



ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967

Report of ICES Statistical Committee¹

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

1. Proceedings

The Committee met on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th October. Representatives from most member countries were present, together with Observers from ICNAF, OECD, EEC and FAO. Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach, Secretary of the FAO/ICES/ICNAF Continuing Working Party was appointed Rapporteur.

In opening the meeting the Chairman stressed the current importance of the Committee's task of consolidating the present comprehensive statistical programme. During the past ten years major developments in the statistical programme had taken place, and it was now the Committee's responsibility to take all possible steps to ensure that this programme was fulfilled as completely as possible.

The following items were dealt with:-

1. Bulletin Statistique
 - (a) Progress with publication
 - (b) Publication of value statistics
 - (c) Additional summary tables of catch statistics
 - (d) Statistics of catches taken outside the ICES area
 - (e) Other items
 2. List of Common and Scientific Names of Species
 3. Statistics for ICES Statistical Area (South)
 4. Fishing Vessel List
 5. Statistical News Letters
 6. Factory Trawler Statistics
 7. Fishing Effort Statistics
 8. STANA Reporting Procedures
 9. Relations with Other International Bodies
 10. Election of Chairman
 11. Other Items of Business
1. Bulletin Statistique
 - (a) The General Secretary announced that Volume 48 (for 1963) of the Bulletin Statistique had been published in February 1966, and Volume 49 (for 1964), in October, just prior to commencement of the meeting. He hoped that Volume 50 (for 1965) would be published well in advance of the 1962 meeting of the Council. The Committee expressed its warm appreciation to FAO for making available pre-prints of Tables 1-5 of Volume 50 for 1965. It was agreed that the General Secretary should circulate copies of this preprint to all recipients of the Bulletin Statistique. The Committee also expressed its approval of the fruitful, close collaboration between the Council's statistical office and the statistical office of FAO, which had led to a speeding up in the production of the Bulletin Statistique; and noted with appreciation that Dr. Fridriksson had undertaken the editing of one of the Statistical news letters issues, thereby making it possible to have all issues for 1964 out before the present meeting.

1) also presented to the 1966 ICES meeting as document C.M. 1966/S:11

(b) It was agreed that the "value" statistics, in Tables 3 and 4 should be omitted from all future volumes of the Bulletin Statistique. However, it was agreed to retain these statistics in Table I in Volume 50, and in the meantime, the CWP in the light of information to be sought from member countries, should be asked to examine the adequacy of the data, as currently published in this table for providing rough indices of the trends in total value of the landings in the fisheries in the ICES area.

(c) The Committee agreed that an additional Table (4A) should be introduced in Volume 50 and subsequent volumes of the Bulletin Statistique, giving the catches of the 14 principal ICES species occurring in STANA 1E and of other species in their species group totals taken by member countries in regions outside the ICES Statistical Area (North). It was further agreed that the General Secretary would prepare Table 4A for Volume 50 and also submit it to the CWP at its forthcoming meeting. It was decided that no further summaries of data in Table 4 should be introduced at the present time.

(d) The Committee agreed that Table K of the introductory summary Tables should be extended to include under each species group, details for the 14 main ICES species (asterisked in the STANA 1E forms), and that the Secretary of the CWP should include this table in advance releases of statistics eventually to appear in Bulletin Statistique tables. It was also agreed that the headings of Table J should be adjusted so as to define more clearly the species included in the respective columns.

The General Secretary drew attention to the current deficiencies of some of the introductory summary Tables A - F, giving data for recent years in comparison with 1938. This was due to the large developments in the fisheries in member countries since the war and radical changes in the statistical reporting system since the war. He proposed that the base year should be changed from 1938 to 1962. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the General Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, the Secretary of the CWP, and members of the Committee should make a reappraisal of the contents of the introductory section of the Bulletin Statistique, with special reference to the types of summary statistics and the most appropriate time series data to be included. The Secretary of the CWP informed the Committee that FAO was considering the preparation of a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, giving for selected species in the North Atlantic, long-term time series of catches.

It was agreed that CWP should be asked to consider this problem at its forthcoming meeting, and that further consideration should be given to the contents of the introductory sections of the Bulletin Statistique at the next meeting of the Committee in the light of the CWP's deliberations.

