EEL	RIVER EEL	ANGUILLA SP.
-	RSC*	ROUGH SCAD	TRACHURUS LATHAMI
-	RNG	ROUNDNOSE GRENADIER	MACROURUS RUPESTRIS
-	PES*	SAND PERCH	DIPLECTRUM FORMOSUM
SAN	SAN	SANDEELS	AMMODYTES SP.
-	SCU	SCULPINS	MYOXOCEPLALUS SP.
-	SCP	SCUP	STENOTOMUS CHRYSOPS
SBM	-	SEA BREAMS	SPARIDAE
SHD	SHD	SHADS	ALOSA SP.
-	SHA	SHARKS (NS)	SQUALIFORMES
-	SPH*	SHEEPSHEAD	ARCHOSARGUS PHOBATOCEPHALUS
-	HKS	SILVER HAKE	MERLUCCIIUS BILINEARIS
SKA	SKA	SKATES AND RAYS	RAJA SP.
-	SKJ	SKIPJACK TUNA	KATSUWONUS PELAMIS
SME	SME	SMELTS	OSMERUS SP.
DGS	DGS	SPINY (PICKED) DOGFISH	SQUALUS ACANTHIAS
-	SPT	SPOT	LEIDOSTOMUS XANTHURUS
-	SSM*	SPOTTED SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBEROMORUS MACULATUS
-	SWF*	SPOTTED WEAKFISH	CYNOSCION NERULOSUS
SPR	-	SPRAT	SPRATTUS SPRATTUS
-	STG*	SQUETEAGUE	CYNOSCION REGALIS
-	STB	STRIPED BASS	MORONE SAXATILIS
STU	STU	STURGEONS	ACIPENSERIDAE
-	FLS	SUMMER FLOUNDER	PARALICHTHYS DENTATUS
-	SWO	SWORDFISH	XIPHIAS GLADIUS
-	TAR*	TARPON	MEGALOPS ATLANTICA
-	TAU*	TAUTOG	TAUTOGA ONITIS
-	TIL	TILEFISH	LOPHOLATILUS CHAMAELEONTICEPS
-	TRO	TROUTS (NS)	SALMO SP.
STR	-	TROUTS AND CHAR	...
-	TUN	TUNAS (NS)	SCOMBRIDAE
TUR	-	TURBOT	PSETTA MAXIMA
-	HKW	WHITE HAKE	UROPHYCIS TENUIS
-	PEW*	WHITE PERCH	MORONE AMERICANA
WHG	-	WHITING	MERLANGIUS MERLANGUS
-	FLD*	WINDOWPANE FLOUNDER	SCOPHTHALMUS AQUOSUS
-	FLW	WINTER FLOUNDER	PSEUDOPLEURONECTES AMERICANUS
WIT	WIT	WITCH FLOUNDER	GLYPTOCEPHALUS CYNOGLOSSUS

ICES	ICNAF	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
-	YEF	YELLOWFIN TUNA	THUNNUS ALBACARES
-	YEL	YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER	LIMANDA FERRUGINEA
VMS	-	VAR. MACKEREL-LIKE SCOMBRIFORMS	...
VCL	-	VARIOUS CLUPEOIDS	...
VDP	-	VARIOUS DEMERSAL PERCOMORPHS	...
VDF	-	VARIOUS DIADROMOUS FISHES	...
VFF	VFF	VARIOUS FINFISHES (NS)	...
VGF	-	VARIOUS GADIFORMS	...
VCF	-	VARIOUS NON-TELEOST FISHES	...
VPP	-	VARIOUS PELAGIC PERCOMORPHS	...
VTS	-	VARIOUS TUNA-LIKE SCOMBRIFORMS	...
-	CLR*	ATLANTIC RAZOR CLAM	ENSIS DIRECTUS
-	CRK*	ATLANTIC ROCK CRAB	CANCER IRRORATUS
-	SCB*	BAY SCALLOP	ARGOPECTEN IRRADIANS
-	CRB*	BLUE CRAB	CALLINECTES SAPIDUS
MUS	MUS	BLUE MUSSEL	MYTILUS EDULIS
-	SCC*	CALICO SCALLOP	ARGOPECTEN GIBBUS
-	CLA	CLAMS (NS)	...
COC	-	COCKLE (COMMON)	CARDIUM EDULE
-	CUN*	CONCHS	STROMBUS AND BUSYCON SP.
-	CRA	CRABS (NS)	...
CRN	-	CRANGONID SHRIMP	CRANGON SP.
CTL	-	CUTTLEFISHES	SEPIA AND SEPIOLA SPP.
CRB	-	EDIBLE CRAB	CANCER PAGURUS
SCE	-	ESCALLOP	PECTEN MAXIMUS
-	CRG*	GREEN CRAB	CARCINUS MAENAS
-	CLH*	HARD CLAM	MERCENARIA MERCENARIA
-	HSC*	HORSESHOE CRAB	LIMULUS POLYPHEMUS
-	CRJ*	JONAH CRAB	CANCER BOREALIS
LOB	LOB	LOBSTER	HOMARUS SP.
-	WOR*	MARINE WORMS (NS)	POLYCHAETA
PRA	PRA	NORTHERN DEEPWATER PRAWN	PANDALUS BOREALIS
NEP	-	NORWAY LOBSTER	NEPHROPS NORVEGICUS
-	CLQ*	OCEAN QUAHOG	ARCTICA ISLANDICA
OCT	-	OCTOPUSES (POULPS)	POULPES SP.
OYC	OYC	OYSTER (CRASSOSTREA)	CRASSOSTREA SP.
OYF	-	OYSTER (FLAT)	OSTREA EDULIS
PAL	-	PALAEMONID SHRIMP	PALAEMON SP.
PAN	PAN	PANDALID SHRIMP (PINK SHRIMPS)	PANDALUS SP.
PEN	-	PENAEID SHRIMP	PENAEUS SP.
PER	PER	PERIWINKLES	LITTORINA SP.
-	CRQ*	QUEEN CRAB	CHIONOECETES OPILIO
QSC	-	QUEEN SCALLOP	CHLAMYS OPERCULARIS
-	CRR*	RED CRAB	GERYON QUINQUEDENS
-	SCX*	SCALLOPS (NS)	PECTINIDAE
-	SCA	SEA SCALLOP	PLACOPECTEN MAGELLANICUS
URC	URC	SEA URCHINS	STRONGYLOCENTROTUS SP.
-	CLS*	SOFT CLAM	MYA ARENARIA
CRW	-	SPINY LOBSTERS (CRAWFISH)	PALINURUS SP.
-	SQL	SQUID, LONG-FINNED (LOLIGO)	LOLIGO PEALEI
-	SQI	SQUID, SHORT-FINNED (ILLEX)	ILLEX ILLECEBROSUS
SQU	SQU	SQUIDS (NS)	...
STF	-	STARFISHES	ASTEROIDEA
-	CLB*	SURF CLAM	SPISSULA SOLIDISSIMA
WHE	-	WHELK	BUCCINUM UNDATUM
ECH	-	VARIOUS ECHINODERMS	...
CRU	CRU	VARIOUS MARINE CRUSTACEANS	...
INV	INV	VARIOUS MARINE INVERTEBRATES	...
MOL	MOL	VARIOUS MARINE MOLLUSCS	...

* Species added by the ICNAF Secretariat to cover the entire ICNAF List of Species.