

STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. B.B.Parrish
Rapporteur: Mr. L.P.D.Gertenbach

I. Proceedings

The Committee met on Tuesday, October 1st, and Friday, October 4th, 1963.

In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed especially Mr. L. P. D. Gertenbach of FAO, the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area. He also expressed regret that Mr. S. L. Louwes of the Agricultural Section of the Statistical Office of the European Communities had not been able to attend the meeting as Observer.

The list of members was checked, and alterations to the membership were noted.

The General Secretary reported briefly on the state of the statistical publications. He announced that, owing to the extensive changes and rearrangements in the titles of the Bulletin Statistique, following the recent revision of the Council's statistical programme, it had not been possible to publish during the year the volume for 1961. However, proof copies of Tables 1-4 were available for scrutiny at this meeting. He also announced that Statistical News Letters Nos. 15 (Demersal Species) and 16 (Herring) had been published during the year.

In a very full programme of discussions, the following main agenda items were covered:-

- A. Review of "ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's", and the STANA reporting system.
- B. List of Common and Scientific Names of ICES Species.
- C. Statistical News Letters.
- D. Relations with Statistical Offices of other international bodies:
 - (a) FAO
 - (b) ICNAF
 - (c) European Communities
 - (d) Continuing Working Party.

A. Review of "ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's" and STANA Reporting System

The Committee reviewed carefully the contents of this document, especially in the light of proposals made by the Continuing Working Party at its third meeting. It also examined the proof copies of Tables 1-4 of the Bulletin Statistique for 1961, which had been prepared in accordance with the recommendations approved by the Council at its recent meetings, and contained within this document. The Committee's decisions and proposals on the relevant items are given in Appendix I to this report (see also Recommendations B(2) and (3)).

B. List of Common and Scientific Names of ICES Species

The Committee examined in proof the list of scientific and common names, the publication of which had been approved at the 1962 Annual Meeting.

The absence of some species of commercial importance in the ICES area from this list was noted; it was also noted that the list contained no references to the statistical categories to which each of the species belongs in the species classification, as recommended at the 1961 Annual Meeting, and that it does not at present include the Shellfish Species, covered by the ICES statistics. The Committee further noted that the size of the document was too large to permit easy publication in the Bulletin Statistique, and that therefore, it should be published as a separate document. The Committee therefore agreed that the list should be referred back to the three experts (Dr. G. Krefft, Dr. E. Bertelsen and Professor T. S. Rass) with the request that they include the scientific names of the albacora, bonito, long-rough dab, Spanish mackerel, silver smelt and Polar cod and also extend the list to include the Shellfish Species covered in the Council's statistical publications (Recommendations B (4) and (5)). It also agreed that a reference to the statistical category should be provided against each species.

C. Statistical News Letters

The Committee noted with approval the publication during the year of Statistical News Letters Nos. 15 and 16. It expressed its appreciation of the efforts made by the Secretariat in issuing them in such a prompt way.

The Chairman announced that following an approach which he had made to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee concerning the need for a more precise formulation of the statistical and biological data, especially for the demersal species, to be supplied by countries for publication in the News Letters, that Committee had established a small Working Group, representing the interests of a number of ICES' Committees. Its task would be to make proposals, for consideration at the next Annual Meeting, as to the types of statistical and biological data for the main demersal and pelagic species, especially the area and time break-down required for publication in the News Letters. The Committee expressed its approval of the steps taken, and also proposed that two specific items on its current agenda should also be referred to this Working Group (Recommendation B(6)).

D. Relations with Statistical Offices of other International Organizations

(i) FAO

The Committee noted with great satisfaction the very close and cordial co-operation and mutual assistance existing between the ICES Secretariat and the Statistics Section of the Fisheries Division of FAO. It expressed its gratitude to that organization in again making Mr. L. P. D. Gertenbach available to attend the present meeting.

The Committee also took note of the FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, No.3, containing catch statistics for 1962 for the North-East Atlantic by country and ICES statistical division. The Committee commended FAO on the speed with which these data had been prepared, although it noted that the publication did not cover all countries which submit data to ICES. It also noted with approval FAO's intention of issuing next year a similar publication covering the whole of the North Atlantic region. The Committee recognized that this publication could provide very useful supplementary statistical data to those appearing in the Council's statistical publications, and it was agreed that consideration should be given by the Committee at its next meeting to possible suggestions which might be made to FAO as to the form and content of future editions of the Bulletins issued for the North Atlantic region.

