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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1964

Report by FAO Fisheries Division to the Annual Meeting of ICNAF,  
Hamburg, May-June, 1964

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and  
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The following notes report aspects of the current work of the Division, and activities since June 1963, on projects thought to be of concern or interest to the Commission. For convenience they follow the outline of previous such reports.

1. Information services, bibliographies and reference books

Volume 6 of the "Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries" has been published. Volume 7, with the references for the first time arranged by general subjects, is being printed. (Copies of these and all other reference material prepared by FAO Fisheries Biology Branch are supplied to the ICNAF Secretariat, which is also provided by ASIRC with lists of references for the Northwest Atlantic for preparing the ICNAF list).

The first supplement to the "World List of Periodicals for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries" has been distributed; the second is being printed.

The first Volume (three parts) and first two parts of Volume 2 of the quarterly Newsletters "International Marine Science", prepared by UNESCO and FAO, have been published. They include news of the ICNAF activities.

A revised English edition of Mr. Gulland's "Manual of Sampling Methods for Fisheries Biology" is being printed, as also are the French and Spanish versions. To it will be added in looseleaf form, sections on the appreciation of particular statistical methods in fisheries research; these are being written by various scientists, under an agreement between ICES and FAO.

Mr. Pope's manual on Gear Selectivity is being printed in English. We still await full reports from Australia, and countries in the Mediterranean area and Latin America on trials with the ICES mesh gauge, but preliminary comments on its use have been forwarded to ICES.

A manual on Stock Assessment methods, compiled by Mr. Gulland and based on notes used at various training courses over the past few years, is being printed in English (copies available end June, 1964), and it will be used in a Training Centre on Mackerel and Tuna research being held by FAO in Australia in November 1964, after which a revision will be made and French and Spanish editions issued.

The Introduction and Report of the ICNAF Tagging Symposium have been translated into French and Spanish and will be published this year in lieu of a manual on fish tagging. Copies of the full report and contributed papers have been distributed widely by FAO outside the North Atlantic area, and have been received enthusiastically. Copies of the Selectivity Papers for the Lisbon Meeting have been similarly distributed.

Following the recommendation of the ACMRR second session, Dr. K. Terada (FAO Oceanographer) is preparing booklets on "Fishermen and the Weather" and "Oceanography for Fishermen"; the former is based on the outline produced by the WMO Working Group on Weather Advice for Fisheries Operations.

## 2. Aquatic Resources Appraisal

2.1. The "Serial Atlas for the Marine Environment" published by the American Geographic Society has now published or has in hand several folios of the oceanographic synopsis for the North Sea sponsored by ICNAF and ICES, and FAO, with the two regional fisheries organizations for the Mediterranean, have begun work on folios for that region. At a recent meeting of the Advisory Panel for the Atlas (which the ICNAF member was unfortunately unable to attend) it was agreed that in principle the Atlas would now extend its coverage to the whole world (previously it was only North Atlantic and adjacent seas), and that material from other organizations - being for example results of co-operative expeditions and international surveys - which were submitted for publication could be published in folios bearing the imprint of such organizations, but they should take responsibility for editing and refereeing. (This decision seems to have a bearing on the possibility of ICNAF publishing the NORWESTLANT results in the Atlas).

2.2. Several more synopses on the biology of species of commercial importance have been published. The synopsis for cod is still being revised by Mr. Corlett's group. Other parallel series of species synopses, following the FAO pattern, have been started by CSIRO Australia, and agreed in principle by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, USA.

2.3. The full Proceedings of the World Scientific Meeting on the Biology of Tunas (La Jolla, 1962) have now been published. The FAO Expert Panel for the facilitation of Tuna Research set up as a result of the meeting, has been working by correspondence and will first meet in Rome starting on June 8th, 1964. The report of the Panel will be transmitted to ICNAF for information and comment by its Ad Hoc group on Pelagic Species.

The first session of the FAO Working Party for Rational Utilization of the Tuna Resources in the Atlantic Ocean, was held in Rome in October 1963. Its report, which deals with the requirements for research, statistics and management measures, and the possible need for a new international body for this purpose, has been transmitted to FAO Member Countries concerned and to regional fisheries organizations, including ICNAF, for comment.

2.4. In view of the growing importance of fisheries for shrimps and prawns, and the interest of many countries in the culture of these resources, it has been decided to convene a World Scientific Meeting on the subject in 1966 (or possibly 1967). Preparatory work has started. ICES has expressed its interest and the CCTA held an African regional meeting at Zanzibar in April 1964.

### 3. Research, methodology and techniques

3.1. FAO continues to co-operate with SCOR and IOC in Working groups on standardization and inter-calibration of methods.

ACMRR and SCOR have established a joint working group on Biological Data Exchange; the convenor is Dr. Hempel.

ACMRR has also established new working groups on the following subjects:

- a) Direct and speedier estimation of fish abundance (Convenor B. B. Parrish;)
- b) Possible symposium on Tropho-dynamics of marine communities (Convenor J. Steele);
- c) Fishermen's charts (Convenor A. Lee)
- d) Appraisal of resources of Sardinella and small clupeoids in the Gulf of Guinea.

