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the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Major CWP Recommendations of Direct Importance to ICNAF

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

The following notes relate to discussions within the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fisheries Statistics) and recommendations on matters of direct importance to ICNAF. Details of these and other matters of a statistical nature are given in the Report of the Ninth Session of the CWP, Dartmouth, Canada, 17-23 August 1977 (FAO Fish. Rept. No. 197; see Sum. Doc. 78/VI/2).

1. Proposed Extension of FAO Major Fishing Area 21 (Northwest Atlantic)

The CWP noted that some catches (northern deepwater prawn) were reported in 1976 from off Baffin Island to the north of ICNAF Statistical Area 0 and to the west of Subarea 1 and that these most likely relate to the northern fringe of the stocks in Statistical Area 0 and Subarea 1. Consequently, the CWP recommended "that ICNAF should extend the northern boundary of Statistical Area 0 to take account of these catches in the Statistical Bulletin and that FAO should extend its Major Fishing Area 21 accordingly to include these waters".

At its Meeting in November 1977, STACRES took note of the above CWP recommendation and agreed to the extension of Statistical Area 0 northward to latitude 78°10'N, with Division OB corresponding to the present Statistical Area 0 and the area to the north of 66°15'N and west of Subarea 1 to be named Division OA, the western boundary of the new statistical area extending northward along the coast of Baffin, Bylot, Devon and Ellesmere Islands following the 80°W longitude meridian in the waters between these islands. This realignment of Statistical Area 0 corresponds with the boundaries of Subarea 0 as proposed in the Convention of the new organization to replace ICNAF.

The Secretariat was requested to inform FAO of the agreed extension of Statistical Area 0 and also to incorporate the change in the instructions for completing forms STATLANT 21A and 21B, so that statistics for 1977 can be reported by Div. OA and OB separately (Sum. Doc. 78/VI/1). Circular Letter 77/57 (issued 21 November 1977) informed all member countries, as well as FAO, ICES and the United States, of the STACRES decision.

2. Statistics on Discards

At its 1977 Annual Meeting, STACRES expressed great concern about the inadequacy of information on fish discarded, despite frequent urging in the past for member countries to collect and report such information (*Redbook* 1977, pages 41 and 66). It was agreed that these data were essential for assessment work and were required earlier than the present deadline of 31 July. STACRES recommended that the Secretariat, on the basis of discussions by the CWP, circulate guidelines for improved discard statistics, requesting each country to appoint a scientist to investigate and report on the discarding aspect of his (her) country's fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic and to assist in the provision of adequate statistics on discards.

The matter was considered in detail by a task force of the CWP which recommended that priorities should be established for the reporting of discard data by national offices as follows:

- a) The discarded portions of the total (gross) catch, at least in the trawl-net and seine-net fisheries, should initially identify all of the regulated species, with the balance shown by broad species groups.
- b) The discarded catches, in the early submission for assessments, should be broken down by month and division, as is required for provisional nominal catch data.
- c) In considering the possible requirements of coastal states and regional agencies for the recording in logbooks of nominal catches and also discarded catches, the CWP expects that information collected nationally would permit the reporting of statistics on discards in the same format as

* Executive Secretary, ICNAF, P. O. Box 638, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 3Y9

now used for nominal catch data on STATLANT B forms.

As a consequence of the discussions by the CWP and following the above-mentioned ICNAF recommendation, the Secretariat issued instructions for the reporting of information on discards for 1977 (Circular Letter 78/4, dated 11 January 1978), with the request that the information reach the ICNAF Secretariat by 15 April 1978. The results of this most recent attempt to improve the reporting of information on discards is outlined in Sum. Doc. 78/VI/23.

3. Standard Elements for Fishing Sheets and Logbooks

A task force of the CWP considered the feasibility of standardizing the elements of fishing sheets and logbooks (Sum. Doc. 78/VI/1). It was 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 (ICNAF Meet. Proc. June 1975, page 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 it recommended that the design of logbooks should incorporate a number of essential elements 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 complete page should be signed by the master.

With reference to the recording of catches and discards by species, the CWP recommended that a 3-alpha designation be used, 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. It is not intended that the 3-alpha code replace the digital coding systems used by regional and national statistical offices.

The CWP noted that the logbooks placed on fishing vessels should be accompanied by appropriate instructions detailing such items as (i) codes for species names, (ii) classification and coding of fishing gear, and (iii) 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 agencies over broad fishing areas.

4. Three-alpha Code for Logbooks to Identify North Atlantic Species Names

Since FAO does not have a coding system suitable for general use in logbooks to identify species names (see 5 below), the CWP discussed the feasibility of developing a simplified code for use as identifiers of species names and requested the Secretariat representatives of ICNAF and ICES to develop such a code 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 Appendix 1. Initially, the list covered a selected number of species (those with asterisks) for the ICNAF and ICES areas, and such a list was adopted by ICES at its Annual Meeting in October 1977. Subsequently, the ICNAF Secretariat updated the list to include codes for all finfish and invertebrate species given in the official ICNAF List of Species. It is not intended that these codes be a substitute for digital codes used by national and regional statistical offices for data-processing purposes.

