



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1964

Collection of Data on Canadian Maritimes Fishing Effort

by A. C. Kohler
Fisheries Research Board of Canada
Biological Station, St. Andrews, N. B.

Detailed fishing effort data from the Canadian Maritimes fleet are collected by the Fisheries Research Board in a number of ways:

- (a) Log records put aboard individual boats
- (b) Supplementary interviews with boat crews carried out by port technicians
- (c) Copying by port technicians of boat performance records kept by fish plants
- (d) Special records of boat performance kept by plant employees for the Fisheries Research Board.

By far the most important of these methods in terms of amount and usefulness of data is that of placing log records aboard the fishing vessels. This work requires a great deal of personal contact with boat skippers since the keeping of such logs is not compulsory. By maintenance of such contact, Fisheries Research Board port technicians have been able to keep up about 45% coverage of the total mobile fleet, which includes otter trawlers, longliners, Danish seiners, and scallop draggers. Log coverage for large otter trawlers (over 150 gross tons) is over 90%, much higher than the average for all types of boats.

A page from the log record issued to Canadian fishermen is shown in Fig. 1. There are about 80 such pages to a book. Records are written in duplicate, using carbon paper supplied in the book. The Fisheries Research Board representative contacts the boat, preferably after each trip, and removes one sheet of information for the trip, leaving the other for the boat captain's personal record.

Referring to Fig. 1, the details of effort data asked for may be seen. The top of the page identifies the vessel, gear and trip. The port technician can refer to a set of registry cards for specific details on the vessel and its gear. The rest of the page is devoted to columns for data on area, effort and catch. Normally a total entry is made for each day but an occasional boat enters data for each set or tow. Otter-trawl effort is given as the number of hours the net was on bottom.

The records collected by the Fisheries Research Board port technicians are sent to an FRB statistical unit in Halifax for compilation. The data form part of the annual statistical submission to ICNAF.

--oo0oo--

DATE	POSITION		DEPTH FATH.	FISHING EFFORT		ESTIMATED CATCHES											REMARKS WEATHER, TYPE BOTTOM, TYPE CATCH, ETC.					
	LAT. LORAN OR DECCA	LONG.		HAULS, SETS OR STRIKES	HOURS OR LINES OR NETS FISHED	POUNDS FOR GROUND FISH AND SCALLOP MEATS: BARRELS OR HOGSHEADS FOR HERRING; NUMBERS FOR SWORDFISH.									DISCARDED							
						SAVED									DISCARDED							
						COD	HAD.	RED.	HAL.	FLOUND.	OTHER GNDFSH.	HER.	SWORD			SCAL.		COD	HAD.			
									S	M	L											

USE NEW SHEET EACH TRIP ENTER EACH DAY CONFIDENTIAL FISHERIES RESEARCH BOARD

Fig. 1. Sample page from an offshore log book.

D 3

- 2 -