

Northwest Atlantic



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Report to the CWP on NAFO Statistical Program,

Data-Processing and Publications, 1982-84

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

1. The appended report was prepared, in accordance with NAFO's commitment as a participating agency of the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics), for presentation to the 12th Session of the CWP, which will be held at Copenhagen, Denmark, during 25 July-1 August 1984.
2. Plans for the 12th Session were finalized at the Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, held at Gothenburg, Sweden, during 8-9 October 1983. The report of that meeting is reproduced as NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/13, which also contains the Agenda and the Provisional List of Documents for the 12th Session in July 1984.
3. As agreed at the June 1983 Meeting of the Scientific Council (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep. for 1983, page 104) NAFO representation at the 12th Session of the CWP will be as follows:

Mr. J. Moller Jensen, Chairman of STACREC

Ms. N. V. Janovskaya, USSR

Mr. R. K. Zviriko, USSR

Mr. V. M. Hodder, Assistant Executive Secretary

REPORT ON NAFO FISHERY STATISTICAL PROGRAM, DATA-PROCESSING AND PUBLICATIONS, 1982-84

V. M. Hodder

Assistant Executive Secretary, NAFO  
P. O. Box 638, Dartmouth, Canada B2Y 3Y9

A. ACQUISITION OF FISHERY STATISTICS

Fishery statistics for the Northwest Atlantic (FAO Fishing Area 21) are acquired by the NAFO Secretariat through the STATLANT system which is operated under the aegis of the CWP. The system was inherited by NAFO in 1979 when it replaced the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) which was a long-standing member of the CWP. Basically, the system for the Northwest Atlantic involves the distribution of STATLANT 21A and 21B forms and notes by the CWP Secretary to the statistical offices of all countries known to have fished in the region, and the subsequent submission of the reports directly to the NAFO Secretariat in accordance with certain deadlines.

1. STATLANT 21A (Annual Catches)

The deadline for the submission of these reports is 15 April of each year for the preceding year's data. These data are often classed as provisional (or preliminary) and represent the initial inventory of nominal catches by species and NAFO division for review and use at the June Meeting of the Scientific Council. The early deadline is intended to provide sufficient time for the reports to reach the NAFO Secretariat well in advance of the June Meeting. Prior to 1979-80, most of the reports were available prior to the meeting and the remainder were brought to the meeting, so that the Secretariat was able to present the data as a Summary Document to represent the advance release of the preceding year's nominal catches. This has not been achievable in the past 3-4 years because of tardiness on the part of a few countries to report their catches (Table 1).

2. STATLANT 21B (Detailed Catch and Effort)

The deadline for the submission of these reports is currently 30 June of each year for the preceding year's data. These reports are intended to contain the final official national statistics of nominal catch and effort data for all species by division, gear, tonnage class, main species sought, and month. In view of the detailed nature of these statistics, countries with large volumes of data and with facilities to provide the Secretariat with the data on magnetic tapes are encouraged to do so, whereas countries with relatively small volumes of data are requested to use the STATLANT 21B forms or computer printout in a similar format. These data represent the basis of the statistics published in the *NAFO Statistical Bulletin*, and STATLANT 21A provisional data are not used in compiling the tables unless no other information is available or supplied after repeated requests for the STATLANT 21B report.

Under ICNAF, it was customary to publish the *Statistical Bulletin* about 7-8 months after the deadline for the submission of the data, but extension of fisheries jurisdiction by coastal states in 1977 and the complication of acquiring and assigning data from joint venture operations between coastal states and other countries have resulted in significant delays of 12 months or more beyond the indicated deadline before the *Statistical Bulletin* could be published. Additionally, the most recent issues have been further delayed by the late receipt of reports from one or two countries (Table 1). Consequently, instead of publishing in January-February (7-8 months after the deadline), recent issues have been delayed until August-September.

The format of presentation of the tabular material in the *NAFO Statistical Bulletin* continues to follow the proposals of the CWP at a meeting in Rome, Italy, in January 1973. The Bulletin also complies with the basic proposals of the CWP, as noted in Section C of this report.