5. Discontinuation of Use of FAO 3-Digit Code

The CWP noted that some regional bodies (e.g. ICNAF) and also some countries had proposed the use of an FAO 3-digit code as identifiers of species in logbooks. It was pointed out that the so-called "FAO code" was previously set up for internal use in data-processing and was never intended for general use outside of FAO. In fact, the 3-digit 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 (for example, see ICNAF Stat. Bull. Vol. 26, page 9), which are completely unsuitable for the purpose intended when the system of standard logbook entries was drawn up by ICNAF and NEAFC in 1975.

6. Basic Concepts Pertaining to Nominal Catches and Landings

The CWP reviewed the problem of a more precise definition of national production, since difficulties in the allocation of catches and landings to various countries are expected to increase in future years, due to the complications arising from chartering of foreign vessels (e.g. to fulfil national quotas), joint ventures, concessions to foreign vessels, etc.

After a lengthy debate, the CWP decided that in all instances the flag of the vessel should be the determining feature which establishes the country to whose national production the catches and landings should be allocated, regardless of the fishing area or the point of landing. It was therefore recommended that the flag of the vessel should, for the time being, be considered as the paramount indication of nationality and should only be overridden when it is obvious that the wording of chartering and joint operation contracts indicates otherwise or when the inter-relationships are too complicated to settle.

7. Other Matters

- a) The CWP recommended that FAO undertake a review of conversion factors for North Atlantic species and prepare an updated version of FAO *Bull. Fish. Stat.* Vol. 25, which was published in 1971.
- b) The STATLANT 21A and 21B forms and the instructions for their completion were reviewed and the necessary changes made in accordance with the STACRES recommendations of the 1977 Annual Meeting.

APPENDIX 1

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
-	CRU*	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 PLATYPIERUS
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
-	TOM*	ATLANTIC TOMCOD	MICROGADUS TOMCOD
-	WLW*	ATLANTIC WHITE MARLIN	TETRAPTURUS ALBIDUS
-	ANC*	BAY ANCHOVY	ANCHOA MITCHILLI
-	BEI*	BIG EYE TUNA	THUNNUS OBESUS
-	BDM*	BLACK DRUM	POGONIAS CROMIS
-	BSB	BLACK SEABASS	CENTROPRISTIS STRIATA
-	BLB*	BLUE MARLIN	MAKAIKA NIGRICANS
WHB	-	BLUE WHITING (POUTASSOU)	MICROMESISTIUS POUTASSOU
-	HBHX	BLUEBACK HERRING	ALOSA AESTIVALIS
BLF	BLF	BLUEFIN TUNA	THUNNUS THYNNUS
-	BLU	BLUEFISH	POMATOMUS SALTATRIX
BLL	-	BRILL	SCOPHTHALMUS RHOMBUS
CAP	CAP	CAPELIN	MALLOTUS VILLOSUS
CAT	CAT	CATFISHES (WOLFFISHES)	ANARRHICHAS SP.
-	CHR	CHARS (NS)	SALVELINUS SP.
-	CUB*	COBIA	RACHYCENTRON CANADUM
-	POM*	COMMON POMPANO	TRACHINOTUS CAROLINUS
SOL	-	COMMON SOLE	SOLEA SOLEA
COE	COE	CONGER EEL	CUNGER SP.
-	CVJ*	CREVALLE JACK	CARANX HIPPOS
-	CUN*	CUNNER	TAUTOGULABRUS ADSPERSUS
USK	USK	CUSK (TUSK)	BROSME BROSME
DAH	-	DAH (COMMON)	LIMANDA LIMANDA
DGH	DGH	DOG FISHES (NS)	SQUALIDAE
PLE	-	EUROPEAN PLAICE	PLEURONECTES PLATESSA
FLE	-	FLOUNDER (EUROPEAN)	PLATICHINYS 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	LEPIDDRHUMBUS 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	BOREGADUS 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 PROBATOCEPHALUS
-	HKS	SILVER HAKE	MERLUCCIOUS BILINEARIS
SKA	SKA	SKATES AND RAYS	RAJA SP.
-	SKJ	SKIPJACK TUNA	KATSUWONUS PELAMIS
SME	SME	SMELTS	OSMERUS SP.
DGS	DGS	SPINY (PICKED) DUGFISH	SQUALUS ACANTHIAS
-	SPT	SPOT	LEIOSTOMUS XANTHURUS
-	SSM*	SPOTTED SPANISH MACKEREL	SCOMBEROMORUS MACULATUS
-	SWF*	SPOTTED WEAKFISH	CYNOSCIION NEBULOSUS
SPR	-	SPRAT	SPRATTUS SPRATTUS
-	STG*	SQUETEAGUE	CYNOSCIION 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 CHARS	...
-	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 AGUOSUS
-	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 BORFALIS
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	PALAFMON 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	CHLAMYDOPUS 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	SPISULA 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.