



Serial No. 1378
(A. c. 1)

DOCUMENT NO. 82

ANNUAL MEETING - 1964

Report On 1963 Annual Meeting Of ICES

By: R. J. H. Beverton

The 1963 Annual Meeting of ICES was held at Madrid from 30 th September to 9th October, preceded by a Symposium on the Measurement of Abundance of Fish Stocks. Items of interest to the Research and Statistics Committee of ICNAF are as follows:

1. Statistics

- (a) It was agreed that close co-operation between ICES, ICNAF and FAO should be continued through the activity of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area.
- (b) It was recommended that the scope of the CWP should embrace the whole of the ICES and ICNAF Statistical Areas.
- (c) Having considered ICNAF recommendation 1963/(59) it was decided, in line with the ICNAF proposal, that ICES should be represented at future meetings of the CWP by a member of its Statistical Office and by the Chairman of the Statistical Committee, the costs of their participation being met from ICES funds.
- (d) The document "ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's", copies of which were made available to the 1963 meeting of R & S, was adopted with some minor revisions.
- (e) The Statistical Committee expressed its appreciation to ICNAF for making available the Report of the 1963 meeting of the ICNAF Statistical Subcommittee. The desirability of maintaining close co-operation between the Statistical Offices of the two organisations was stressed, and it was recommended that there should be regular exchange of the reports of the respective committees of the two organisations dealing with statistical matters.

2. Presentation of Biological/Statistical data

Having dealt, at least for the time being, with the collection, processing and presentation of statistical material for the Bulletin Statistique (see paragraph 1 (d) above), the Statistical Committee is turning its attention to the more detailed statistical information and biological sampling data normally published in Statistical News Letters. As a first step, a small Working Group under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. A. Gulland has been formed to consider and report on these questions. This Working Group is meeting in connection with the 1963 NEAFC meeting at the Hague on 8th May. The findings

...../2

2. Presentation of Biological/Statistical data (cont'd)

of this Working Group will be of special interest in view of the parallel investigation which ICNAF R & S is undertaking concerning the Sampling Yearbook.

3. Tagging

ICES agreed in 1962 to adopt the ICNAF summary release scheme for tagged fish releases, but some difficulty has been encountered in defining appropriate sizes of areas for reporting. This aspect of the matter was referred to the Working Group mentioned in paragraph 2 for advice.

4. Selectivity

Special attention was paid to the variability of selection factors and its relevance to selectivity differentials. At my request, noting ICNAF's interest in this problem (1963 Redbook, rec. 27) Mr. J. A. Gulland has submitted to the forthcoming ICNAF meeting his ICES contribution on this subject, supplemented by analysis of data for the ICNAF area.

5. Pelagic fish

- (a) The Herring Committee received reports from several of its Working Groups on various aspects of herring biology and exploitation in the ICES area. These will be published in the Co-operative Research Reports series.
- (b) The Scombriform Committee accepted a report from its Working Group on Bluefin Tuna which contains valuable statistical and morphometric data not previously collated. The report will be published in a forthcoming issue of Statistical Newsletters.

6. Hydrography

Sea-bed Drifters

The Hydrographical Committee recommends that member countries of ICES using sea-bed drifters should:

- (a) Give instructions to the finder in several languages on their drifters.
- (b) Publish descriptions of the different types of sea-bed drifters used by them.
- (c) Provide publicity notes about the drifters suitable for members of the fishing industry and supply them to appropriate fishing journals.

and further recommends that information about the release of sea-bed drifters be circulated through the ICES Secretariat to relevant laboratories in the same way as that for tagged fish, but on separate cards which are distinguishable from those for tagged fish.

...../3

7. Symposium on Measurement of Abundance of Fish Stocks

37 papers were contributed, centred mainly on the use of catch per unit effort as a measure of abundance with special attention to the phenomenon of diurnal variation of catches, Methods for estimating absolute abundance, such as egg and larval surveys, tagging, and visual and acoustic techniques, were also covered.

The Symposium highlighted some specific problems to which attention could profitably be directed in the future. These include:

- (a) how to test the reliability of abundance estimates,
- (b) how to deal with seasonal fisheries,
- (c) how to deal with mixed fisheries,
- (d) the estimation of gradual improvements in efficiency of gear and auxiliary devices, including fishing tactics and searching,
- (e) effects of climatic and other environmental changes,
- (f) fish behaviour, including learning.

It was agreed that a high standard of information about fishing operations would be needed to investigate many of these problems. Use of log-book data or possibly automatic devices giving information on a per haul basis was recommended.

8. Publications

(a) The Proceedings of the 1961 Herring Symposium have now been issued as *Rapports et Procès-verbaux*, vol. 154.

(b) The Report of the Arctic Mesh Selection Working Group has now been issued as Co-operative Research Report No. 2.

(c) Reports of the Icelandic Mesh Selection Experiment and of the North Sea Herring Working Group will appear as Co-operative Research Reports.

(d) The Proceedings of the 1963 Symposium on the Measurement of Abundance of Fish Stocks were submitted in typescript to the Secretariat in January, 1964, and will appear in the *Rapports et Procès-verbaux* series.

(e) In future, the Reports of the Liaison Committee to the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission will be issued annually as Series B of the Co-operative Research Reports.

(f) FAO, in co-operation with ICES, is planning to publish a series of Leaflets on Statistical Techniques of use in fisheries research.

(g) The new method of age-determination of sole, reported by the Sole Working Group, will be published in the *Journal du Conseil*.

...../4

9. Future Meetings

- (a) The 1964 Annual Meeting of ICES will be held at Charlottenlund Slot in the autumn; exact dates are not yet available.
- (b) A Symposium on the Ecology of Pelagic Fish Species in Arctic Waters is planned to be held in connection with the 1966 Annual Meeting.

10. Officers

- (a) Dr. J. Hult (Sweden) was elected President in succession to Dr. J. Furnestin, who took over as Chairman of the Atlantic Committee.
 - (b) Prof. I. Hela (Finland) succeeded Dr. J. B. Tait as Chairman of the Hydrographic Committee.
-