

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1981

CWP Recommendations and Proposals Relevant to the Work of the Scientific Council

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

The following notes relate to discussions within the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics) and recommendations on matters relevant to NAFO. Details of these and other matters of a statistical nature are given in the Report of the Tenth Session of the CWP, held at Madrid, Spain, 22-29 July 1980 (FAO Fish. Rep. No. 242; see also NAFO SCS Doc. 81/VI/3).

Some of the items listed below were considered by the Scientific Council at its Meeting in September 1980, i.e. paragraphs 9 and 11 below (see NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, pages 127-128).

1. Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes (CWP Section 3)

The CWP reviewed all existing information on the demarcation of the boundaries of the major marine and inland fishing areas currently used for global statistical purposes, and recommended that the CWP Secretary present to the Eleventh Session of the CWP a paper incorporating (a) a collection of the various criteria now used by national administrations to distinguish between inland and marine fisheries; and (b) additional information on these questions from international and regional fisheries bodies interested in this matter.

2. Classification of Fishing Gear for Use in Statistics (CWP Section 5)

The CWP reviewed the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG), proposed some amendments to make the list more complete, and recommended that the final version of the classification (see Appendix I) should be used as the basic list of gear types and abbreviations by all international, regional and national institutions.

The CWP also recommended that a paper dealing with definitions and descriptions of fishing gears, based on and complemented by the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gears, be prepared and published by FAO.

3. Three-alpha Species Identifiers (CWP Section 6)

The CWP reviewed the existing world list of identifiers for species items used for statistical purposes and recommended that the 3-alpha identifiers should be adopted by all regional agencies for statistical tabulations and related matters, such as questionnaires, forms, etc.

The world list of species items and their identifiers is maintained by FAO, and member agencies of the CWP are continuously informed on a quarterly basis of all new additions to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants.

4. Conversion Factors (CWP Section 8)

The CWP noted that FAO, following the publication of its *Bulletin of Fishery Statistics* No. 25 in 1971 containing conversion factors for the North Atlantic species, had accumulated from national statistical offices up-to-date conversion factors used to convert landings to nominal catches. The CWP recommended (a) that FAO proceed immediately with the computerization of the national lists of conversion factors for Atlantic commercial fisheries and publish the list, based on national reports received to the end of 1980, in one of its series; (b) that FAO provide for the regular updating of the list of conversion factors by requesting countries to review and revise national lists of conversion factors submitted to them on computer printout every three years; and (c) that FAO provide to interested regional agencies upon request the initial complete lists of conversion factors for the relevant regions and keep the agencies informed of any revisions to their regional lists.

5. Log Sheets and Logbooks (CWP Section 11)

The CWP reviewed various proposals for international standards for logsheets and logbooks in the light of the current world-wide trend towards more effective fisheries management and the need for better fishery statistical data, and recommended that the Secretary of the CWP explore the possibility of FAO producing a technical report or a manual, arraying the requirements for planning, designing and implementing logbook systems, and that this be completed as early as possible, and not later than the Eleventh Session of the CWP.

6. Standardization of STATLANT Forms and Notes (CWP Section 12)

The CWP, in reviewing the basic concepts underlying the development and long-standing use of STATLANT A and B forms, considered a proposal that the existing definitions of classes of fishing units (gear, GRT categories, etc.) applicable to the STATLANT B form be replaced by more flexible, nationally-identified definitions of "unit fisheries" for which catch and effort data would be reported, thus enabling some countries with poorly developed statistical systems to report partial data when complete coverage of their fisheries is not available.

The CWP was concerned that such changes would result in significant incompatibilities in the data submitted to regional agencies and could adversely affect the comparability of long time series of data in existing data banks. It was also noted that significant changes in the STATLANT B form for one region would, if not introduced for all regions, reduce the degree of standardization already achieved and could lead to unnecessary confusion in national statistical offices responsible for completing the B forms for different regions. The CWP therefore recommended (a) that the basic standard concepts underlying the present system of STATLANT A and B forms remain unchanged, and (b) that the participating agencies of the CWP should consult each other on any proposed amendments to the new concepts and that such proposals be given careful consideration before their adoption.

