

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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Notes on Statistical Activities and Publications Since June 1985

by

NAFO Secretariat

1. Acquisition and Publication of Fishery Statistics

a) Statistics for 1983 (Table 1)

Although the deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports for 1983 was 30 June 1984, seven reports were outstanding on 31 August 1984 (2 months after the deadline) and five of these were still outstanding at the end of 1984 (i.e. France, Italy, United Kingdom, Faroe Islands and USA). The French report was the last to be received in November 1985 (17 months after the deadline), and it came from Eurostat instead of officially from the French statistical office. Consequently, publication of *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 33 was delayed until December 1985.

For the first time, the French data for 1983 were not provided for France(M) and France(SP) separately, and there was no breakdown of the catch and effort data by tonnage class.

b) Statistics for 1984 (Table 1)

With a deadline of 30 June 1985 for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports, *Statistical Bulletin* Volume 34 should have been published before the end of 1985, if the reports were promptly submitted. However, analysis of the returns for 1984 indicates that seven reports were outstanding on 31 August 1985, and five were not available at the end of 1985 (Canada-N, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Italy and USA). Official reports from Faroe Islands and Italy have not been received to date (13 June 1986). While Italian catches in Subareas 5 and 6 are available in "Fisheries of the United States, 1984", there is no indication when the Faroese data will be forthcoming (no response to letters and telex). Thus, publication of *Statistical Bulletin* Vol. 34 continues to be delayed.

As for the 1983 data, the French report for 1984 did not distinguish the France(M) and France(SP) data, and there was no breakdown of the catch and effort data by tonnage class.

c) Statistics for 1985 (Table 1)

In the case of 1985 statistics, provisional data are needed for the June 1986 Meeting. The deadline of 15 April 1986 provides sufficient time for the data to arrive at the Secretariat in advance of that meeting. These reports involve only the submission of nominal catches by species and division for 1985, and the relevant STATLANT 21A forms were dispatched in late January 1986 to all countries known to have fished in the Northwest Atlantic during 1985.

This year represents the first time in several years when the STATLANT 21A returns have been complete enough for the provisional inventory of nominal catches to be prepared for the June meeting (SCS Doc. 86/22). Most of the reports arrived after the deadline, two being delivered to the Secretariat after the start of the meeting on 4 June 1986. The only outstanding reports at this time are those for Faroe Islands and Italy. However, 1985 data for the latter country on fishing in Subareas 5 and 6 were available in "Fisheries of the United States, 1985". Apart from the USA, the Secretariat has no information about catches of other non-member states whose vessels may have fished in the Northwest Atlantic in 1985.

Table 1. Dates of receipt of STATLANT 21A and 21B reports for 1983-85 (* indicates EEC member states; X indicates no report to date).

Country or Component	STATLANT 21A (Deadline, 15 April)			STATLANT 21B (Deadline, 30 June)		
	1983	1984	1985	1983	1984	1985
Bulgaria	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing
Canada-M	03 Apr 84	04 Apr 85	09 Apr 86	03 Apr 84	04 Apr 85	
Canada-N	17 Apr 84	03 Jun 85	28 May 86	09 Nov 84	10 Mar 86	
Canada-Q	30 Apr 84	24 May 85	16 May 86	30 Apr 84	06 Aug 85	
Cuba	06 Jun 84	17 May 85	10 Apr 86	10 Sep 84	20 Jun 85	05 Jun 86
*Denmark	12 Apr 84	17 Apr 85	16 Apr 86	30 Jul 84	26 Jul 85	
*France-M	06 Jun 84	25 Nov 85	02 Jun 86	25 Nov 85	25 Nov 85	02 Jun 86
*France-SP						
*Germany, F. R.	14 May 84	15 Apr 85	21 Apr 86	29 Aug 84	01 Aug 85	
*Italy	18 Feb 85	X	X	18 Feb 85	X	
*Portugal	22 May 84	07 Jun 85	07 Jun 86	22 May 84	11 Jul 85	07 Jun 86
*Spain	01 Jun 84	24 Jun 85	05 May 86	01 Jun 84	24 Jun 85	05 May 86
*United Kingdom	08 Mar 85	24 Jun 85	No fishing	08 Mar 85	24 Jun 85	No fishing
Faroe Islands	07 Jun 84	20 Jun 85	X	01 Apr 85	X	
German Dem. Rep.	19 Apr 84	27 Mar 85	04 Apr 86	14 Jun 84	02 Jul 85	
Greenland	01 Jun 84	13 Apr 85	04 Jun 86	03 Aug 84	26 Apr 86	
Iceland	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing
Japan	18 May 84	23 May 85	11 Jun 86	18 May 84	23 May 85	11 Jun 86
Norway	08 Jun 84	07 Jul 85	14 Apr 86	08 Jun 84	07 Jul 85	
Poland	27 Jul 84	13 Aug 85	05 May 86	27 Jul 84	07 Oct 85	
Romania	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing	No fishing
USSR	30 Apr 84	22 May 85	28 Apr 86	29 Jun 84	09 Jul 85	
USA	06 Jun 84	20 Jun 85	28 May 86	27 May 85	16 Jun 86	
Korea, S.	14 May 84	08 Jul 85	X	14 May 84	08 Jul 85	
Total reports	23	23	23	23	23	23
21A by 31 May	13	12	16			
21B by 31 August				16	16	9

d) Revised fishery statistics for 1977-81

The reissue of five volumes of Statistical Bulletin that were recommended for revision (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1984, page 71) was completed in 1985 with the distribution of Vol. 27 and 28 (for 1977 and 1978 respectively) in late 1985. Volumes 29-31 (for 1979-81) were issued during 1984.

