

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N727

NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/19

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1983

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 of the CWP on matters relevant to NAFO. Details of these and other matters of statistical nature are given in the Report of the Eleventh Session of the CWP, held at Luxembourg during 21-28 July 1980 (*FAO Fish. Rep.* No. 274; see also NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/10).

1. Discrepancies in Statistics Held in Data Bases (CWP Section 4)

The CWP acknowledged the existence of discrepancies in the data base of different agencies due possibly to various causes (e.g. differing deadlines for submission of data, differing status of submissions, differing national treatment of data from cooperative ventures, etc.), welcomed EUROSTAT's initiative in studying this problem and recommended that EUROSTAT continue its activities in creating the necessary computer procedures to compare data sets to identify discrepancies.

The CWP proposed that revisions to nationally submitted data made by one member agency should be circulated to all the agencies involved, preferably by use of the Fishstatgram system established by the CWP.

2. Standard Country Identifiers (CWP Section 6)

The CWP continued to urge the use of the ISO 3-alpha identifiers for countries when needed for abbreviations.

3. FAO World List of Species Items (CWP Section 8)

This list contains approximately 800 entries which cover: FAO english common name, FAO French common name, FAO Spanish common name, Taxonomic code, Scientific name, Species group code, and 3-alpha identifier. To keep member agencies informed of changes to the list, the CWP recommended that FAO continue its current practice to supply quarterly to the participating agencies complete updated lists covering all indicators of the species items in the FAO data base.

4. Allocation of Catches by Nationality (CWP Section 9)

The CWP recommended that participating agencies try to obtain the agreement of their contracting parties through the appropriate channels, to follow as closely as possible the following criteria:

- that the flag of the vessel catching the fish, should be considered the paramount indication of the nationality assigned to the catch data and that indication overridden only when one of the following arrangements between a foreign flag vessel and the host country exists:
 - (a) the vessel is chartered by the host country to augment its fishing fleet; and
 - (b) the vessel fishes for the country by joint venture contract or similar agreements (as opposed to the ad hoc practice of a vessel selling catches to a foreign vessel or landing catches at a foreign port) and the operation of such a vessel is an integral part of the economy of the host country,
- that when governments negotiate joint venture or other contracts in which vessels of one country land their catches at ports of another country or unload their catches to vessels of another country and the above criteria are applicable, the assignment of nationality to such catches and landings data be specified in the agreements.

5. Conversion factors (CWP Section 11)

The CWP considered the importance of conversion factors in the production of realistic fishery statistics nationally and agreed that there was a need to continually update the conversion factors in the FAO data base. The CWP therefore recommended (a) that FAO initiate a program to obtain country revisions, update the conversion factors, and publish the conversion factors list every 3 years; (b) that FAO send a conversion factor request to countries not represented on the conversion factor list; and (c) that FAO request national offices to use a consolidated list of conversion factors when responding to the FAO request for updating and expansion.

6. Fishing Logbooks (CWP Section 13)

The CWP acknowledged the important role of logbooks as vehicles for data collection, and recommended that FAO produce a report or a manual identifying the requirements for planning, designing and implementing logbook systems and that this be completed as early as possible and not later than the 12th Session of the CWP.

7. Data Exchange Between CWP Agencies (CWP Section 18)

The CWP agreed that the development of a common data exchange format through magnetic tapes was highly desirable, and recommended that EUROSTAT, in close collaboration with FAO, ICES, NAFO and other agencies, study the development of a common exchange mechanism and report to the CWP ad hoc Inter-agency Consultation in 1983.