Table 1. Dates of receipt of STATLANT 21A and 21B reports for 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Country	STATLANT 21A (Deadline, 15 April)			STATLANT 21B (Deadline, 30 June)		
	1981	1982	1983	1981	1982	1983
Bulgaria	14 Apr 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84	14 Apr 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84
Canada-M	07 Apr 82	14 Apr 83	03 Apr 84	13 Apr 82	25 Apr 83	03 Apr 84
Canada-N	15 Apr 82	02 Jun 83	17 Apr 84	12 Oct 82	05 Dec 83	
Canada-Q	26 Apr 82	01 Jun 83	30 Apr 84	31 May 82	20 Jul 83	30 Apr 84
Cuba	27 May 82	18 May 83		02 Jun 82	18 May 83	
*Denmark	03 Aug 82	01 Jun 83	12 Apr 84	29 Sep 82	29 Jun 83	
*France-M	10 Jun 82	13 Dec 83		09 Sep 82	13 Dec 83	
*France-SP	10 Jun 82	09 Jun 83		10 Sep 82	09 Jun 83	
*Germany, F. R.	04 Jun 82	12 May 83	14 May 84	02 Jul 82	04 Aug 83	
*Greenland	28 May 82	17 May 83	31 May 84	28 May 82	12 Dec 83	11 Apr 84 <sup>1</sup>
*Italy	03 May 82	22 Apr 83		24 Jun 82	20 May 83	
*United Kingdom	17 Jun 82	21 Apr 83		17 Jun 82	21 Apr 83	
Faroe Islands	08 Jun 82	08 Jun 83		30 Jun 82	01 Feb 84	
German Dem. Rep.	03 May 82	25 Apr 83	19 Apr 84	06 Jul 82	04 Jul 83	
Iceland	26 Aug 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84	26 Aug 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84
Japan	17 May 82	31 May 83	18 May 84	17 May 82	31 May 83	18 May 84
Norway	16 Jun 82	13 Jun 83		09 Jul 82	13 Jun 83	
Poland	31 May 82	18 Jul 83		13 Sep 82	18 Jul 83	
Portugal	21 Apr 82	14 Jun 83	22 May 84	13 Sep 82	30 Mar 84	22 May 84
Romania	03 Aug 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84	03 Aug 82	15 Apr 83	15 Apr 84
Spain	20 Aug 82	31 May 84	31 May 84	20 Aug 82	31 May 84	31 May 84
USSR	21 Apr 82	29 Apr 83	30 Apr 84	12 Jul 82	04 Jul 83	
USA	17 Sep 82	20 Jun 83		24 Jun 83	18 Apr 84	
Korea, S.	-	17 May 83	14 May 84	-	17 May 83	14 May 84
Total Reports	23	24	24	23	24	24
21A by 31 May	12	13	14			
21B by 31 August				16	17	

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete data.

### 3. Deterioration in National Reporting of Statistics

The Scientific Council has been greatly concerned about the deterioration in national reporting through the STATLANT system, particularly the STATLANT 21B reports which provide the basis for the *Statistical Bulletin* and much of the assessment work. In addition to expressing its grave concern about this matter to Contracting Parties through the General Council of NAFO, the Scientific Council has urged national scientific representatives to take an active role in urging national statistical officers to comply with the deadlines for the submission of the reports. It was generally agreed that altering the deadline would not have the desired effect, because countries have demonstrated in the past that statistical reports can be provided in accordance with the deadlines.

## B. AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING

### 1. Introductory Remarks

Computer processing of STATLANT 21A and 21B data has been operational in the ICNAF/NAFO Secretariat since early 1972, and the procedures have remained essentially unchanged since that time. Prior to about 1971, certain summary tables of the *Statistical Bulletin* were compiled from STATLANT 21A data (yearly nominal catches by species and division only), and other tables involving monthly catch and effort data by gear type, vessel size and division were derived from the more detailed STATLANT 21B reports.

Users of the *Statistical Bulletin* complained about discrepancies in the two sets of data, because the 21A reports were generally classed as provisional and the 21B reports often covered only the main commercial species. It was then decided that the provisional STATLANT 21A data, with a deadline of 15 April, should be the basis for the "advance release" of nominal catches by species and division for the June scientific meeting, and that all countries should provide their final statistics in STATLANT 21B format, with a deadline of 30 June. Thus, input and output programing was developed to efficiently utilize the standardized reporting of data on these 21B forms and to produce the various tables on computer printout for direct use in the *Statistical Bulletin*.