In view of the establishment of an ICES Statistical Area (south) for which the current ICES statistical coverage is poor, the Committee expressed its strong approval of an offer by FAO to try to collect statistical data for this area and compile them in a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, to provide background material for the Committee's considerations of steps to be taken in improving its statistical coverage of this area.

The Committee also noted with approval recommendations 1 and 9 of the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) of FAO, dealing with important aspects of the future statistical programme of that organization.

(ii) ICNAF

The Committee expressed its appreciation to ICNAF for making available, at this meeting, the report of the Statistics Sub-Committee of its Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. It agreed on the desirability of maintaining close collaboration between the Statistical Offices of ICES and ICNAF, and proposed that a regular exchange of the reports of their respective scientific Committees dealing with statistical matters should be made (Recommendation B(7)).

(iii) European Communities

The report of the General Secretary on his attendance as ICES Observer at the second meeting of the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics of the Statistical Office of the European Communities was noted with approval. The Committee agreed that close contact with the Fishery Statistical activities of this organization was most desirable, and that could be best achieved by the attendance of a representative of each organization at their respective meetings (Recommendation A (1)).

(iv) Continuing Working Party

The Chairman announced that owing to the General Secretary's absence, through illness, he had represented the Council at the third meeting of the Continuing Working Party, held in Rome from 18th to 22nd March, 1963.

Detailed consideration was given by the Committee to the item in the report of the Continuing Working Party concerning its terms of reference, statutes, and rules of procedure (pp.16 and 17 of "Report of the Third Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fisheries Statistics in the North Atlantic Area", Doc. No.52), note being taken of ICNAF's decision on this matter, as specified in the report of its Statistics Sub-Committee, and its request for ICES' views to be made known to ICNAF. The Committee agreed that it is highly desirable that close contact is maintained between ICES, ICNAF, and FAO on statistical matters, and that this interest is best served at present through the Continuing Working Party. It also agreed that to ensure the most effective conduct of the work of this body, the ICES and ICNAF representation in the Working Party should be a representative of each of their statistical offices and the Chairmen of their Statistical Committee. The Committee also considered that with the completion of the original "Guinea pig" tasks, consideration might be given to the national membership to the Working Party. The Committee also supports ICNAF's view that the activities of the Working Party should be restricted to the North Atlantic region, provided this is recognized as including all regions covered by ICES statistical reporting (i.e. including ICES' statistical area south). The Committee asked for a further opportunity to review these problems at its next Annual Meeting (Recommendation B(1)).

Election of Chairman

Mr. B. B. Parrish was re-elected Chairman for the coming year.

Acknowledgements

At the close of the meeting the Committee expressed its great appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by the Staff of the Secretariat during the past year, and its warm thanks to Mr. L. P. D. Gertenbach for his great assistance in the work of the Committee both before and during this Annual Meeting.

II. Communications

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| L. P. D. Gertenbach | "Report of the Third Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area". |
| Anon. | "The ICES' Statistical Programme for the 1960's". |
| L. P. D. Gertenbach | "The fishing areas of the North Atlantic region with particular reference to the ICES statistical area". |
| L. P. D. Gertenbach | "Notes for the completion of form STANA 1E, revised version". |

- L. P. D. Gertenbach "The common and scientific names of fish species from the North Atlantic region used in ICES, ICNAF, and FAO - statistical tabulations".
- L. P. D. Gertenbach "Inventory-types fishing fleet statistics published by ICES, ICNAF and FAO".
- L. P. D. Gertenbach "The international standard statistical classification of aquatic animals and plants".
- L. P. D. Gertenbach (a) "List of German classes of 'fishing units' for STANA statistics".
- (b) "A review on the terminology of the fishing area sub-division with German terms corresponding to the international English terms".
- A. Fridriksson "The second meeting of the European Economic Council's Working Group on Fisheries Statistics".