7. Response Difficulties (CWP Section 13)

The CWP noted that member agencies continue to experience very poor submission performance by certain statistical offices of developed countries with large fisheries in their own and other waters. Not only are the difficulties related to the lack of adherence to the established deadlines for submitting national returns but also to an apparent deterioration in the quality and coverage of such returns. It was noted that administrators should be fully aware of the importance of timely and comprehensive statistics with regard to the management decisions that they make, but yet, in certain instances, unofficial estimates have to be used for fish stock assessments because the official data are either not available or not considered accurate by assessment scientists.

With respect to minimizing the problems of late responses, the CWP considered that changing the deadlines for submission of completed STATLANT A and B forms would be ineffective.

8. Allocation of Catches by Nationality (CWP Section 14)

The CWP again reviewed the problem of allocation of catches by nationality, noting that difficulties have been encountered in all major fishing regions. Two aspects of the problem were noted: who will be responsible for collecting and submitting statistics, and under what country heading should the reported statistics be included in international statistical tabulations. After thorough debate, the CWP, in reaffirming the recommendation of the 9th Session in 1977, concluded that criteria were needed for the application of exceptions to the "flag state" principle, and accordingly recommended that the flag of the vessel should, for the time being, be considered the paramount indication of nationality and should only be overridden when the following arrangements between foreign flag vessels and host countries exist: (a) the vessels are chartered by the host country to augment its fishing fleet; (b) vessels that fish for a country through arrangement by joint venture contract, etc. (as opposed to the ad hoc practise of vessels selling catches for foreign boats or landing catches at foreign ports), where the operation of such vessels is an integral part of the economy of the host country.

The CWP further recommended that, when Governments negotiate joint ventures or other contracts where vessels of one nation land their catches at ports of the other country or unload their catches to vessels of the other country and where the above criteria are applicable, the nationality of such catches and landings should be a part of the negotiations and final arrangements.

9. Future Structure of the CWP (CWP Section 17)

From its beginning in 1959, the Working Party has been a subsidiary body of FAO (article of FAO's Council). Although some consideration was given to this matter at the 9th Session, the participants at the current session considered that the time was now opportune for reorganizing the structure of the CWP within the existing geographical context into a truly inter-agency body of experts providing technical advice on fishery statistical matters to participating agencies and national statistical offices upon request. In particular, it was agreed that the functions and activities of the CWP

should not be continued under the aegis of FAO but rather as an independent inter-agency organization, composed of representatives of the inter-governmental organizations of the entire Atlantic region with related objectives concerning the collection and publication of regional fisheries statistics. Accordingly, the CWP recommended that FAO be requested to obtain the approval of its appropriate governing bodies to dissolve the present Working Group as a subsidiary body of FAO, and agreed that its future functions as an inter-agency body for the Atlantic region should be guided by the terms of reference set out in Appendix II.

10. Eleventh Session of the CWP (CWP Section 18)

At the invitation of EUROSTAT, the 11th Session of the CWP will be held at Luxembourg during 21-28 July 1982. Plans for this session are already in progress through consultations between the member agencies.

11. Standard Country Abbreviations (CWP Section 19)

The CWP noted that, although a considerable degree of standardization has been achieved in regional publications with regard to abbreviations used for species, gears, etc., there was no consistency in the use of abbreviations for countries. Consequently, the CWP proposed that the regional agencies should adopt the 3-letter country identifiers established by ISO (International Organization for Standardization) when it is necessary to use country abbreviations in tabular presentations. The proposed 3-letter codes applicable for countries fishing in the Northwest Atlantic are listed below, together with the abbreviations used previously in ICNAF Statistical Bulletin for comparison. The full list of standard abbreviations for countries fishing in the whole of the Atlantic may be obtained from the NAFO Secretariat upon request. In the case of Canada (CAN), it was necessary to supplement the 3-letter codes by an additional letter to designate components of this country for which fishery statistics are reported separately.

Country name	Present abbreviation	Proposed abbreviation
Bulgaria	BUL	BGR
Canada (Maritimes) }	CAN-MQ	CAN-M
Canada (Quebec)		CAN-Q
Canada (Newfoundland)		CAN-N
Cuba	CUBA	CUB
Denmark	DEN-M	DNK
Faroe Islands	DEN-F	FRO
France	FRA-M	FRA <sup>1</sup>
German Democratic Republic	GDR	DDR
Germany, Federal Republic of	FRG	DEU
Greenland	DEN-G	GRL
Iceland	ICE	ISL
Ireland	IRE	IRL
Italy	ITA	ITA
Japan	JAP	JPN
Mexico	MEX	MEX
Norway	NOR	NOR
Poland	POL	POL
Portugal	POR	PRT
Romania	ROM	ROM
St. Pierre and Miquelon	FRA-SP	SPM <sup>1</sup>
Spain	SPA	ESP
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	USSR	SUN
United Kingdom	UK	GBR
United States of America	USA	USA

<sup>1</sup> French authorities have indicated that FRA-M and FRA-SP should be used by NAFO.



