



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE, 1969

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE ICNAF SECRETARIAT
CONCERNING THE USE OF COMMON REPORTING FORMS

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THIS SUMMARY, WHICH IS TO BE USED AS A WORKING PAPER IN CONJUNCTION WITH DOCUMENT No. 4 OUTLINES THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THE USE OF COMMON REPORTING FORMS. SECTION "A" OUTLINES THE MAIN OBJECTIONS WHICH WERE RAISED BY THE ICNAF SECRETARIAT AT THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONTINUING WORKING PARTY, HELD IN ROME MARCH 18-22, 1969, WHILE SECTION "B" DESCRIBES IN GENERAL TERMS SOME FURTHER POINTS WHICH HAVE SINCE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS SECRETARIAT.

A

THE ICNAF SECRETARIAT WISHES TO RETAIN ITS PRESENT STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND DOES NOT WISH TO ADOPT THE COMMON REPORTING SYSTEM BECAUSE:

- (1) THE SPECIES ORDER OF ENTRIES ON THE STANA IW FORM DOES NOT FOLLOW THE APPROPRIATE SEQUENCE AND SUB-TOTALS ORDER AS IN TABLE 4 OF THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN (WHICH IS THE MAJOR TABULATION OF THE SECRETARIAT). THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE LESSER TABLE 5.
- (2) THE EUROPEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE TWO FORMS INSTEAD OF ONE THUS INCREASING THE VOLUME OF PAPER AND THE AMOUNT OF CHECKING BY THE SECRETARIAT. (UNDER THE PRESENT ICNAF SET-UP STATISTICS FORM 2 IS NOT CIRCULATED TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH CATCH SO FEW SPECIES THAT THEY CAN ALL BE ENTERED ON THE STATISTICS FORM 1).
- (3) THE NATIONAL AGENCIES REPORTING TO ICNAF HAVE NOT OPENLY OBJECTED TO THE USE OF ICNAF FORMS NOR TO THE COMPLETING OF THESE FORMS AND WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT REPORTING SYSTEM.
- (4) THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO ADOPT A MECHANICAL TABULATION SYSTEM WHICH, WITH THE PRESENT LIMITED STAFF FACILITIES, WILL EFFECT MORESO THE TIMELINESS OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN.
- (5) UNDER A MECHANICAL TABULATION SYSTEM THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE ASSESSMENT GROUP WITH ADVANCE STATISTICS AS HAS BEEN THE PRACTICE DURING THE ANNUAL MEETINGS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS - NOT AT LEAST UNTIL THE IBM CARDS HAVE BEEN PUNCHED AND TABULATED. THE PRESENT MANUAL SYSTEM IS IDEALLY CONVENIENT FOR PRINTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING DIRECTLY FROM THE DRAFT TABLES.
- (6) BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, THE PUNCHED CARDS WILL SERVE NO OTHER USE ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN USED FOR TABULATING THE TABLES FOR THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN. THERE HAVE BEEN NO REQUESTS TO THE SECRETARIAT UP TO NOW FOR SPECIAL STATISTICAL RUNS -- THE CURRENT TABLES HAVE SUFFICED THE COMMISSION'S GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