3.2. The 12th Conference of FAO authorised establishment in the Fisheries Division of a special unit for advising and assisting member countries and, where appropriate, regional and specialised international fisheries bodies, in stock assessment work. The unit will be concerned with both the statistics (catch effort, and biological statistics) and computation and analysis.

3.3. The ICNAF Environmental Symposium was held in Rome in January 1964. FAO was very happy to act as host to the Commission on this occasion and to be able to assist towards the travel of some Special Lecturers and participants. It is believed that the proceedings of the Symposium will be of great interest to scientists outside the North Atlantic area, and FAO would be glad to assist in their wider distribution.

### 4. Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research

The report of the 1st Session has been transmitted to ICNAF. The second session was held in Rome in February 1964 immediately following the Environmental Symposium. The new working groups it established have been referred to above. The members connected with ICNAF are Dr. C. E. Lucas (Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur), Prof. W. Ciegiewicz and Dr. G. Hempel. The Session was preceded by meetings of Working Groups on the General Scientific Framework for World Ocean Study, and on Rapid Utilization of Synoptic Data and Fixed Oceanographic Stations.

The background of the discussions was a resolution of the 12th FAO Conference calling for a complete re-appraisal of the program and structure of the Fisheries Division.

Among items on which specific action was recommended are the following:

- (a) On general aspects of future development of FAO Fisheries Division program of research of marine resources, on the steps to be taken for the application of its results and on the changes in the Fisheries Division which would be necessary to implement such a program; the establishment of a Working Group to study the steps to be taken by FAO to prepare a World Program of Marine Resources, which would provide a framework for co-ordination of the activities of regional bodies, national and other research agencies, and to consider the procedures to be followed in executing it, taking into account the GSF for World Ocean Study in its fisheries aspects and the related activities which might also be undertaken under the International Biological Programme of ICSU;
- (b) A study of the need for a systematic and cumulative review of research progress in fisheries biology;
- (c) Study, in co-operation with IOC and WMO, of methods of compilation of average or cumulative information on oceanographic and marine meteorological conditions encompassing important areas of the world ocean, as a basis for planning fishing operations and ocean research programs;
- (d) Joint sponsorship by UNESCO and FAO of the Second Oceanographic Congress and inclusion as part of the program, of a Symposium on Oceanographic Aspects of Fisheries Science, to replace the World Scientific Meeting on the Effects of the Environment on the Abundance and Distribution of Fish Populations recommended by the First Session of ACMRR;
- (e) Intensified collection of fish catch and effort, and of biological statistics required for assessment of fish stocks, by nations and regional bodies;
- (f) Collaboration between IOC, FAO and regional fisheries bodies for the best use of international co-operative investigations, especially those ones sponsored by IOC (ICITA, SACI, CSKAR), both for fundamental oceanographic research, and for fisheries research and management; fisheries research requirements under the GSF for World Ocean Study and the marine aspects of IBP; problems concerning the exchange of marine biological data and consideration of the possibility for FAO to act as specialized centre for exchange of such data;
- (g) Establishment of a Working Group to propose ways in which the work of FAO Councils and Commissions, in marine resources research, might be made more effective.

Present officers were re-elected to serve until the end of the Third Session. The Committee will meet again in Rome in 1965. Meanwhile the report of the Second Session will be published and made available to member countries, interested organizations (including ICNAF) and scientists, and several established Working Groups will be active.

5. Statistics

At the last ICNAF meeting it was decided that the European member countries would start to use the STANA forms for reporting catch and catch/effort data early 1964 (reporting 1963 calendar year data). FAO undertook to design, print and distribute these forms to European countries and to assist the ICNAF Secretariat by processing the data for 1963 in advance before the 1964 meetings in Hamburg. During 1963 very close co-operation was maintained between FAO and ICNAF and groundwork for the maintenance of close co-operation in future years was well established. Sets of tables with 1963 catch data by countries and species were prepared by FAO for distribution at the 1964 meetings.

6. Other matters

6.1. Mr. Traung has not yet been able to make the promised propeller characteristics - fishing power analyses based on the 1962 Vessel List.

6.2. The proposed FAO training centres and seminars on sardine tagging in the Mediterranean area, and fisheries research in the USSR will be held, as planned, in 1964. Similar activities in other areas have been planned for 1965/66.

6.3. Mr. Akyuz of the Biology Branch staff is conducting (May 1964) trawl selectivity experiments in tropical waters, in connection with the Guinean Trawling Survey.

6.4. Mr. Roy Jackson, formerly Executive Director of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, assumed his new duties as Director of FAO Fisheries Division in May 1964.



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Addendum

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P.2, para. 2.1, line 4 - replace by:

"North Sea, sponsored by FAO and ICES; and FAO with the two"

P.3, para. 4, line 6 - replace name of Prof. Cieglewicz by Mr. D. McKernan.

P.4, para. (f), line 9 - add to end of sentence the words  
"..... concerning fish stocks."