

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1981

Notes on Statistical Activities and Publications, 1980/81

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

1. CWP Activities Relevant to the NAFO Scientific Council

a) Tenth Session of CWP (SCS Doc. 81/VI/3, 11)

The CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics) met at Madrid, Spain, during 22-29 July 1980, with representatives from all participating inter-governmental agencies (FAO, ICES, ICCAT, ICSEAF, NAFO, EUROSTAT, and OECD). Attending on behalf of NAFO were the Assistant Executive Secretary (V. M. Hodder) and Canadian nominees (W. G. Doubleday and D. Tilley). Dr Doubleday was elected Chairman for the session. The complete report of the Tenth Session (SCS Doc. 80/VI/3) was distributed in March-April 1981.

A wide range of statistical matters was considered, many of which are directly relevant to the work of the Scientific Council. These are listed in SCS Doc. 81/VI/11, together with the corresponding CWP recommendations, some of which require endorsement by the Council at this meeting. Recommendations concerning the list of standard country abbreviations and the future structure of the CWP were dealt with at the September 1980 Meeting (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, pages 127-128).

b) Eleventh Session of CWP

At the invitation of EUROSTAT, the 11th Session will be held at Luxembourg during 21-28 July 1982. Plans for this session are already in progress through consultations between member agencies. The provisional agenda will be finalized during a mid-term meeting of Secretariat representatives of the participating organizations at the time of the ICES Meeting in October 1981 at Woods Hole, USA. Preliminary discussions indicate that the following items will be included:

- i) Review of the details of the interagency STATLANT programme;
- ii) Interagency cooperation and their collaboration with national offices - with particular stress on the reduction of data discrepancies;
- iii) Fishing areas for statistical purposes with particular reference to the distinction between marine and inland water areas;
- iv) A review of current progress in the fields of fishing fleet, fishing gear and fishing effort statistics;
- v) A consideration of the possibility to improve statistics on fishermen;
- vi) The development of statistics on landed quantities and their values;
- vii) Aquaculture statistics - objectives and the introduction of a standard questionnaire;
- viii) A review of the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and proposals made by the CWP at its 10th Session, 1980; and
- ix) The introduction of a periodically issued STATLANT NEWSLETTER.

In accordance with the terms of representation to the CWP, NAFO may nominate up to 3 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, and one may be nominated by a member state. Each agency shall inform the CWP Secretary of the names and addresses of its nominees at least 6 weeks in advance of each session.

2. Fishery Statistics

a) STATLANT 21A Reports (deadline 15 April)

These reports, with a 15 April deadline, consist of provisional nominal catch statistics by species and division and are designed to provide the Secretariat with reasonably complete annual statistics well in advance of the June Meeting of the Scientific Council, so that they can be compiled and documented for that meeting.

- i) At the time of the June 1980 Meeting, the STATLANT 21A reports were not complete enough to warrant the compilation of the tables (SCS Doc. 80/VI/21) and consequently the summary document containing provisional statistics for 1978 was not issued until August 1980.
- ii) At the start of this June 1981 Meeting, despite the clearly designated deadline, STATLANT 21A reports for several countries were still outstanding. However, most of these became available during the meeting, and consequently the provisional nominal catches in 1980 have now been compiled (SCS Doc. 81/VI/15).

b) STATLANT 21B Reports (deadline 30 June)

These reports, containing detailed nominal catch and effort data broken down by gear, tonnage class, main species, division and month, are used as the final statistics for publication in the Statistical Bulletin.

- i) Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 28 for 1978, which should have been published in December 1979, was not issued until the autumn of 1980, nearly a year behind schedule. The major problems were the difficulty in obtaining STATLANT 21B reports from some countries, despite repeated requests, and the complication of sorting out national statistics and those accruing from joint venture operations to avoid the possibility of double-counting and under-counting.
- ii) Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 29 for 1979. The publication of this volume has also been significantly delayed for the same reasons noted above. However, all data are now in hand, and it is anticipated that the volume will be ready for distribution in August 1980. Meanwhile the advance release of 1979 catch and effort data, for assessment purposes, was prepared as a working paper for this meeting.
- iii) STATLANT 21B Reports for 1980 (deadline 30 June 1981). About half of these reports have already been received, and early receipt of the remainder could result in publication of *Statistical Bulletin*, Vol. 30 before the end of 1981.

c) Response difficulties

This problem has periodically been discussed by the CWP (SCS Doc. 81/VI/11) with reference to the timely submission of STATLANT A and B reports. The responsibility lies with the national statistical offices, and it was recognized that the problem would unlikely be minimized by changing the deadlines. However, in view of the need for detailed catch and effort data for assessment purposes, the deadline of 30 June for STATLANT 21B reports is ineffective in making the data available for the June Meeting of STACFIS. The great variation in the dates of receipt of STATLANT 21A and 21B data for 1979 and 1980 is indicated in Table 1.

d) Historical catches for 1970-79 (SCS Doc. 81/VI/10)

As requested at the June 1980 Meeting (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, page 92), the preparation of a summary document giving 10-year tabulations of catches of selected species by stock area and country has been continued.

e) Changes in format of Statistical Bulletin, (Vol. 29)

- i) The heading of Tables 2 and 3 have been expanded to provide for the inclusion of data for Div. 0A and 0B separately, and the "SA 1-5 Total" column has been deleted.
- ii) Table 5 has been modified to reflect the format of data presentation adopted at the September 1980 Meeting of the Scientific Council (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, pages 127 and 135). This new Table 5 replaces Tables 5 and 6 of the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin.
- iii) The country abbreviations, used in tables where space is limited, are those adopted at the September 1980 Meeting of the Council, except that abbreviations for EEC member states are prefixed by the letter E (e.g. see SCS Doc. 81/VI/15), for convenience in listing them as a group.

