



Serial No. 473

Document No. 20

ANNUAL MEETING - May 1957Determining the Composition of the Landings of Fish
from the ICNAF Area

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The problem of determining the length composition of the landings of fish from the Convention Area can conveniently be considered in three parts.

1. Sampling and Statistical Methodology

This is mainly concerned with the selection of the samples. John Gulland of the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft, U.K., and under the auspices of F.A.O. has prepared a study of the statistical methodology appropriate for fishery research which is available at this meeting. In general samples will be taken from the market when the fish is landed or at sea on board the fishing vessel.

2. Standardisation of Practices

In order that data on the length of fish collected by different scientists be comparable the following particulars should be standardised and a uniform procedure agreed upon.

- a) The actual measurement made, e.g. whether total length, standard length, or fork length, etc.
- b) The centimeter groups used, e.g. 1 cm., 2 cm., 3 cm., or 5 cm.
- c) The range of the centimeter groups used e.g. for the 5 cm. group several possible groups could be used -
0-4.9, 5.0-9.9, 10.0-14.9 etc.
0.5-5.5, 5.5-10.5, 10.5-15.5 etc.
- d) The rounding to centimeters e.g. to the nearest centimeter, cm. below, or cm. above.

3. Reporting and Compiling of Data

Length compositions of landings from different ICNAF statistical units should be compiled separately (as is done with statistics on landings and efforts). The sampling data should be adjusted (raised) to give the length composition of the landings from each ICNAF statistical unit; or, if more convenient, the individual samples should be reported separately. The ICNAF statistical unit is defined as the landings by - country/gear/subdivision/month/species.

Having determined the length composition of the landings from each ICNAF statistical unit the age composition, sex ratio, maturities, etc. can be studied by means of age/length keys, maturity/length keys.

Simultaneously with determining these data for the landings similar data should be collected for the fish discarded at sea.

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