



ANNUAL MEETING--JUNE, 1962.

Serial No. 1022Document No. 78RESEARCH AND STATISTICS COMMITTEECollaboration Between FAO and ICNAF  
1960/61 FAO Fisheries Division

The following notes report action by FAO Fisheries Division in response to recommendations made in the Report of the 11th Meeting of ICNAF and other aspects of the current work of the Division of interest to the Commission.

1. Follow-up of Joint Scientific Meeting of ICNAF, ICES and FAO Lisbon, 1957.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics has been informed by letter of the situation regarding the publication of contributed papers.

2. Methodological Manuals

- Sampling Manual. Mr. G.Gulland expects to finish the draft in July this year. The Manual will be published in time for use at the Training Course on Dynamics of Populations to be held in Lowestoft (February 1963);
- Manual on Gear Selectivity. Mr. Pope (Aberdeen) has completed a draft based on the report of the ICES Selectivity Working Group, now in press. This draft has been revised by Mr. E.Cadima, who has been working for two months as FAO Consultant. Mr.Cadima has also tabulated the selectivity data for areas other than the North Atlantic, using the ICES standard pattern.  
FAO has taken steps to bring to the attention of countries outside the North Atlantic area, the decisions of ICES concerning a standard mesh gauge, and to encourage adoption of the ICES standard gauge elsewhere.
- Manual on Fish Tagging. This will be based on the proceedings of the ICNAF Meeting on this subject held in Woods Hole last year. FAO is also beginning, in co-operation with IAEA, experiments on the tagging of Mediterranean species, including hake, underwater.
- Manual of Methods in Fisheries Biology. Second edition (revised) English version is being printed; French and Spanish translations are nearly finished and will be printed in 1963.

### 3. Other Publications

The Proceedings of the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Sardines and Related Species. Volume I-Report; Volume II Species Synopses, Subject Synopses; Volume II Stock and Area Papers, have just been published. The Synopsis of Biological Data on Cod (Gadus morhua Linnaeus), published as FAO Fisheries Biology Synopsis No. 21 has been issued and circulated to interested organizations and specialists. A document on the Preparation of Synopses of the Biology of Species of Living Aquatic Organisms, prepared by Mr. H. Rosa, Jr. has also been published. It is an introduction to the series and discusses its purpose, scope, pattern and future development. FAO would welcome further comments from ICNAF on the eventual revision of the cod synopsis, and suggestions as to the desirability of preparing synopses for other species of particular interest to ICNAF.

### 4. Co-ordination of Fisheries Statistics

Two documents (Documents Relating to the Design and Use of Form STANA IE and Form STANA 2 for Reporting Fishery Statistics covering the ICES Statistical Area; Simplification of National Reporting of Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Region to ICNAF, ICES and FAO) have been prepared by Mr. Gertenbach as the basis for work of the ICNAF Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, at 1962 Meeting on this subject. Paragraphs 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12 and 1.13 contain information on the recent developments of these matters.

5. Preparations for the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Tunas and Related Species being held at La Jolla, California, from 2 to 14 July 1962, are well advanced and about 70 working papers have been received. A first pre-meeting distribution of 20 papers took place at the beginning of the month. Participation from about 30 countries is expected as well as large attendance from the host country. FAO is now considering the subject of a further world meeting on a commercially important species group, which might be held in 1964. Groups which have been suggested for priority are crustaceans (especially shrimps and prawns), nakes and also anchovies. ICNAF R and S Committee might wish to express a view on this matter.

### 6. Mesh Assessments

The Fisheries Division has again been pleased to co-operate by participation on one of its staff in the ICNAF Working Group. In addition arrangements were made for Mr. Cadima, a member of the group, to continue work on some of its problems, as FAO Consultant.

7. Bibliographies and Documentation

The Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries continues to be compiled with the collaboration and assistance of ICES and several national laboratories. Volumes 3 and 4 and the first four parts of volume 5 of the printed version have now been published and copies supplied to ICNAF Secretariat for use in making the ICNAF list. Arrangements have now been made to supply ICNAF with manuscript cards so that its list will not be affected by delays in publication.

The "World list of Periodicals for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries" is now being printed. A list of names of marine and freshwater is now being printed. A list of names of marine and freshwater genera encountered in the taxonomic, indexing of the Current Bibliography has now been published (Copies are available at the meeting). Preparations are being made for publishing a news service on fisheries research programs and activities etc. as a supplement to the Current Bibliography during this year.

8. Biogeography of Marine Organisms and World Fisheries Atlas

The first fascicule of this Atlas is now published, and it relates to the ICNAF area. FAO has asked the publishers to supply the Research and Statistics Committee with copies of this document. The first revised parts of the North Sea Synopsis, (which is now the joint responsibility FAO and an ICES Working Group), has been completed and submitted for publication. It was prepared by a WMO Consultant and describes the Climatology and Meteorological characteristics of the area.

9. Vessel Characteristics Related to Fishing Power

A progress report has been prepared by Mr. Traung, of FAO Fishing Boat Section, and submitted as a document to this meeting.

10. In recent years oceanographic and fisheries researches have shown an important expansion at national and international levels. In relation to this development, efforts have been made to adapt the existing international organisations and to meet the increasing need for co-ordination and co-operation in this field to set up new bodies where necessary. At the 10th ICNAF Meeting these matters were analyzed and a recommendation approved (see Redbook, 1961, p. 15). Some years ago, FAO recognized that it would be necessary to deal more effectively with these matters as they concerned its program by constitution of an advisory body. Bearing in mind this need, and also considering the ICNAF recommendation an Advisory Committee on Marine Resources

Research has been established by the Director-General on the authorization of the Eleventh FAO Conference ICNAF was informed of these decisions early in 1962. The first session of the Committee is expected to take place during the autumn of 1962. AQOMHR is to be composed of not more than fifteen fisheries scientists and experts who will be appointed for a one-year period and be eligible for reappointment. Regional and subject representation will be taken into consideration but members are being selected on the basis of their expert knowledge and not as representatives of Governments. Its purpose is to study and report to the Director-General on the formulation and execution of the programs of FAO concerned with research on marine fisheries resources, and the dissemination, interpretation and application of the results of such research, special attention being paid to the fisheries aspects of oceanographic research. Candidates for membership are presently under consideration, and ICNAF has been consulted in this connection.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission under UNESCO has been informed of these actions, of the 1961 ICNAF resolution that such a committee might serve a useful function in advising IOG of matters pertaining to fisheries aspects of oceanography, and of the FAO Conference concurrence with this view. Co-ordination of the activities of the UN Agencies concerned with marine sciences at the Secretariat level, is being achieved through the Sub-committee on Oceanography under the Economic and Social Council of the U. N.