3. Sampling

a) Data processing of length samples (SCS Doc. 81/VI/16)

In accordance with the previously adopted procedure for the reporting of length frequencies and age-length keys separately on the new sampling forms (CFS-1 and CFS-2), the Secretariat has modified its procedure for processing the more detailed data. In view of the very large volume of data, progress has been rather slow. However, all available length frequency data received for 1979 have been computerized, and provisional lists of the individual samples are given in SCS Doc. 81/VI/16. These lists are quite incomplete, as indicated in the text of that document, and scientists are urged to submit all non-reported data to the Secretariat as soon as possible, to facilitate the production of *Sampling Yearbook*, Vol. 24 for 1979.

A large volume of sampling data for 1979 collected through the Scientific Observer Program have been reported to the Secretariat by Canada (Newfoundland) and a list of these data is given in SCS Doc. 81/VI/16. Similar data collected by Canada (Maritimes) observers are expected to be reported to the Secretariat in the near future.

b) Age-length keys

Except for data collected and reported by Canada (Newfoundland) both nationally and through the Scientific Observer Program, very few age-length keys for 1979 have been reported on sampling form CFS-2. Preparations for the computerization of these data have only just begun, largely because the bulk of the data were received only recently.

c) Sampling Yearbook, Vol. 23 for 1978

The data base for this volume still lacks the USA data for Subareas 5 and 6. However, the Secretariat has been informed that these data will be forthcoming soon, and the Yearbook is expected to be issued in 3-4 months.

d) Greenland halibut data

The USSR length compositions and age-length keys for 1969-76 by division for Subareas 0 and 1 have been received, as noted at the June 1980 Meeting (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, page 93), but the Secretariat has not yet been informed as to when similar data for Subareas 2 and 3 in 1969-76 can be expected.

e) Scientific observer program

As requested at the June 1980 Meeting (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. 1979-80, pages 94 and 105), the Secretariat coordinated the development of a form for reporting set data, but have received no comments or reaction on its practical use.

4. List of Fishing Vessels for 1980

The status of submission of the 1980 lists is indicated in the last column of Table 1, in response to NAFO Circular Letter 81/10 which was issued on 30 January 1981.

Table 1.

Country	STATLANT 21A		STATLANT 21B		LIST OF VESSELS
	Deadline: 15 April		Deadline: 30 June		for 1980
	1979	1980	1979	1980	Deadline: 15 May
Bulgaria	20 May 80	19 May 81	03 Jul 80	19 May 81	
Canada-M	18 Apr 80	10 Apr 81	08 Aug 80	23 Apr 81	23 Apr 81
Canada-N	09 Jun 80	22 Apr 81	10 Nov 80		19 Feb 81
Canada-Q	15 Jul 80		23 Feb 81		
Cuba	29 Apr 80	01 Apr 81	10 Jun 80	06 Jun 81	
*Denmark	29 May 80	22 May 81	15 Jul 80		
*France-M	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	21 Jul 80	10 Jun 81	
*France-SP	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	23 Feb 81
*Germany, Fed. Rep.	04 Jun 80	15 May 81	22 Sep 80		27 Feb 81
*Greenland	03 Jun 80	29 May 81	07 Oct 80		
*Ireland	05 Dec 80	-	05 Dec 80		03 Jun 81
*Italy	25 Mar 81	25 Mar 81	25 Mar 81	25 Mar 81	
*United Kingdom	25 Mar 81	27 Apr 81	25 Mar 81	27 Apr 81	27 Apr 81
Faroe Islands	09 May 80	02 Apr 81	17 Nov 80		
German Dem. Rep.	28 Apr 80	14 May 81	11 Jul 80		28 Apr 81
Iceland	-	-	-	-	
Japan	26 May 80	28 May 81	23 Jul 80	28 May 81	
Norway	24 Jun 80	23 Apr 81	24 Jul 80	23 Apr 81	19 May 81
Poland	07 May 80	29 May 81	02 Jun 80		26 May 81
Portugal	22 May 80	14 May 81	28 Aug 80		25 Mar 81
Romania	07 May 80	27 May 81	07 May 80	27 May 81	
Spain	04 Sep 80	10 Jun 81	27 Mar 81	10 Jun 81	
USSR	30 Apr 80	16 Apr 81	04 Jul 80		
USA	09 May 80	09 Jun 81	06 Jan 81		