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- (7) THE SECRETARIAT, ADHERING TO ITS PRESENT MANUAL TABULATING PROCEDURES, WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONVERT FROM THE TAXONOMIC SPECIES ORDER TO THE ICNAF ECOLOGICAL SPECIES ORDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE OVER 2500 ADDITIONAL LINE CALCULATIONS FOR TABLE 4 ALONE AND WHICH WOULD FURTHER INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF ERRORS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE SPECIES SUMMARY SHEETS TO SUPPLEMENT THE STANA 1W FORM.
- (8) CANADA, WHICH WILL BE UNABLE TO FOLLOW THE TAXONOMIC ORDER OF SPECIES, SUBMITS 44% OF THE STATISTICAL FORMS 1 AND INVOLVES OVER 50% OF THE TOTAL LINE ENTRIES FOR TABLE 4, THUS MAKING IT THE MAIN CONCERN OF THE ICNAF SECRETARIAT.
- (9) AT THE 1962 ANNUAL MEETING IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ORDER OF SPECIES AT PRESENT ADOPTED IN THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN IS THE MOST CONVENIENT FOR ICNAF. DURING THE 12 YEARS OF ICNAF OPERATION, THERE HAVE EVOLVED STATISTICAL FORMS AND A STATISTICAL BULLETIN WHICH MEET THE PRESENT NEEDS OF THE COMMISSION. IF THE TAXONOMIC SPECIES ORDER WERE ADOPTED FOR THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN IT WOULD BE A BREAK WITH THE LONG-TERM SERIES.
- (10) DURING THE PAST 12 YEARS ICNAF SCIENTISTS AND EXPERTS HAVE REQUESTED, ANNUALLY, CERTAIN CHANGES TO BE EFFECTED INTO ITS REPORTING SYSTEM. UNDER A COMMON REPORTING SYSTEM THESE CHANGES COULD ONLY BE INAUGURATED EFFECTIVELY AFTER CONSULTATION WITH AND THE APPROVAL OF TWO OR THREE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED (FAO, ICES, ICNAF). THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE A GREATER INCONVENIENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY CONCERNED.
- (11) THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMON REPORTING METHOD WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL CLERICAL HELP AT THE SECRETARIAT.
- (12) COPIES OF THE DETAILED STANA 1 FORM ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MEET THE FAO NEED FOR SUMMARY STATISTICS, AND COPIES OF THE STANA 2 FORM ARE NOT REQUIRED FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BY ICNAF, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY SENDING COPIES OF ICNAF FORMS TO FAO, OR VICE VERSA.
- (13) THE REQUIREMENTS OF EACH OF THESE INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AGENCIES (FAO, ICES, ICNAF) ARE SO DIFFERENT THAT COMMON FORMS ARE NOT PRACTICAL. IT IS MORE CONVENIENT TO ICNAF TO HAVE STATISTICS WHICH GIVE ATTENTION TO PRINCIPAL SPECIES INTERNATIONALLY AND TO GROUP THE RESIDUAL SPECIES AS GROUND FISH (DEMERSAL), PELAGIC FISH, OTHER FISH (MAINLY ESTUARIAL), AND INVERTEBRATES (INCLUDING SEAWEEDS).
- (14) THE FAO COMMON REPORTING SYSTEM WILL NOT SIMPLIFY THE WORK OF ICNAF AND THEREFORE DEFEATS ONE OF ITS OBJECTIVES SET OUT AT THE EDINBURGH MEETING.

B

- (1) IN THE EXPERIMENTAL TEST CONDUCTED IN 1960, USING THE STANA FORMS, THE FOLLOWING THREE MEMBER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED:

CANADA (M)
ICELAND
UNITED KINGDOM

ICELAND AND CANADA (M) SUBMITTED ON STANA FORMS ONLY, WHILE THE UNITED KINGDOM COMPLETED BOTH THE ICNAF AND STANA FORMS FOR THE SAME DATA.

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THE SECRETARIAT BEFORE COMPILING THE ICELAND SUBMISSION TRANSCRIBED THE DATA FROM THE STANA 1 FORMS TO ICNAF 1 FORMS IN ORDER THAT IT WOULD FOLLOW AND COULD BE READILY USED IN THE ECOLOGICAL SPECIES ORDER.

THE SECRETARIAT FOUND IT MORE CONVENIENT AND ECONOMICAL TO USE THE ICNAF FORMS OF THE UK SUBMISSION INSTEAD OF THE STANA 1 FORMS.

