



Serial No. 1118

Document No. 47

ANNUAL MEETING - 1963REPORT ON 1962 ANNUAL MEETING OF ICESby
R.J.H. Beverton

The 1962 Annual Meeting of ICES was held in Copenhagen from October 1 to October 10, preceded by a Symposium on Problems in the Exploitation and Regulation of Fisheries for Crustaceans. Items of direct or indirect interest to ICNAF are as follows:-

1. Tagging

ICES have adopted the same scheme as ICNAF for the rapid distribution of summary release data on postcards. All tagging operations in the North Atlantic are therefore covered in this respect by one or other organizations. ICES further recommended that:-

- (a) A coded list of tags and marks used in the ICES area, with brief descriptions and, where necessary, illustrations should be prepared.
- (b) The attention of ICNAF should be drawn to this plan with an invitation to join ICES in preparing a list of tags and marks used in the North Atlantic.
- (c) Suitable lists should be published in the Journal du Conseil and distributed as offprints.
- (d) The appropriate cod number in the list should be entered under "tag or mark type" on the release card when making the return; whenever a new type of tag or mark is used this should be noted on the release card, accompanied by a brief description and illustration.

2. Selectivity

The main interest during 1962 was centred on the International Selectivity Experiment at Iceland, and the Comparative Fishing Committee expressed its appreciation of the participation of the A. T. Cameron from St. John's. A Working Group met in Copenhagen in December 1962 to analyse the results and prepare a provisional report which was presented in summary form to the Permanent Commission earlier this month and will also be circulated at the present meeting (Document No. 34). On the basis of these findings, the Permanent Committee agreed to increase the minimum legal mesh size of trawls in the Icelandic area to the 120 mm which is already in force in the N.E. Arctic.

3. Mesh Gauges

The first batch of the ICES Mesh Gauge was delivered during the year. The manufacturers announced that future deliveries would incorporate certain minor improvements.

4. Fish Measuring and Data Processing

Methods of measuring both demersal and pelagic fish were reviewed. It was established that all countries measure total



- 2 -

length of all demersal species, and most (but not all) measure to the nearest centimetre (or $\frac{1}{2}$ cm). There are, however, major differences between countries in how measurements are grouped for presentation, and the question is being looked into further.

The Herring Committee made specific recommendations on herring measuring which may be of interest to herring workers in the ICNAF area, viz:

- (i) Total length, measured from tip of snout to the longest caudal fin ray, with the lobes of the tail in the mid-line.
- (ii) Published length compositions should be in $\frac{1}{2}$ cm grouping intervals for near Northern Seas areas and 1 cm for distant Northern Seas. In both cases measurement should be to the unit below. Published mean lengths should have either $\frac{1}{4}$ cm or $\frac{1}{2}$ cm added, as appropriate.
- (iii) Recommendations were also made concerning classification of maturity stages, and reporting of age and growth calculations from skeletal structures.

5. Statistics

The Statistical Committee completed the first phase of its major overhaul of ICES statistical requirements, particularly in relation to the Bulletin Statistique. Details will be found in the 1962 Report of the Statistical Committee and in the "The ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's".

It may be of interest to ICNAF to note that it was decided not to introduce any major elaborations to Table 7 of fishing effort. Instead, the Bulletin Statistique will be retained primarily for publication of complete catch statistics, and fishing effort in summary form. More detailed data of fishing effort and catch per unit effort, by as fine a breakdown in time and space as is necessary for research purposes, will be published in Statistical News Letters, a review of which the Statistical Committee will next undertake.

On the question of future policy on publication of detailed fishing effort statistics, the view was expressed in discussion that rather than attempting to publish elaborate details of fishing vessels and gear for effort standardization, it might be better for each country to study the fishing performances of its own vessels and so to arrive at one or more standard units of effort most suited to its own fisheries. Detailed effort statistics of each country could then be published in the appropriate national units, comparison between which could be made either on the basis of gross catches taken from the same stock or by special comparative studies between vessels or groups of vessels of different nationalities. No specific recommendations have, however, yet been made on this question.

6. Publications

- (a) ICES publications issued during the year include:-



- 3 -

- (1) Report of 1961 Zooplankton Symposium (Rapp. et Proc-Verb. 153)
 - (11) Report of Northwestern Working Group (ICES Cooperative Research Reports No. 1). This deals with the state of the demersal stocks at Iceland and the Faroes and the effects of mesh size; it parallels, on a smaller scale, the ICNAF Assessment Report.
- (b) ICES publications in press include:-
- (1) Report of 1961 Herring Symposium (Rapp. et Proc-Verb)
 - (11) Report of 1962 Shellfish Symposium (Rapp. et Proc-Verb)
 - (111) Report of Mesh Selection Working Group (Coop.Res.Repts)

7. Future Meetings

The 1963 Annual Meeting of ICES will be held in Madrid from September 30 to October 9. It will be immediately preceded by a four-day Symposium on the Measurement of Abundance of Fish Stocks, which will have as its main theme the problems and techniques of measuring abundance and the various factors, biological and technical, which can influence the reliability of such measures.

8. ICES Officers

The R and S Committee of ICNAF may wish to note two changes of ICES Committee Chairmen, namely that Dr. C. E. Lucas has succeeded Dr. A.E.J. Went as Chairman of the Consultative Committee, and that Mr. B. B. Parrish has succeeded Dr. Lucas as Chairman of the Statistical Committee.