e) Historical catch series (SCS Doc. 86/2)

The Secretariat has continued the preparation of a summary document containing a time series of catches of selected species by country for a large number of stocks. More than 70 stocks are currently included in the list, and others may be added upon request. Normally the document contains an 11-year time series, but, in accordance with a STACREC recommendation at the June 1985 Meeting (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1985, page 91), the document contains data for the 22-year period of 1962-83.

f) Complications in processing 1984 STATLANT 21B data

Traditionally, Canadian STATLANT 21B data were reported to the Secretariat and published in Statistical Bulletin for three regional components, namely Canada (Maritimes), Canada (Nfld) and Canada (Q). Starting in 1984, statistics for vessels, which land their catches in western Newfoundland and the provinces bordering the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), were not included with the Canada (M) and Canada (N) STATLANT 21B reports, but were reported separately by the newly-established statistical office for the Gulf Region, which became the fourth Canadian component insofar as reporting to NAFO is concerned. At the June 1985 Meeting, it was briefly noted that the existing time series would not be disrupted because the method of permit the partition of the data between the former Maritimes and Newfoundland regions (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1985, page 91).

The problem with the 1984 STATLANT 21B data from the Gulf Region is that two sets of catch records are provided (one with fishing effort and one without effort) for many of the gear/tonnage categories. In many cases, the catch with no effort is greater than the catch with effort for a particular gear-tonnage category and month.

The Secretariat's computer programs for processing STATLANT 21B data were not designed to deal with "prorating", because such adjustment of statistics to meet the reporting requirements (established when the STANA system was overhauled in the early 1970's) is the responsibility of the reporting agency and not the NAFO Secretariat. The Chairman of the Canadian Atlantic Fisheries Scientific Advisory Committee (CAFSAC) was informed of this matter (involving the 1984 data from the Gulf Region) in January 1986, with figures showing the magnitude of the problem. Despite the indicated urgency for a solution of the problem, so that the Secretariat could proceed to prepare the 1984 data for publication in Statistical Bulletin, there has been no response from CAFSAC or any other Canadian agency.

g) Prorating of effort data

The question of "prorating" was raised at the June 1985 Meeting, and the Secretariat was requested to contact statistical offices of Contracting Parties for information as to the extent of prorating (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1985, page 92). When the computer printouts of 1984 STATLANT 21B data were dispatched to national statistical offices in March 1986 for final confirmation, the following paragraphs were included:

"At the June 1985 Meeting, concern was expressed that significant pro-rating, resulting from the non-availability of complete effort data, could affect the accuracy of stock assessments, and the Secretariat was requested to contact the statistical services of Contracting Parties for further information as to the extent of prorating of effort data when the catch and effort statistics are being prepared for the STATLANT 21B forms.

"Please advise if any prorating of fishing effort occurs when the fishery statistics are being compiled, and give an approximate estimate of the extent of prorating in terms of the percentage of the overall catch for which no effort data are available."

Apart from the Canadian components, only 2 of 9 responses commented on prorating (Norway and USA). The comment from Norway indicated that "prorating of effort takes place in the longline fishery only, amounting to 25-30% in 1984; statistics for shrimp trawling are based on a complete set of logbooks". United States statistics are not subject to prorating.

For Canada (N), the percentages of estimated effort (where applicable) are recorded on the computerized STATLANT 21B forms, and cursory examination of these forms indicates that prorating affects less than 5% of the catch. From past experience with processing Canada (M) data in association with the statistical office, prorating was not considered to be extensive (less than 5% overall). No information is available for Canada (Q) data, but, if prorating is applied to the Canadian Gulf Region data for 1984, the percentage would likely exceed 50%. The prorated percentage is expected to decline rapidly with time, as experience is gained in collecting and processing the statistics.

2. Biological Sampling

a) Acquisition of post-1979 data (SCS 86/20)

After the resolution of the problem in 1984, involving the reporting requirements for sampling data (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1984, page 84), the sampling forms were revised and the various research institutes were requested to submit their sampling data for 1983 and 1984 as the first priority, with outstanding 1979-82 data (if not already submitted) to be provided as soon as the work has been completed. Provisional lists of 1979-84 data were provided in June 1985 as SCS Doc. 85/18 and 85/19.

A preliminary list of 1985 data is given in SCS 86/20. Scientific Council representatives should ensure that this 1985 list (and the earlier lists) are checked by appropriate scientists at their institutes and that all outstanding data are reported for incorporation into the Secretariat's database.

b) Notes on the NAFO sampling program (SCS 86/23)

This document represents an extension of the traditional ICNAF sampling program to accommodate changes that have been adopted by the Scientific Council.

c) Inventory of 1967-78 sampling data

In June 1984, STACREC was informed that the Secretariat had compiled standardized inventories of all biological sampling data for the 1967-78 period. The Committee proposed that these lists should be published and referred the matter to the Standing Committee on Publication (STAC PUB), which concurred with the proposal. Consequently, the inventory comprising 269 pages, was printed in early 1986 and distributed to scientists and laboratories involved in the work of NAFO. The actual data exist in computerized format and may be supplied upon request to these scientists and laboratories.