IN COMPILING THE DATA FROM THE CANADIAN STANA 1 AND 2 FORMS, THE SECRETARIAT RAN INTO THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING SUB-TOTALS REQUIRED FOR THE ECOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH EASIER TO TAKE THE EFFORT DATA FROM STANA 1 FORMS AND THE SPECIES DATA FROM COMPLEMENTARY STANA 2 FORMS (WHICH WERE IN THE ORDER OF FORMER TABLE 7) EXCEPT THAT THE STANA 2 FORMS WERE SUMMARIZED BY SPECIES FOR A PARTICULAR DIVISION BY ALL GEARS. IT WAS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL TO ADHERE TO THE STANA 1 FORMS AND TO SELECT THE PRINCIPAL SPECIES FROM DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE FORM AND TO COLLATE THE RESIDUAL FOR GROUP SUB-TOTALS. THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED QUITE SOME DIFFICULTY IN PREPARING THESE FORMS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO VISUALIZE THEIR ULTIMATE USE IN THE ICNAF ECOLOGICAL ORDER.

- (2) (A) FAO REQUESTS COPIES OF STATISTICS ON LANDINGS AND EFFORT BY DIVISIONS AND MONTHS, YET ITS PUBLICATIONS GIVE LANDINGS BY YEAR AND BY GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS ONLY. IT IS QUESTIONED WHETHER ONE ORGANIZATION SHOULD GO THROUGH THE STEPS OF HAVING AN ESPECIALLY PRE-PRINTED TRIPLEX FORM, INTERLEAVED WITH CARBON IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A COPY FOR ANOTHER ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS NO PRIMARY INTEREST IN FIGURES ON EFFORTS BY MONTHS AND GEAR CLASSES, BUT WHICH IS INTERESTED IN ONLY ANNUAL TOTALS OF SPECIES AND THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IN WHICH THEY WERE CAUGHT. IF MEMBER COUNTRIES FEEL THAT THE PRE-PRINTED FORM IS ESSENTIAL, THE COMMISSION CAN SET UP ITS OWN TRIPLEX FORM USING ITS OWN ECOLOGICAL ORDER AND SUPPLY FAO WITH A COPY. THIS SORT OF ARRANGEMENT MAY AID THE MEMBER COUNTRIES SOMEWHAT IN THEIR NOT HAVING TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PHOTOSTATIC COPIES OF ICNAF SUBMISSIONS.
- (B) IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE A MUCH SIMPLER AND CHEAPER TASK FOR EACH COUNTRY TO REPORT SEPARATELY TO FAO ON ITS LANDINGS BY SPECIES FOR THE PARTICULAR GEOGRAPHICAL AREA RATHER THAN TO GO TO THE ADDED COST OF HAVING FORMS PRINTED AND INTERLEAVED WITH CARBON. THIS SHOULD ALSO ADD GREATLY TO THE TIMELINESS OF STATISTICAL SUBMISSIONS BEING RECEIVED AT FAO SINCE IN MANY INSTANCES COUNTRIES ARE NOT ABLE TO GIVE EFFORT DATA STATISTICS UNTIL TWO MONTHS AFTER THE ICNAF MAY 1ST DEADLINE. FURTHERMORE, THIS FAO REQUIREMENT WOULD INVOLVE ONLY A FEW SHEETS OF PAPER FROM EACH OF THE NATIONAL OFFICES. THE ICNAF SECRETARIAT DID NOT RECEIVE THE EFFORT STATISTICS FROM ONE MEMBER COUNTRY UNTIL DEC. 10TH, YET THIS PARTICULAR COUNTRY'S STATISTICS WERE INCLUDED IN THE FAO ANNUAL REPORT WHICH CAME OUT SHORTLY AFTER THAT DATE. IF THIS PARTICULAR COUNTRY HAD BEEN USING THE FAO/ICNAF COMMON REPORTING FORM IT WOULD HAVE MEANT SUBMITTING A SEPARATE REPORT TO FAO BY SPECIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA.
- (C) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ICNAF IS MOVING AWAY FROM ITS ORIGINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE IN SETTING ITSELF UP AS AN AGENCY TO COLLECT STATISTICS FOR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ESPECIALLY WHEN THESE STATISTICS ARE NOT REQUIRED ON SUCH A DETAILED SCALE.