"Annual Meeting, June 1963 - Statistics Sub-Committee", Proceedings, No.1, App.VI, ICNAF.

"Catches in the north-east Atlantic", 1962 FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics.

III. Recommendations

- A (1) That funds be made available for the General Secretary to represent the Council at the next meeting in Brussels of the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics of the Statistical Office of the European Communities.
- B (1) That (i) in view of the need for continued close co-operation between ICES, ICNAF and FAO in the fishery statistics field, the Council should continue to maintain its active support for and participation in the work of the Continuing Working Party on Fisheries Statistics in the North Atlantic area,
- (ii) the activities of the Working Party should not be confined to the area north of 36°00'N latitude, but should embrace the whole of the ICES and ICNAF statistical areas,
- (iii) in accordance with a decision reached at the last Annual Meeting of ICNAF, the Council should be represented at future meetings of the Continuing Working Party by a member of its Statistical Office and the Chairman of the Statistical Committee, the costs of their participation being borne from the Council funds,
- (iv) these proposals be brought to the attention of ICNAF and FAO.
- B (2) That the document "The ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's", suitably revised in the light of decisions taken at this meeting, should be published by the Council. Consideration should be given at the next Annual Meeting, by the Statistical Committee, in consultation with the Editorial Committee, as to the most appropriate form of publication.
- B (3) That the recommendations on the definition of the ICES Statistical Area, and other aspects of statistical reporting and publication contained in Appendix I, be adopted by the Council.

- B (4) That in view of the need for an extension of the species list of scientific and common names, to include additional fish species and to cover Shellfish Species for which statistics are published in the Bulletin Statistique
- (i) the Council request Dr. G. Krefft, Dr. E. Bertelsen and Professor T. S. Rass to supply the scientific names for the following six additional fish species:- albacore, bonito, Polar cod, Spanish mackerel, silver smelt and long-rough dab,
 - (ii) countries be requested to supply the common names of these additional species,
 - (iii) the Shellfish Committee be requested to supply the scientific names of Crustacea and Molluscs for which statistics are published in Table 5 of the Bulletin Statistique,
 - (iv) the common name "bream" in the species list be changed to "Sea bream",
 - (v) after revision according to the above recommendations, the list be published by the Council as a separate document.
- B (5) That, further to the recommendation of the Sardine Committee concerning the definitive name of the Sardine, Dr. G. Krefft, Dr. E. Bertelsen and Professor T. S. Rass be asked to specify from the agreed list of species, those for which an approach should be made to the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature, requesting their adoption as definitive names, and to report their proposals to the Statistical Committee at its next meeting.
- B (6) That the Working Group set up by the Consultative Committee to examine the statistical and biological data requirements for the Statistical News Letters' publication be asked to advise the Statistical Committee as to the need for a revision of the boundaries of the North Sea Sub-divisions IVa₁ and IVa₂ and on a break-down of Sub-areas I and II for detailed statistical reporting.
- B (7) That, in order to promote closer contact and collaboration between ICES and ICNAF in the statistics field, the Council request ICNAF to supply the reports of its Statistical Sub-Committee as working documents for the meetings of the Statistical Committee. In return, the Council should offer to supply the reports of the Statistical Committee to ICNAF.
-

APPENDIX I

Review of ICES Statistical Programme for the
1960's and STANA Reporting System

A. Definition of ICES Statistical Area

1. The Committee noted the recommendations of the Continuing Working Party on the question of the definition of the North Atlantic Statistical Areas and the action taken by ICNAF at its recent meeting. The Committee recommends that ICES accept the definition of the North Atlantic Region as consisting of both
 - (a) the ICNAF Statistical Area and
 - (b) the part of the ICES area to the north of 36° N latitude which should be known as the ICES Statistical Area (North).

The North Atlantic Region is defined as all the waters of the Atlantic lying to the north of a line drawn due westward along 36°00' north latitude, from a point (near 5°36' west longitude) on the Spanish coast, to 42°00' west longitude; thence due north to 39°00' north latitude; thence due west to 71°41' west longitude; thence due north to the United States coast.

2. The Committee considers that to avoid needless differences between the ICES Statistical Area (North) and the area covered by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention of 1959, the small Atlantic Area lying to the north of 36°00' N latitude and east of 6°00' W longitude, should be included in the ICES Statistical Area (North).

