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A Report on the Present Status of the Processing of Statistics  
by the ICNAF Secretariat

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On assuming the position of Biologist-Statistician with this Commission on November 1, 1961, I immediately proceeded with the following outstanding duties, for which I will briefly indicate the state of progress in the ensuing pages:

- (1) The proof-reading and follow-up at printers of Vol.9 of the Statistical Bulletin for the year 1959.
- (2) The editing, tabulating, and preparing for printers of all data necessary for the publication of Vol.10 of the Statistical Bulletin for the year 1960.
- (3) The editing and preparing for typing of data to be published in Vol.5 of the Sampling Yearbook for the year 1960.
- (4) The initiation of a Cod Otolith Exchange Programme (Spawning Zones).
- (5) The initiation of a Redfish Otolith Exchange Programme (Spawning Zones).
- (6) The finalizing of and reporting upon the Halibut Otolith Exchange Programme.
- (7) The initiation of a new procedure in the order of breakdown in the publishing of the Sampling Yearbook.
- (8) To report upon the feasibility of producing summary tables of numbers of individuals landed by centimetre length groups.
- (9) The preparing, revising and mailing out of forms required for Request for Statistics, Sampling Data, List of Vessels, Redfish Depth Zones, Discards.

Statistical Bulletin Vol.9 - Reporting of Errors

A small number of errors in Table 1 of the Statistical Bulletin Vol.9 for the year 1959 (which had been submitted to the printers already in October) have been brought to my attention by a member country. These changes will be reported in Vol.10 of the Statistical Bulletin for the year 1960.

Statistical Bulletin Vol.10 and Sampling Yearbook Vol.5

Statistical Bulletin Vol.10 for the year 1960 was commenced in January of this year and has progressed to the point of the completion of Tables 7, 8 and 9 which, according to the content of previous volumes, constitutes some 80% of the pages of the printed statistical tables. These tables have been balanced, one with the other, and are about one-third typed. This leaves, yet to be tabulated, Tables 1-6 inclusive, which constitute some 12 printed pages of the finished volume. The present estimated standing is as follows:

COMPLETED

(1) Tables 7, 8 and 9 47 pages

TO BE COMPLETED

(2) Tables 1-6 (incl.) 12 pages

(3) Table of Contents, Introduction 11 pages

etc.  
TOTAL 70 pages

This should involve some six to eight weeks of work, which, barring any unforeseen interruptions, should ensure the publication within December (this year), as has been the case in the years prior to 1960. (See progress table below for five years prior to 1960).

(P.S. Tables 1 and 2 have been completed since the above standing was set out.)

The Sampling Yearbook Vol.5 (Part I) for the year 1960 for Cod-Haddock-Flounder was issued in April 1962. This contained 223 pages of sampling data, which was ten pages more than that of Vol.4 which included all species, namely, cod, haddock, flounder and redfish. The Sampling Yearbook Vol.5 (Part II) for Redfish has been edited and data for Canada (Q), Canada (N), Denmark (G) and Iceland have been typed. This leaves the data for U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. (which will constitute the bulk of Part II) yet to be typed. The Introduction, Notes on Sampling Data, List of Contributors and Map have been printed simultaneously with that of the introductory pages of Part I. This has saved somewhat in time, cost and convenience in the hope of meeting our tentative deadline set for August 1962. This does not put us too far off the trend attained by the Secretariat in prior years when the data was not so voluminous. (See progress table below).

	Date of Issue of the Statistical Bulletins and Sampling Yearbooks for the years:				
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Statistical Bulletin (with date of issue)	March '57	June '58	Dec. '59	Dec. '60	Feb. '62
Sampling Yearbook (with date of issue)	April '58	April '58	June '58	June '60	July '61

Tabulation of Table 8 - Statistical Bulletin Vol.10

Since 1956, Table 8 has been tabulated by the IBM system, mainly because of the variety of conversion factors which had to be applied to the various "landed" forms in which the species were reported. Of the 17 statistical submissions received for 1960 all, but one, were reported in landings in metric tons round fresh. In view of this, Table 8 of Vol.10 was tabulated manually by the Secretariat with no complications encountered as the result of this procedural change. It is not known whether this has cut down on the processing time over that of previous years which involved time spent in coding, punching and decoding of data along with the waiting period resulting in having to send the cards out for tabulation as well as time and liaison work involved in follow-up. I have not had the opportunity to work with the original procedure which, judging from past records may be a somewhat slower operation. This could be, in part, the result of the fact that the submissions now received by the Secretariat have greatly improved over previous years which might have balanced out the current increased work due to the greater volume of data.

