

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1982

Notes on Statistical Activities and Publications, 1981/82

by

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I. Fishery Statistics

a) STATLANT 21A reports

These reports, with a 15 April deadline, consist of provisional nominal catch statistics by species and division and are designed to provide the Scientific Council with reasonably complete annual statistics of fishing in the NAFO Area during the preceding year for use at its Regular June Meeting. At the start of this June 1982 Meeting, despite the clearly designated deadline, STATLANT 21A reports were available for only about half of the countries (or country components). Some reports were received during the meeting, but the data available was too incomplete for use in preparing the "Fishery Trends" section of the STACFIS (Standing Committee on Fishery Science) report. Outstanding reports are those for Denmark(M), Iceland, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, USA, UK and Mexico (SCS Doc. 82/VI/7, 15 June 1982).

b) STATLANT 21B Reports

These reports, with a 30 June deadline, contain detailed nominal catch and effort data by gear, tonnage class of vessel, main species, division and month. These data are extremely valuable for assessment purposes and are used as the final statistics for publication in the NAFO Statistical Bulletin.

i) Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 29 for 1979

This volume, which should have been issued in December 1980, was not published until July 1981, about 7 months behind schedule. The major problem was the difficulty in obtaining STATLANT 21B reports from some countries despite repeated requests to national statistical offices and to Scientific Council representatives in the case of NAFO Contracting Parties.

ii) Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 30 for 1980

The publication of this volume was also significantly delayed for the same reason noted above. However, nearly all of the 1980 data are now in hand, and it is anticipated that Vol. 30 will be printed in July 1982 and distributed in August. Meanwhile, computer listings of the available catch and effort data for 1980 were supplied upon request to scientists involved in stock assessments for this June 1982 Meeting.

iii) STATLANT 21B Reports for 1981

The deadline for the submission of these detailed catch and effort reports for 1981 is presently 30 June 1982. Six of these reports have already been received, and early receipt of the remainder could result in publication of *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 31 before the end of 1982 or in early 1983 well in advance of the June 1983 Meeting.

c) Adequacy of Current Deadlines for STATLANT 21A and 21B Reports

In past years, several countries, which now neglect to forward their STATLANT 21A and 21B reports in accordance with the indicated deadlines, have demonstrated their ability to prepare and submit their reports well in advance of the June Meeting. In fact, some countries forward their STATLANT 21B reports at the same time that the 21A reports are sent.

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. Countries which are able to provide detailed catch and effort data for assessments could very likely be able to meet an earlier deadline (e.g. 30 April or 30 May) for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports. Countries which are persistently delinquent in providing their fishery statistics for assessment purposes and in adhering to their commitments as Contracting Parties of NAFO are unlikely to take note of any deadline whether it be 30 June or some earlier or later date, unless their Scientific Council representatives take an active role in ensuring that the national statistical officers give priority to the preparation and submission of the required reports. The considerable variation in the receipt of STATLANT 21A and 21B reports for 1979, 1980 and 1981 is shown in Table 1.

d) Historical catches for 1971-80 (SCS 82/VI/2)

As requested at the June 1980 Meeting (*NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep.* 1979-80, page 92), the Secretariat has continued the preparation of a summary document given 10-year tabulations of catches of selected species by stock area and country. A total of 71 species/stocks are currently included in the list and others may be added, if requested, for the benefit of scientists who use these data.

e) Changes in Format of Statistical Bulletin (Vol. 29)

The first NAFO Statistical (Vol. 29) was issued after the June 1981 Meeting of the Scientific Council. It contained the new format for Table 5 which was adopted at the September 1980 Meeting of the Council (*NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep.* 1979-80, page 127). This new Table 5 replaced Tables 5 and 6 of the previous ICNAF Statistical Bulletin.

Volume 30 also involved the introduction of new country abbreviations (used in Tables where space is limited), which were proposed by the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics) and adopted at the September 1980 Meeting of the Scientific Council (*NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep.* 1979-80, page 127). The abbreviations for EEC member states are prefixed by the letter "E", for convenience in listing them consecutively as a group.

