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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2007**Update on STATLANT21**

by

NAFO Secretariat

Secretariat responsibilities

The Secretariat plans to review the STATLANT21A/B database. This has been divided into:

1. Data input, including questionnaires, user interfaces, and utilities to automate the process while maintaining quality control.
2. Data processing, i.e. the structure of the database, including solving the problem that effort information cannot be properly linked to catches.
3. Data output; i.e. the creation of products that allow different user groups to access the data in the most meaningful way for their purposes.

Species lists

What do we do with the species codes on the (electronic) forms? Options:

1. No list given;
2. Mainly commercial species listed (as happens now);
3. Full list of all species previously caught (as FISHSTAT NS1);
4. Full list of species occurring in the NAFO Convention Area.

SC Requirements

Clarification on SC requirements is required. Some suggestions are:

1. A database that contains the information submitted by Contracting Parties in a raw unmodified form. Any modifications should be made at the query stage by the users.
2. Database downloadable to users PC in .dbf, .mdb (or other) format.
3. A relatively easy (but possibly somewhat limited) web-based query procedure with an output file that can be downloaded in .xls (or other) format (SC Recommendation June 2007).
4. The ability to access all years for both 21A and 21B in a single step.
5. Easy extraction of catch and effort from 21B for cpue generation.
6. Detailed documentation on the database, the sources of the information, on species and species groups used, and on problem species (ones wrongly identified, etc).
7. A method to identify data as provisional (or incomplete) if further submissions are expected, and to ensure updates are documented (SC Recommendation June 2007).

8. To ensure gear and species codes are compatible and complete with respect to the FAO codes whenever possible.
9. Consideration be given to reverse the decision made in September 2003 regarding the exclusion of tuna data.
10. Consideration be given to receiving more complete lists from submitting agencies that would include corrections to previous years and on automatically incorporating these corrections in to the STATLANT database.
11. Some harmonization of 21A and 21B (21A is in some respects a redundant database as all the information is contained within 21B). Care needed to ensure a “21A-like” database is available for the June meeting.
12. In order to improve reporting timeliness and accuracy, effort should be made to harmonize the reporting structure for NAFO and FAO catch (and effort) statistics through some form of common submission. (STACREC 2007).
13. It is likely that catches will need to be assigned to economic zones (EEZs) in the future, and that this should be considered when designing the database.
14. Inclusion of additional (notes) field for gear types.
15. Inclusion of suggested links to other databases containing catch/effort data from the NAFO area.

Previous recommendations made by SC regarding STATLANT

JUNE 2007

STACPUB **recommended** that *catch data only be referred to as provisional in Scientific Council reports when STATLANT 21A data have not been received with respect to any particular stock and year, and, that the Secretariat ensure that updates and changes to the STATLANT 21 databases are documented.*

STACPUB **recommended** that *the Secretariat work to improve the internet accessibility of the STATLANT 21 database and provide a report at the next June meeting.*

STACREC noted the difficulty of some contracting parties in meeting the deadline for submission of STATLANT data but recognized that the acquisition of 21A data in advance of the June meeting is very important to the work of the Scientific Council and **recommended** that *the deadline of May 1 for the acquisition of STATLANT 21A data be maintained but that the deadline for STATLANT 21B be changed to August 31.*

STACREC 3c) Data consistency. Data discrepancies between the NAFO and the FAO catch data have been addressed by NAFO, FAO and EUROSTAT in the mid-1990s ... In 2006, the issue of data inconsistencies was revisited ... Concern was expressed about the amount of time that would be required of the Secretariat to complete this data consistency exercise. STACREC noted that the best course of action would be to standardize the forms that are used to collect data in the various areas. STACREC also raised some concern about the ability to determine which data are the most complete for any particular year/species.

JUNE 2006

STACREC noted a continued widespread lack of respect of the deadlines for STATLANT data submissions. As a result, STACREC recommended, once again, that the Fisheries Commission be informed of those countries for which STATLANT data are missing and be reminded about the importance of these data to the work of the Scientific Council.

SEPTEMBER 2005

In order to enhance Scientific Council's ability to produce catch estimates in advance of the June Meeting, Scientific Council recommended that the deadline for submission of STATLANT 21A data be set at 1 May in each year starting in 2006 (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 2005, p. 201).

SEPTEMBER 2004

STACREC. Acquisition of STATLANT 21 Data. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed the Committee that there have been some STATLANT data submissions since June 2004. It was noted that STATLANT 21B data submissions for the year 2000 are almost complete.

JUNE 2004

STACFIS Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Div. 3KLMNO. A standardized catch rate series for hours fished and days fished was available for all fleets based on STATLANT 21B data. STACFIS noted that there were deficiencies in the catches in the database for some fleets and concluded that a standardized CPUE of all fleets based on the STATLANT 21B could result in a biased index for this stock. STACFIS concluded STATLANT 21B catch data cannot currently be used for the calculation of CPUE indices.

SEPTEMBER 2003

STACREC. The Deputy Executive Secretary informed STACREC that there is incomplete reporting of tuna catches in the STATLANT 21 data reports being submitted to NAFO. It was also noted that other international commissions dealing with tuna, such as ICCAT, receive the complete tuna reports and those data are more valuable to tuna data users. STACREC noted the tuna data were not required for the work of the Scientific Council, and STACREC recommended that the Secretariat need not report tuna catches in the data tabulations prepared at NAFO and that CWP (and FAO) will be informed that tuna catches will no longer be recorded in the STATLANT 21 data.