APPENDIX I

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING GEAR

Gear Categories	Standard Abbreviation	ISSCFG Code	NAFO Code
<u>SURROUNDING NETS</u>		01.0.0	-
With purse lines (purse seines)	PS	01.1.0	31
- one boat operated purse seines	PS1	01.1.1	-
- two boats operated purse seines	PS2	01.1.2	-
Without purse lines (lampara)	LA	01.2.0	-
<u>SEINE NETS</u>		02.0.0	-
Beach seines	SB	02.1.0	24
Boat or vessel seines	SV	02.2.0	-
- Danish seines	SDN	02.2.1	21
- Scottish seines	SSC	02.2.2	22
- Pair seines	SPR	02.2.3	23
Seine nets (not specified)	SX	02.9.0	-
<u>TRAWLS</u>		03.0.0	-
Bottom trawls		03.1.0	-
- beam trawls	TBB	03.1.1	18
- otter trawls 1/	OTB	03.1.2	10
- pair trawls	PTP	03.1.3	16
- nephrops trawls	TBN	03.1.4	-
- shrimp trawls	TBS	03.1.5	-
- bottom trawls (not specified)	TB	03.1.9	-
Midwater trawls		03.2.0	-
- otter trawls 1/	OTM	03.2.1	13
- pair trawls	PTM	03.2.2	17
- shrimp trawls	TMS	03.2.3	-
- midwater trawls (not specified)	TM	03.2.9	-
Otter twin trawls	OTT	03.3.0	-
Otter trawls (not specified)	OT	03.4.9	-
Pair trawls (not specified)	PT	03.5.9	-
Other trawls (not specified)	TX	03.9.0	-
<u>DREDGES</u>		04.0.0	-
Boat dredges	DRB	04.1.0	71
Hand dredges	DRH	04.2.0	72
<u>LIFT NETS</u>		05.0.0	-
Portable lift nets	LNP	05.1.0	-
Boat operated lift nets	LNB	05.2.0	-
Shore operated stationary lift nets	LNS	05.3.0	-
Lift nets (not specified)	LN	05.9.0	-
<u>FALLING GEAR</u>		06.0.0	-
Cast nets	FCN	06.1.0	-
Falling gear (not specified)	FG	06.9.0	-
<u>GILLNETS AND ENTANGLING NETS</u>		07.0.0	-
Set gillnets (anchored)	GNS	07.1.0	41
Drift nets	GND	07.2.0	42
Encircling gillnets	GNC	07.3.0	-
Fixed gillnets (on stakes)	GNF	07.4.0	-
Trammel nets	GTR	07.5.0	-
Combined gillnets-trammel nets	GTN	07.6.0	-
Gillnets and entangling nets (not specified)	GEN	07.9.0	-
Gillnets (not specified)	GN	07.9.1	40

Gear Categories	Standard Abbrevia- tion	ISSCFG Code	NAFO Code
<u>TRAPS</u>		08.0.0	-
Stationary uncovered pound-nets	FPN	08.1.0	61
Pots	FPO	08.2.0	62
Fyke nets	FYK	08.3.0	-
Stow-nets	FSN	08.4.0	-
Barriers, fences, weirs, etc.	FWR	08.5.0	63
Aerial traps	FAR	08.6.0	-
Traps (not specified)	FIX	08.9.0	60
<u>HOOKS AND LINES</u>		09.0.0	
Hand-lines and pole-lines (hand operated) 2/	LHP	09.1.0	53
Hand-lines and pole-lines (mechanized) 2/	LHM	09.2.0	55
Set lines (longlines set)	LLS	09.3.0	51
Drifting longlines	LLD	09.4.0	52
Longlines (not specified)	LL	09.5.0	50
Trolling lines	LTL	09.6.0	54
Hooks and lines (not specified) 3/	LX	09.9.0	-
<u>GRAPPLING AND WOUNDING</u>		10.0.0	-
Harpoons	HAR	10.1.0	81
<u>HARVESTING MACHINES</u>		11.0.0	-
Pumps	HMP	11.1.0	-
Mechanized dredges	HMD	11.2.0	-
Harvesting machines (not specified)	HMX	11.9.0	-
<u>MISCELLANEOUS GEAR 4/</u>	MIS	20.0.0	90
<u>RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR</u>	RG	25.0.0	
<u>GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED</u>	NK	99.0.0	99

1/: See Section 4.4.