2. Sampling

a) Acquisition and Processing of Data

In accordance with the previously adopted procedure for the reporting of length frequencies and age-length keys on the new sampling forms (CFS-1 and CFS-2) or in a similar format on computer tape, the secretariat has modified its procedure for processing the more detailed data. Although the data base is still very incomplete, the Secretariat has computerized all available data for 1979 and 1980. The 1979 data, including data collected through the Scientific Observer Program and reported by Canada (Nfld), were listed for the June 1981 Meeting in SCS Doc. 81/VI/16. Little additional data have been added since last year, and no Canada (Maritimes) observer data have yet been received although these were expected to be reported to the Secretariat before the end of 1981.

b) Sampling data for 1980 (SCS Doc. 82/VI/17)

Summarized lists of the sampling data reported for 1980 are given in SCS Doc. 82/VI/17. These lists include a large volume of data collected through the Scientific Observer Program and reported by Canada (Nfld). As for 1979 data, no observer data for 1980 have been reported by Canada (Maritimes).

c) Status of Sampling Yearbooks

When the publication of actual sampling data was discontinued with the issue of *Sampling Yearbook* Vol. 18 for 1973, lists of the data were compiled annually and issued in ICNAF *Sampling Yearbook*, Vol. 19 for 1974 to Vol. 23 for 1978.

The first NAFO issue of *Sampling Yearbook* (Vol. 24 for 1979) have not yet been compiled for printing. One reason is that there exists a large volume of sampling data for 1979 not yet reported to the Secretariat, and the other relates to the degree of summarization that should be carried out, in the light of the large volume of individual samples currently available for listing. STACREC is requested to consider this problem and provide some guidelines for future issues of the *Sampling Yearbook*.

d) Age-length keys

Except for data collected and reported by Canada (Nfld) both nationally and through the Scientific Observer Program, very few age-length keys for 1979 and 1980 have been reported on sampling form CFS-2.

3. List of Fishing Vessels for 1980

The List of Fishing Vessels for 1980, which was scheduled for publication in early 1981, has not yet been published due to the absence of data for Bulgaria, France (M), Romania and USA. It cannot now be predicted when this volume is likely to be sufficiently complete for publication.

Table 1.

Country	STATLANT 21A			STATLANT 21B		
	Deadline: 15 April			Deadline: 30 June		
	1979	1980	1981	1979	1980	1981
Bulgaria	20 May 80	19 May 81	14 Apr 82	03 Jul 80	19 May 81	14 Apr 82
Canada-M	18 Apr 80	10 Apr 81	07 Apr 82	08 Aug 80	23 Apr 81	13 Apr 82
Canada-N	09 Jun 80	22 Apr 81	14 Apr 82	10 Nov 80	04 Jan 82	-
Canada-Q	15 Jul 80	26 Apr 82	26 Apr 82	23 Feb 81	10 Jun 82	-
Cuba	29 Apr 80	01 Apr 81	27 May 82	10 Jun 80	06 Jun 81	02 Jun 82
*Denmark	29 May 80	22 May 81	-	15 Jul 80	24 Feb 82	-
*France-M	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	10 Jun 82	21 Jul 80	10 Jun 81	-
*France-SP	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	04 Jun 82	05 Jun 80	10 Jun 81	-
*Germany, Fed. Rep.	04 Jun 80	15 May 81	28 May 82	22 Sep 80	15 Sep 81	-
*Greenland	03 Jun 80	29 May 81	28 May 82	07 Oct 80	29 May 81	28 May 82
*Ireland	05 Dec 80	-	-	05 Dec 80	-	-
*Italy	25 Mar 81	25 Mar 81	17 Aug 81	25 Mar 81	25 Mar 81	27 Aug 81
*United Kingdom	25 Mar 81	27 Apr 81	-	25 May 81	27 Apr 81	-
Faroe Islands	09 May 80	02 Apr 81	08 Jun 82	17 Nov 80	11 Mar 82	-
German Dem. Rep.	28 Apr 80	14 May 81	03 May 82	11 Jul 80	31 Aug 81	-
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	26 May 80	28 May 81	17 May 82	23 Jul 80	28 May 81	17 May 82
Norway	24 Jun 80	23 Apr 81	-	24 Jul 80	23 Apr 81	-
Poland	07 May 80	29 May 81	-	02 Jun 80	18 Feb 82	-
Portugal	22 May 80	14 May 81	21 Apr 82	28 Aug 80	08 Sep 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	21 Apr 82	04 Jul 80	19 Jun 81	-
USA	09 May 80	09 Jun 81	-	06 Jan 81	15 Jun 82	-