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Standard Elements for Fishing Sheets and Logbooks

by

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1. At its Ninth Session in August 1977, the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics appointed a task force to consider the feasibility of standardizing the elements of fishing sheets and logbooks. The CWP noted that ICNAF had set down some requirements for the maintenance of logbook records on fishing vessels, as developed in collaboration with NEAFC in 1975 (Proc. Annu. Meet. June 1975, p. 61), and examples of logbook sheets from a variety of other sources were examined. It was observed that the recent extension of national fisheries jurisdiction over fisheries by coastal states would result in increased use of logbooks in the management of fisheries and also as a method of collecting primary fishery statistics. The CWP did not make a proposal for a standard logbook since national considerations could greatly affect the format but recommended that the design of logbooks should incorporate a number of essential elements.
2. As noted in the report of the 9th Session of the CWP, the essential requirements for each page of the logbook are as follows:
 - a) The head of the logbook sheet should contain
 - i) Vessel name
 - ii) Vessel nationality
 - iii) Vessel registration
 - iv) Trip number (where appropriate)
 - v) Master's name
 - vi) Name of partner vessel (where applicable)
 - vii) Nationality of partner vessel
 - viii) Registration number of partner vessel
 - ix) Type of gear (a separate sheet to be used for each gear)
 - x) Gear specifications (e.g. mesh size)
 - xi) Port of landing (or name, nationality and registration number of vessel to which catch is trans-shipped).
 - xii) Date of landing
 - b) The body of the logbook sheet should contain
 - i) Date of haul (day, month, year)
 - ii) Haul number (consecutive)
 - iii) Position (latitude preceding longitude)
 - iv) Depth of fishing gear, and depth of bottom
 - v) Time (start of fishing)
 - vi) Effort (unit as specified in instructions)
 - vii) Catch retained and discarded by species (kg)
 - c) At the end of each day, the retained and discarded catches should be totalled. Days on fishing, due to bad weather, loading, unloading, repairs, steaming, etc., should be recorded on the page in chronological order. Some space should be left on the page for the insertion of remarks (i.e. weather, sea state, gear damage, etc.).
 - d) Each completed page should be signed by the master.

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3. With reference to the recording of catches and discards by species, the CWP recommends that a 3-alpha code be used (see Summ. Doc. 77/XI/36), as developed for the North Atlantic by Secretariat representatives of ICNAF and ICES. With the large numbers of vessels moving between the ICNAF and ICES areas of the North Atlantic and also between the zones of national jurisdiction of different coastal states, such a common species code would facilitate the identification of species by enforcement officers of different nationalities and eliminate the need for the master of a vessel to use a different system of coding when moving from one area to another.

4. The CWP noted that the logbooks placed on fishing vessels should be accompanied by appropriate instructions detailing such items as the (a) codes for species names, (b) classification and coding of the fishing gear, and (c) the appropriate units of fishing effort to be used. These should be the concepts and definitions established by the CWP in order to maintain some degree of standardization among countries and regional inter-governmental agencies over broad fishing areas.