2/: Including jigging lines.

3/: Code LDV (NAFO code 58) for dory operated line gears will be maintained for historical data purposes.

4/: This item includes: hand and landing nets, drive-in-nets, gathering by hand with simple hand implements with or without diving equipment, poisons and explosives, trained animals, electrical fishing.

Note: NAFO requires that vessel type be specified for trawl gears; this is accomplished by using the digits "1" and "2" in association with the abbreviations OTM and OTB as follows:

- (i) bottom otter trawls - side: OTB 1 (NAFO code 11)
- (ii) bottom otter trawls - stern: OTB 2 (NAFO code 12)
- (iii) midwater otter trawls - side: OTM 1 (NAFO code 14)
- (iv) midwater otter trawls - stern: OTM 2 (NAFO code 15)

FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE CWP

1. Name

The group shall be known as the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP).

2. Membership

The membership of the CWP shall be the following:

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- (b) International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);
- (c) International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES);
- (d) International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF);
- (e) Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO);
- (f) Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources (CCALMR);
- (g) Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT);
- (h) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

3. Representation

- (a) Each of the ICCAT, ICES, ICSEAF, NAFO and CCALMR may nominate up to three participants, one of whom must be a member of the secretariat, one should be the chairman (or a designated member) of the appropriate statistics committee of the agency, and one may be a participant of a member state of the agency.
- (b) EUROSTAT and OECD may each be represented by one person. In the event that no participant of the member states of the European Economic Communities is included in the nominations of ICCAT, ICES, ICSEAF, NAFO and CCALMR, EUROSTAT may nominate a national participant, in addition to the participant from the Statistical Office.
- (c) FAO may nominate up to five participants to ensure representation of FAO itself and those inter-governmental agencies related to Atlantic fisheries under the aegis of FAO (e.g., GFCM, CARPAS, WECAF, and CECAF).
- (d) The total number of participants in sessions of the CWP shall normally be limited to 25.
- (e) Each agency shall normally inform the Secretary of the CWP of the names and addresses of its nominees at least six months in advance of each session.

4. Meetings

- (a) Sessions of the CWP shall normally be held every two years, at times and places to be agreed by the Secretariats of the participating agencies.
- (b) An ad hoc inter-agency consultation shall be held approximately one year before each session to draw up a provisional agenda and coordinate plans and participation for the session. This consultation may be by correspondence initiated by the CWP Secretary, or may be a meeting.

5. CWP Secretariat

The CWP Secretariat should preferably be provided by FIDI of FAO, Rome. Should it become necessary to alter this arrangement, secretariat services for the CWP should alternate among those participating agencies with adequate resources to undertake this task.

6. Officers

At the beginning of the session the CWP Secretary shall call the meeting to order. In the absence of the CWP Secretary, the host agency will open the session. The participants shall from among their members elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson, who shall hold the offices for the duration of the session.

7. Documentation

Documents for each session should, if possible, be distributed to all nominated participants at least two months before the start of each session. However, documents prepared by one agency that may require the secretariat of another agency to consult with its statistics committee before a decision can be taken should be distributed at least four months before the start of the session. Each agency shall be responsible for the timely distribution of its documentation in accordance with the mailing list of participants supplied by the CWP Secretary.

8. Report

The CWP Secretary, in collaboration with the Chairman, shall, within three months of the end of each session, prepare for publication and distribute the adopted English version of the report with all relevant appendices as follows:

- (a) One copy for each participant in the session; and
- (b) The number of copies specified by each participating agency before the end of the session.

French and Spanish versions of the report may be prepared by FAO, in consultation with other agencies requiring such versions, and distributed upon request in sufficient copies to meet the needs of the various agencies.

9. Effective date

The proposed structure will come into force on approval by at least four member agencies. This may be amended by agreement among the participating agencies.