However, it also considers that no change should be made in the ICES boundary in the region of Nova Zemlja, since the difference between it and the north-eastern boundary of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Convention of 1959 is small and does not affect to any appreciable extent statistical data reporting. It therefore recommends that the ICES Statistical Area (North), be defined as follows:-

- (a) The ICES Statistical Area will be all the waters of the North Atlantic Region, as defined in paragraph 1 above, lying to the east of a dividing line drawn due south from a point at 44°00' on the Greenland coast near Cape Farewell to 59°00' north latitude; thence due east to 42°00' west longitude; thence due south to the boundary of the North Atlantic Region, i.e. a point at 39°00' north latitude and 42°00' west longitude.
- (b) The ICES Statistical Area would, in terms of the two preceding definitions, cover the waters of the North-East Atlantic lying between the west coast of Greenland and the Atlantic and Baltic coastlines of the European continent and adjacent islands and include all such waters lying:

- (1) north and east of a line drawn from a point at 5°36' west longitude and 36°00' north latitude on the Punta Maroqui isthmus on the Spanish coast off the Strait of Gibraltar due west to 42°00' west longitude; thence due north to 59°00' north latitude; thence due west to 44°00' west longitude; thence due north to the Greenland coast near Cape Farewell; and

- (ii) west of a line drawn across the west entry of the Strait of Ygorskiy Shar; thence along the west coast of the island of Vaigach; thence across the western entry of the Strait of Karskiye Vorata; thence along the west coast south of the island of Nova Zemlja; thence across the westerly entry to the Strait of Matochkin Shar; thence along the west coast of the north island of Nova Zemlja to its most northerly point and thence due north.
3. The Committee noted, however, that ICES has responsibilities for fishery statistics for fishing areas lying to the south of 36°00'N latitude, and it recommends that these fishing areas should be called the ICES Statistical Area (South). No southerly or westerly boundaries are currently proposed, due to uncertainty concerning the distribution of fisheries and fish stocks in this area. It therefore requests the Secretary General in collaboration with the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party to obtain, during the coming year, information on the fishing and the exploited species from all countries exploiting this area, and report these findings to the meeting of the Statistical Committee in 1964. It is noted that this proposed ICES Statistical Area (South) corresponds to the northern part of the waters covered by the West African Fisheries Commission. It is proposed, therefore, that FAO obtain data from those countries, which are not members of ICES.
4. The Committee noted that at present catch statistics for West Greenland (Subarea XV), are collected and published by both ICES and ICNAF. In view of the desirability of maintaining the publication of catch statistics for this area in the Bulletin Statistique, and of reducing unnecessary duplication in the reporting to the two organizations, the Committee recommends that
- (i) catch statistics by species and country for the whole West Greenland Sub-Area should continue to be published in Table 4 of the Bulletin Statistique, but they should be excluded from the aggregate totals for the ICES Statistical Area (North) as a whole,
 - (ii) ICES should not in future collect statistics for this sub-area from member countries, but should accept the offer by ICNAF to supply them through its Secretariat.
5. It was recognized that with the extension of the western boundary of the ICES Statistical Area (North), the introduction of further divisions may become necessary. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the General Secretary should request from member countries information about the distribution of their fisheries by species, and the size of the catches in the region to the west of the existing ICES statistical divisions (i.e. between 18°00' W - 42°00' W longitude), and that this information be brought to the attention of the Statistical Committee at its next meeting.
6. The Committee also recommends that the Working Group set up by the Consultative Committee to consider the statistical and biological requirements for the News Letters publications should be requested to
- (a) examine possible changes in the eastern boundaries of the North Sea sub-divisions IVa₁ and IVa₂,
 - (b) arrive at final proposals for the sub-division of the northern Sub-Areas I and II.

