

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Notes on Statistical Activities and Related Publications, 1983/84

by

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1. Acquisition and Publication of Fishery Statistics

a) Fishery statistics for 1981

Although the deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21A reports for 1981 was 30 June 1982, one or two of these reports were not received until June 1983. This resulted in a significant delay in the preparation of *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 31 for the year 1981, which was not issued until August 1983.

b) Fishery statistics for 1982

Although the deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports was 30 June 1983 and several countries had submitted their reports on or about that time, data for Canada (Nfld) and France (Metropolitan) were not received until December 1983 and those for Faroe Islands, Portugal and USA were received only during February-April 1984, and outstanding Spanish data for Subareas 5 and 6 arrived on 31 May 1984. It is anticipated that *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 32 for 1982 will be ready for printing in 3-4 months.

c) Fishery statistics for 1983

In order for the Secretariat to prepare an inventory of provisional nominal catches by species and division for 1983, as required by the Scientific Council for its meeting in June 1984, STATLANT 21A forms and instructions were dispatched in early February 1984 to all countries that were known to have fished in the Northwest Atlantic during 1983. The deadline for the submission of these provisional reports was indicated as 15 April 1984. This deadline allows sufficient time for the reports to reach the Secretariat by the end of May, so that a summary document can be prepared for the June Meeting of the Scientific Council.

In Table 1, it is shown that only 14 of the possible 24 STATLANT 21A reports for 1983 were received by 31 May 1984 compared with the receipt of 12 and 13 reports on the same date in 1982 and 1983 respectively.

d) Deterioration in National Reporting

Although most countries have in earlier years demonstrated their ability to prepare and submit their STATLANT reports in accordance with the designated deadlines of 15 April for STATLANT 21A and 30 June for the more detailed STATLANT 21B reports, there has been significant deterioration in national reporting since about 1979-80, when the "advance release" of the previous year's provisional catches were consistently incomplete at the time of the June Meeting and sometimes incomplete at the time of the Annual Meeting in September. This is clearly evident for the STATLANT 21A and 21B reports in Table 1, even after allowing $1\frac{1}{2}$ months beyond the deadline for 21A reports and 2 months beyond the deadline for 21B reports.

This delay on the part of some countries in providing the required fishery statistics not only causes a significant delay in the timely publication of the *Statistical Bulletin* but also may affect the assessments which are carried out at the June Meeting of the Scientific Council and most certainly affects the preparation of Scientific Council reports, particularly when statistics are incomplete at the time of publication near the end of each year.

It is evident that national statistical officers in some countries pay little attention to the deadlines established for the provision of STATLANT 21A and 21B reports to the Secretariat. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Scientific Council at every June Meeting since 1980 and Council representatives have been urged to take an active role in ensuring that national statistical officers give priority to the submission of the required STATLANT reports in accordance with the deadlines. In a few cases, the representatives have brought provisional catches

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 ¹
*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	

¹ Incomplete data.

to the meeting, but yet only about half of the required reports are available at the beginning of the June Meeting, despite the obligation of Contracting Parties to furnish all available statistical and scientific information requested by the Scientific Council in accordance with Article VI, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention.

e) Historical catches for 1973-82 (SCS Doc. 84/VI/6)

As requested at the June 1980 Meeting of the Scientific Council, the Secretariat has continued the preparation of a summary document giving 10-year tabulations of the 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 the data.

f) Errors in effort data published in recent Statistical Bulletins

Due to programming problems associated with the compilation of STATLANT 21B reports at the national level, errors have been detected in some of the effort data reported by Canada (M) for 1977-80 and the United States for 1981 and published in Statistical Bulletins. These errors involve only Table 5 in the NAFO Statistical Bulletins for 1979-81 and Tables 5 and 6 in ICNAF Statistical Bulletins for 1977 and 1978. These revisions should be made available to the numerous users of the Statistical Bulletin in some published form, either by issuing revised versions of the Bulletins or supplements containing only the revised entries.

g) Historical data series

Computerization of Northwest Atlantic fishery statistics began in 1971 and, since that time the tabular data in the Statistical Bulletin has been presented in computer-printed formats. These detailed data are available for users on magnetic tape or computer printout. In recent years, the Secretariat undertook the task of preparing earlier statistics for automatic data-processing, and the data-base presently contains the historical catch and effort data back to 1965. Work is now in progress on preparing the 1964 data for processing in the standard STATLANT 21B format currently being used.

2. Sampling

Following the implementation of the new CFS-1 and CFS-2 forms for the reporting of sampling data in 1979, the Secretariat has accumulated a great volume of length frequencies of individual catches, for which there has been no requests because of the complication of summarizing them into a useable form. This problem was brought to the attention of the Scientific Council in 1983 with the request that some guidelines be established, if possible, that would enable the Secretariat to summarize these data by month and division for use by assessment experts. After considerable discussion at the June 1983 Meeting, it was agreed that standard guidelines were not feasible and that the data should be reported directly by the various laboratories in a format similar to that used under ICNAF. Procedures are now being finalized for modification of the reporting requirements and these are expected to be adopted at the June 1984 Meeting of the Scientific Council. It is hoped that those laboratories which have reported 1979-82 data in detailed format will resubmit the length frequencies and age-length keys in summarized form.

3. List of Fishing Vessels for 1983

In accordance with the Scientific Council's request of June 1983, the Secretariat issued a circular letter in January 1984 (No. 84/04) requesting each country to update its 1980 list to cover all fishing vessels which operated in the Northwest Atlantic during 1983. The suggested deadline was 15 May 1984. From the possible 22 countries or country components, 6 have submitted their lists for 1983 and 3 others reported no fishing activity. Thus, less than half of statistical offices had responded by the end of May 1984.

