

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1965Report of the 1964 Annual Meeting of ICES

by Steinar Olsen

The 1964 Annual Meeting of ICES was held in Copenhagen from September 28 to October 7. Items of interest to the Research and Statistics Committee of ICNAF are as follows:

1. Statistics

- (a) The close co-operation between ICES, ICNAF and FAO through the activities of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area was commended, and funds were provided for the General Secretary of ICES and the Chairman of the Statistical Committee to attend the next meeting of the CWP, to be held in Rome early in 1965.
- (b) Supplements to the list of Common and Scientific Names and Species were discussed, and it was agreed that the revised list is to be printed in one of the firstcoming volumes of Bulletin Statistique.
- (c) It was agreed that Inventory-type fishing fleet statistics should continue to be published, and the need for regular publication of a list of fishing craft for the ICES Statistical Area (North), similar to that of ICNAF, was considered. This matter was referred to the CWP with a request to report at the next meeting of ICES on the possibility of a joint ICES/ICNAF list of fishing craft.
- (d) Some revisions to the existing statistical boundaries were recommended, to become effective from 1965.
- (e) The Statistical Committee noted with approval the acceptance by ICNAF of the recommendation by ICES that the reports of their respective Statistical Committees be made available at their respective Annual Meetings.

2. Sampling and Presentation of Biological/Statistical Data

- (a) The special Working Group established to review and make proposals regarding the types of fishery statistics and biological "Stock Record" data which the Council should request from member countries and publish in its Statistical News Letter series, delivered its report. (Parts of this report, relevant to the work of ICNAF, was made available to the R. & S. Committee already at the last meeting of R. & S.). The report which contains a number of specific proposals was accepted in principle, but it was agreed that more careful considerations of these proposals by the national laboratories had to be undertaken before a final recommendation could be agreed.
- (b) The Council agreed that a joint meeting of ICES and ICNAF scientists be held on October 1st and 2nd, 1965, prior to the Annual Meeting in Rome, for the purpose firstly of
  - (i) considering and agreeing on ways and means of achieving a greater degree of uniformity throughout the North Atlantic in all aspects of biological sampling methods and presentation of data, with special reference to fish measuring. All fish and shellfish species at present reported in the Statistical News Letters, or likely to be so in a foreseeable future, will be included;

- (ii) discussing the scientific basis of sampling, in theory and practice, having regard to the advances which have been made in recent years (e. g. the development of statistical techniques and automatic data processing methods).

### 3. Selectivity

- (a) New evidence was received on the selectivity of polypropylene fibres and on the effect of double top-sides on codend selectivity. Further work on the effects of double top-sides as rigged in commercial practice was requested.
- (b) A Guide for the Presentation of Selectivity Data was prepared by the Comparative Fishing Committee, and authors were requested to adopt this as far as possible for future reporting.
- (c) Comparisons between mesh measurements obtained by the ICES gauge and the hand-wedge gauge as used by Inspectors showed that the ICES gauge almost always gave lower readings than the hand-wedge. It was therefore recommended that all member countries be urged to make further measurements of commercial nets with the ICES gauge, for the purpose of obtaining more precise knowledge of the mesh sizes in actual use by commercial fishing vessels.

### 4. Net Material in Commercial Use

A survey of the net materials presently used in the various member countries confirmed that natural fibres are rapidly becoming replaced by synthetics as materials for making fishing gear. In many countries the change-over to synthetic fibres is practically complete, but in a few others manila is still much used in bottom trawls and cotton in lighter gears (e. g. drift nets).

### 5. Proceedings on Behalf of NEAFC

In order to answer the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission's question concerning the North Sea and Atlanto-Scandian Herring Fisheries, and the North-Eastern Arctic Fisheries:

- (a) a Working Group of herring experts from a number of countries was appointed to meet in January 1965 in Hamburg, and
- (b) the Arctic Fisheries Working Group was reconstituted with representations from the U. S. S. R., Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom. This group did also meet in January 1965 in Hamburg.

### 6. Hydrography

A Pilot Program for speedy telegraphic communication of oceanographic observations was planned to be carried out during January-March 1965 in the North Sea, Skagerak and parts of the Norwegian Sea.

### 7. Cooperation with ICNAF and FAO

- (a) It was agreed that the Council should welcome the ICNAF requests, both for collaboration in discussion of the scientific basis of sampling techniques and for facilities of mid-year meetings of ICNAF Sub-Committees or Working Groups, and do all it can to further encourage collaboration in research across the North Atlantic Ocean.
- (b) The various ways in which the Council and the Fisheries Division of FAO are effectively collaborating was noted with appreciation, and it was agreed that ICES should endorse the recommendation made by ICNAF regarding the desirability of a Symposium on Studies of the Fish and Fish-Food Phases of Production Chains in Marine Communities and offer in their turn to co-operate by serving as co-sponsors, if such a Symposium is proposed by FAO.

8. Statistical Leaflets

Advance drafts of the two first Leaflets prepared by ICES and FAO on Statistical Techniques in Fishery Research were presented and these are now being prepared for printing.

9. Publications

- (a) The Report of the Coalfish Working Group will be published in the series of Cooperative Research Reports.
- (b) The Review of Methods used by member countries to measure Fishing Effort and Catch per Unit Effort will be published in the Statistical News Letters.
- (c) Funds were provided for publication of the Report of the Overflow Expedition of 1960.
- (d) The IGY Atlas "Polar Front Survey in the Northern North Atlantic" will be published by ICES.

10. Future Meetings

- (a) The next Annual Meeting of ICES will be held in Rome from the 4th to the 13th October 1965.
- (b) The recommendation about holding a symposium on the Ecology of Pelagic Fish Species in Arctic Waters in connection with the 1966 Annual Meeting of the Council was renewed, and a Steering Committee with Dr. Erik M. Poulsen as Convenor was nominated.
- (c) It was agreed that a Symposium on the Biology of the Early Stages of Herring and on the Recruitment Mechanism be held in 1967. Mr. A. Saville (Scotland) is to act as Convenor for a working group which is to prepare plans for this symposium.

11. Officers

There was a change of chairmanship in four committees: Mr. M. N. Lishev succeeded Prof. W. Cieglewics in the Baltic Belt Seas Committee, Mr. Steinar Olsen succeeded Mr. R. J. H. Beverton in the Comparative Fishing Committee, Mr. Jon Jonsson succeeded Prof. U. Schmidt in the Gadoid Fish Committee, and Dr. H. Vilela was elected chairman of the Sardine Committee to succeed Dr. F. Lozano.