The finalization of an IBM system does not seem feasible at this early date since the standardization of a common form for FAO-ICES-ICNAF is still under study and surveillance. Further, the system, thus far used by ICNAF, would appear to be operated solely for the purpose of the tabulation of Table 8 since, and I make this statement with some reservation pending a personal study of my own, coding operations have not been consistent throughout its use. It should also be noted that the Secretariat has never been requested to make a special run of these cards; this, though intended to be critical, is also fortunate, if what I have said above should prove to be true.

It is too premature for me to say at this time whether or not the initiation of an IBM system would lighten the work-load of the Secretariat. Due to the many uncertainties concerning future ICNAF requirements as well as those of an amalgamated form fulfilling the requirements of FAO-ICES-ICNAF, many more flexibilities would have to be instituted into the system than would otherwise have to be done if these imminent problems were ironed out first and foremost.

#### Otolith Exchange Programmes

1. The Halibut Otolith Exchange Programme has now been completed and I have reported upon it in Document No.7.

2. The Cod Otolith Exchange Programme (Spawning Zones) is well under way with 14 samples being circulated amongst the following interested countries:

Canada (M)  
Canada (N)  
Germany  
Germany (E)  
Norway  
Spain

Ten out of the sixteen sample readings have been reported upon by spawning zones.

3. The Redfish Otolith Exchange Programme (Spawning Zones) is also well under way, with 8 samples being circulated amongst the following interested countries:

Canada (N)  
Denmark (G)

The following countries have indicated an interest and will be submitting samples in the near future:

Germany (E)  
Poland  
U.S.S.R.  
U.K.  
U.S.A.

None of the eight sample readings thus far received have been reported upon by spawning zones.

#### Sampling Data

(1) The method of tabulating sampling data by species, area, gear, country, month (as recommended by the Working Group on Sampling and Discards) was not carried out for the year 1960 in order to avoid a greater delay in the issuing of the Sampling Year-book. This I have fully reported upon in Document No.5.

(2) The Working Group also recommended that the Secretariat should consider the feasibility of producing summary tables giving the total numbers of fish of each length caught by each gear in each division during the year. This has been reported upon by Dr.Poulsen in Document No.3.

#### Redfish Depth Zones

All countries were requested on January 15, 1962, to sample their redfish statistics in an attempt to report the distribution of

redfish effort in six depth zones from 51-350 fathoms for each gear, division and month.

The following have thus far reported:

- (1) France (St.P and M) - vide Document No.33 by  
Y. LeBoeuf
- (2) U.S.A. - vide Document No.34 by D.L.Hoy

There are those who have not presented a formal document but yet have made mention to some effect either in a letter, annual report or research paper; these comments have been collated into a summary report (vide Document No.53).

### Discards

In a letter on January 15, 1962, it was requested that special reports for discards should be prepared by each country for the next Annual Meeting.

The following have thus far reported:

- (1) U.K. - vide Document No.8 by J.A.Gulland
- (2) Canada (M) - vide Document No.11 by Yves Jean
- (3) Portugal - vide Document No.42 by Capt. Tavares de  
Almeida
- (4) France - vide Document No.45 by Mr. A. Ravel
- (5) U.S.A. - vide Document No.50 by Richard C. Hennemuth

There are those who have not presented a formal document but have made mention to some effect either in an annual report, research paper or letter; these comments have been collated into a summary report (vide Document No.54).

GROUND FISH LANDINGS from the CONVENTION AREA in 1961  
ARRANGED by SPECIES, COUNTRIES and DIVISIONS will be reported upon in Document No.32 when all submissions have been received.

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