B. Species Order and Grouping in Tables of Bulletin Statistique and STANA Reporting Forms

7. The Committee noted the recommendation of the Continuing Working Party to introduce a revised standard international statistical classification of aquatic animals and plants also to be used by FAO. Taking into account the advantages of the improvements and refinements suggested by the Continuing Working Party, the Statistical Committee recommends that this revised grouping be used in publishing catch statistics in Table 4 of the Bulletin Statistique. This grouping is as follows:-

Species Groups

Freshwater fishes
Sturgeons
River eels
Salmonoids
Diadromous clupeoids

Pleuronectiforms
Gadiforms
Demersal percormorphs
Pelagic percormorphs
Marine clupeoids
Tuna-like Scombriforms
Mackerel-like Scombriforms
Non-tolooost fishes
Unidentified fishes

Crustaceans
Molluscs
Other invertebrates

8. Noting the importance of the fishery for albacore in the waters north of 36°00' north latitude, i.e. in the fishing areas of the ICES Statistical Area (North) the Statistical Committee recommends that

- (a) albacore (Germo alalunga)
(b) bonito (Sarda sarda)

be reported separately in the tables of the Bulletin Statistique, hence also in form STANA 1E and the relevant notes for its completion, and in the list of "Names of Fishes".

9. The Committee examined the proof copies of Tables 1-4 of the Bulletin Statistique for 1961. It recommends the following changes in these and subsequent editions:-

- (i) that Table 3 giving the catches of Total Demersal Species be discontinued,
(ii) that Table 1 be divided into Tables 1 and 2,
(iii) that the present Table 2 becomes Table 3,
(iv) that the Species Group headings be inserted in bold type above the species in Table 4,
(v) that the "Total Value" entry for all countries combined be omitted from Table 4.

10. Consideration was given to the desirability of continuing the publication in the Bulletin Statistique of freshwater and brackishwater species. It was noted that the coverage of these statistics was, in many cases, incomplete. The Committee therefore recommends that the Salmon and Trout Committee be asked to consider the question of the publication in the Bulletin of Salmon and Trout statistics and advise the Statistical Committee accordingly.
11. Attention was also given to the possible extension of the statistical coverage of Shellfish in Table 5 of the Bulletin Statistique. The Committee accordingly recommends that the Shellfish Committee be asked to advise it on the following questions:-
 - (a) on the desirability and practicability of collecting and publishing separately statistics for brown shrimp (Crangon spp.) and pink shrimp (Pandalus montagui); and for any other crustacean species deemed necessary not at present listed separately in the statistical tables,
 - (b) whether a further breakdown of the mollusc categories is needed, with special reference to the category "scallop".
12. The Committee took note of the various definitions of fishing effort (days absent from port, days fished, number of trips) proposed by the Continuing Working Party and the corresponding decisions taken by ICNAF. In view of the current uncertainty about the practices in member countries in collecting these statistical items, it is recommended that the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party be asked to request the reporting national offices to provide, when returning completed Stana 1E forms, accompanying memoranda outlining the extent to which national practices comply or deviate from these standard definitions, and that their replies be reported to the Statistical Committee at its next meeting.
13. The craft categories adopted by Germany for reporting catch and fishing effort statistics for publication in Table 7 of the Bulletin Statistique were considered. It was noted that in some cases these depart substantially from the tonnage categories of the international tonnage classification, used in reporting fishing effort statistics to the Council, and for reporting inventory type fishing fleet statistics to the Council. The Committee recommends that other member countries be requested to provide similar information for consideration by the Statistical Committee at its next annual meeting. Further, it was agreed that close contact be maintained between the Statistical and Comparative Fishing Committees in all future considerations of fishing effort statistics, published by the Council.

APPENDIX II

Statistical News Letters Working Group

This Group met on 2nd October and had preliminary discussions on its tasks. Time did not permit of much progress and it was agreed that, in addition to correspondence, one further meeting would be necessary if a report were to be prepared in time for next year's ICES meeting. This would be most easily and cheaply arranged following the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission's meeting in the Hague, when probably all but three members of the Committee would be present. Therefore, the cost to ICES would probably be travel for not more than three members, and subsistence for the eight members for 2-3 days, probably not exceeding Danish kroner 4,000.

Following this 2nd meeting it is hoped to circulate definite proposals on the form of presentation, length grouping, area and time division etc., to members of all interested committees well before the next ICES meeting, so that their comments can be taken into account and proposals can be finalized in time for presentation to the Consultative Committee in 1964.