## 2. Treatment of Data

The system has worked well since the early 1970's, and the major contributors of data (Canada and USA) provide their fishery statistics in digital STATLANT 21B format on computer tapes. Several other countries with substantially smaller amounts of data (e.g. France, German Democratic Republic, Greenland, Japan and Norway) submit their data on computer printouts, while others use the actual forms. The data on the forms and printouts are usually arranged in such a way that they are keypunched directly from the sheets after inserting the digital codes for the key parameters. A description of the processing system was presented at previous sessions of the CWP and will not be repeated here (e.g. see CWP-10/11).

Work is slowly progressing on expanding the data base backwards from 1972 and incorporating all known revisions to data which became available after publication. Major difficulties, which are encountered as one proceeds backwards into the early 1960's, relate to the progressive reduction in detail for reporting data and in clarity of instructions for completing the forms. Nevertheless, the computerized data base of detailed fisheries statistics for the Northwest Atlantic currently extends back to 1964.

## C. IMPLEMENTATION OF CWP RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Scientific Council Meeting, June 1983

Following the 10th Session of the CWP in July 1982, sufficient copies of the report of that session (FAO Fish. Rep. No. 274) were acquired and distributed as a NAFO Summary Document to all participants at the June 1983 Meeting and others on the mailing list. The report was presented in some detail to the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) by the Deputy Secretary of the CWP, Mr. D. Cross. No specific recommendations to the Scientific Council evolved from discussion of this report, because the Council had previously adopted and implemented all relevant recommendations and proposals on matters reiterated by the CWP, including (a) use of 3-alpha species identifiers, (b) use of the ISO 3-alpha identifiers for countries, (c) application of the criteria regarding allocation of catches by nationality, and (d) adherence to the STATLANT system for acquiring official national fishery statistics.

The Scientific Council welcomed the effort of FAO in compiling and maintaining an up-to-date data base of conversion factors, and noted with interest the recommendation that FAO produce a report or manual which identified the requirements for planning and designing logbook systems.

## D. RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

### 1. Publications (July 1982-June 1984)

- a) NAFO Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 30 for 1980 (issued in August 1982)  
" " " " , Vol. 31 for 1981 (issued in September 1983)
- b) Scientific Council Reports, 1982 (issued in December 1982)  
" " " " , 1983 (issued in December 1983)

- c) Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Vol. 3(2) (issued in December 1982)  
       "          "          "          "          "          , Vol. 4 (issued in July 1983)  
       "          "          "          "          "          , Vol. 5(1) (issued in January 1984)
- d) NAFO Scientific Council Studies, No. 4 (issued in September 1982)  
       "          "          "          , No. 5 (issued in December 1982)  
       "          "          "          , No. 6 (issued in December 1983)
- e) NAFO List of Fishing Vessels, 1980 (issued in March 1983)
- f) NAFO Scientific Meeting Documents Index, 1982 (issued in March 1983)  
       "          "          "          "          , 1983 (issued in March 1984)

2. Meeting Documents Relevant to Statistics (July 1982 to June 1984)

- a) Report of the *ad hoc* Interagency Consultation of Atlantic Fishery Statistics, 3 and 4 October 1981, Woods Hole, USA (NAFO SCS Doc. 82/VI/9).
- b) Report to the CWP on NAFO fishery statistical program, publications and data-processing (NAFO SCS Doc. 82/VI/10).
- c) Summary of reported sampling data for 1980 (NAFO SCS Doc. 82/VI/17).
- d) Historical catches of selected species by stock area and country for the period 1972-81 (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/5).
- e) Summary of reported sampling data for 1981 (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/7).
- f) Provisional sealing statistics for the Northwest Atlantic, 1982 (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/9).
- g) Report of the Eleventh Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP), July 1982 (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/10).
- h) CWP recommendations and proposals relevant to the work of the Scientific Council (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/VI/19).
- i) Provisional nominal catches in the Northwest Atlantic, 1982 (NAFO SCS Doc. 83/IX/22).
- j) Historical catches of selected species by stock area and country for the period 1973-82 (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/6)
- k) Provisional sealing statistics for the Northwest Atlantic, 1983 (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/7)
- l) Summary of reported sampling data for 1982 (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/8).
- m) Report to the CWP on NAFO fishery statistical program, publications and data-processing (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/9).
- n) Notes on statistical activities and related publications, 1983-84 (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/12).
- o) Report of the *ad hoc* Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, Gothenburg, Sweden, 8-9 October 1983 (NAFO SCS Doc. 84/VI/13).