

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1986

Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Consultation on
Atlantic Fishery Statistics

London, England, 5-6 October 1985

by

CWP Secretary
Fisheries Department, FAO, Rome 00100, Italy

1. PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

The meeting was attended by representatives of FAO, EUROSTAT, ICSEAF, ICES, ICCAT and OECD. A list of participants is attached (see Annex A). Mr. D. Cross was elected Chairman, and Mr. M. Robinson, Secretary of the CWP, acted as Rapporteur.

The Draft Agenda was presented and adopted (see Annex B, Document AHIC/85/2).

2. REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF CWP-12

- (i) *Amendments of the distribution programme for the ISSCAAP species list (FAO).* 1/

It was reported that it had not so far been possible to divert resources to this task from the urgent work of preparing the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics for photo-composition. It would, however, be undertaken before the 13th Session of the CWP, in February 1987.

- (ii) *Investigations of the inclusion of non-official data in agency databases. (All agencies)*

FAO reported that some progress had been made, but the problems of national susceptibilities and of providing continuity in the case of unofficial estimates, made it necessary to proceed with extreme caution. It was noted that there were two types of faulty data - that misreported by error, and that deliberately misreported. There was not much the CWP could do about the latter type.

- (iii) *Initiation of an enquiry into conversion factors. (FAO)*

A form and notes for completion, which were ready for dispatch, were circulated. The Consultation recommended, however, that a specimen form should be included in the questionnaire to aid national offices in the work of completion. The accompanying notes should also be examined and possibly reformulated.

1/ The full text of this and the recommendations following can be found in the Report of the CWP-12, FAO Fisheries Report No. 316

(iv) *Publication of a paper on logbooks and related work. (FAO)*

It was noted that little work had been done because of doubts concerning the validity of data reported in logbooks, if used also for enforcement purposes. Notwithstanding this, it was noted that many countries were in the process of introducing logbooks and might benefit from the advice given in the paper prepared by Mr. J. Pope. FAO was, therefore, urged to issue this paper as soon as possible and with the minimum of amendment. Other work on logbooks recommended by CWP-12 could form the basis of a separate report.

(v) *Value data. (FAO)*

Data from 10 pilot countries were presently being analyzed, in the light of which a decision on future progress would be made. A constraint was a shortage of resources to permit the compilation of these data. The extraction of information from national publications was, however, revealing significant differences to that obtained from the STATLANT and NS1 forms.

(vi) *Submission of a paper on socio-economic data. (OECD)*

The representative of OECD presented a draft paper (document AHIC/85/11) reviewing the need for economic and social data in fisheries management and the problem of their collection. It concluded that economic and social questions were largely national problems and that the data requirements for the study of these problems were often specific to the problem itself. The CWP was not seen as having a major role in this field, although it should, where possible, encourage the standardization of concepts.

(vii) *Review of STATLANT notes. (FAO)*

This work was reported as being nearly complete. The new notes were generally regarded as being an improvement and FAO was thanked for having undertaken this task. It was noted, however, that the notes for Area 21 were still awaiting approval from the NAFO Secretariat.

(viii) *Review of STATLANT B data for Areas 27 and 34. (ICES and CECAF)*

Preliminary investigations of catch and effort data for the CECAF area had shown this to be of value. Due to recent changes in the Secretariat of ICES, no report was yet available for that agency.

(ix) *STATLANT Newsletter (All agencies)*

The EUROSTAT representative was requested to circulate to all agencies a list of recipients of the Newsletter so that this could be updated.

3. REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON HANDBOOK

The meeting was reminded that an original draft of the Handbook of Fishery Statistical Concepts and Definitions, was being revised by Mr. Cross. The meeting expressed complete satisfaction with the way in which this document was being revised and looked forward to seeing a completed first draft at the time of CWP-13. Attention was drawn to the substantial size of the document, in order that preliminary thought could be given to arrangements for its publication. In order to avoid reprinting this large handbook every time the updating of one section was required, consideration should be given to loose leaf treatment.

4. DISCREPANCIES

The EUROSTAT, ICCAT and FAO representatives reported on work aimed

at the elimination of discrepancies between the various CWP agency databases. It was noted that future work in this field, particularly for tuna catch data, would need quadrilateral consultation as reconciliation of data between FAO and ICCAT had implications for both EUROSTAT and other agencies. In this connection, although ICCAT was satisfied with the data it received from Spain and Portugal, these were noted as countries for which there were important discrepancies in other agencies' databases.

At present, much of the work was at the level of major area totals and attention was drawn to the need for subsequent adjustment of the data at sub-area level.

5. REVIEW OF THE STATLANT SYSTEM

There was nothing to report under this item. Agencies were, however, requested to let the Secretary know before mid-November if there were any changes required in the STATLANT questionnaires or notes for completion.

6. AQUACULTURE STATISTICS

Attention was drawn to the existence of two STATLANT forms for the collection of data on aquaculture, namely one, which had been in use for several years for the ICES area, and another introduced for the first time in 1985 for all other areas. It was agreed after discussion that it would not be desirable to continue the two forms and a recommendation to this effect would be made to the ICES Statistics Committee. It was recognized that some slight modification might be required to the FISHSTAT AQ form which asked for other details than the AQ 27 form. In this connection, it was requested that information on the area (location) of production should be asked for. The notes for completion would also need improvement, among other things defining Brackish and Marine Waters, as well as clarifying what was a "pond", "enclosure", etc.

7. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR CWP-13

Among subjects which it was felt would require inter-agency consultation by February 1987 were:

1. Discrepancies (EUROSTAT)
2. Integration of value data into databases (FAO)
3. Report on the Inter-Agency Tuna Meeting (FAO and possibly ICCAT)
4. STATLANT B data (Areas 34 and 27) (FAO & ICES)
5. Presentation of Draft Handbook (EUROSTAT)
6. Report on progress on integration of aquaculture forms (FAO)
7. Parameters on fleet statistics (EUROSTAT)
8. Periodicity and format of CWP meetings.

In addition the standard items of:

9. Report on progress in implementing recommendations of CWP-12 (concerned Agencies); and
10. Reports from all agencies should be included. It was noted that items could be added until the Agenda was formalized (about April 1986). The names of agencies responsible for the preparation of documentation is given in brackets against the agenda items.

ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Mr. D. G. Cross (Chairman)
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and Agricultural Statistics
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ANNEX B

AGENDA

1. Procedural Arrangements
2. Review of Progress of Recommendations from CWP-12
3. Review of Progress of Handbook
4. Procedures for Discrepancies in Databases
5. Review of the STATLANT System
6. Aquaculture Statistics
7. Provisional Agenda for CWP-13
8. Any other business