(e) It was agreed that in future volumes of the Bulletin Statistique a list of symbols used in the Tables should be provided; in particular a distinction should be made between a zero catch and an absence of information.

(f) Owing to the introduction of Northern and Southern Demersal and Pelagic Fish Committees, the boundary between which occurs at a different latitude to that of the boundary between the present ICES Statistical Areas (North) and (South), it was agreed that the name of the former should be changed to Northeast Atlantic and that this change would be included in the Notes for the completion of the STANA J and 1E forms.

(g) The Committee found that the information in the Document "ICES Statistical Programme for the 1960's" either was or in the near future could be expected to be available in other publications. It would therefore not now recommend that funds should be provided for printing it.

(h) The Committee expressed its appreciation to FAO for making available to this meeting its Bulletin of Fishery Statistics No. 10, giving "Catches in the North Atlantic" for 1964 together with charts of the breakdown of the North Atlantic into Fishery Commission and Statistical Areas.

2. List of Common and Scientific Names of Species

The Committee noted with approval that the "ICES List of Names of Fish and Shellfish and Charts of ICES and ICNAF Fishing Areas" had now been published in volume 49 of the Bulletin Statistique, and that it is also available as a reprint. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the work done by Dr. Krefft, Dr. Bertelsen and Prof. Rass and the ICES Secretariat in the preparation of the list. It was agreed that this list would be of interest to libraries and scientific institutions in ICES member countries and in other parts of the world. It was agreed that steps should be taken by the General Secretary to ensure the widest possible circulation of this publication, and that consideration be given to charging a small fee for it.

The Committee also noted that the Secretary of the CWP proposes to include this list as one of the sections of the "North Atlantic Species Names" in a forthcoming FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, the full draft of which will be submitted for approval to the next meeting of the CWP. It was also agreed that the General Secretary should send the list to UNESCO in relation to that organisation's work in compiling a catalogue of European fishes.

3. Statistics for ICES Statistical Area (South)

The Committee agreed that, in accordance with the decision taken at last year's meeting, consideration of a more elaborate and better defined statistical system for this area should be deferred until after the "Equatorial Project" Symposium to be held in 1967. It noted that a section of the programme for the Symposium had been allocated to the consideration of relevant statistical problems. A contribution to the Symposium, reviewing the available data on catches and fishing effort for the fisheries in the area covered by the Symposium and outlining the main requirements for developing more detailed statistical reporting, based on the STANA reporting system, would be prepared by the General Secretary in conjunction with the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary of the CWP, who later informed the Committee that his organization had compiled a large volume of statistical data for the Eastern Central Atlantic relevant items of which would be made available to the ICES Secretariat in the preparation of this contribution.

4. Fishing Vessel List.

Further detailed consideration was given to the question whether ICES should take steps, in collaboration with ICNAF to prepare a North Atlantic list of fishing vessels above 150 GRT. The Committee reaffirmed its earlier view that such a list would provide valuable information on the trends in fishing power in the larger highly mobile fishing fleets in the North Atlantic and for other purposes. It noted that ICNAF welcomed the proposal that this list be prepared, whilst wishing to retain its existing ICNAF list, which included vessels of tonnages less than 150 GRT.

It was agreed that the usefulness of such a vessel list was largely dependent on its completeness. It was therefore decided that in order to assess the material currently available the General Secretary should request from member countries relevant information on their fishing vessels in accordance with the schedule of items currently included in the ICNAF list. These data together with other relevant information should be reported to the ICES Secretariat for presentation at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee noted that other international organisations are also interested in data on fishing vessels both for the North Atlantic and other fishing areas, to meet a variety of requirements many of which are similar to those of the Council. In particular, the growing need for a "World Register of Fishing Craft", the possible preparation of which is currently being considered by FAO, was noted. The Committee agreed that the Council should make known to FAO and other interested international organisations its requirements for fishing vessel data and should seek to collaborate with them in its preparation. It was also agreed that further consideration of the desirability and possibilities of preparing such a World Register should be given at the next meeting of the CWP, with special reference to the definition of the items of information required to meet the needs of the different groups of users (Rec. A(1)). It was also felt that the preparation of a standardized set of vessel items for such an international register, could form the basis also for national reporting of such data.

5. Statistical News Letters

The Committee noted with approval that 6 numbers of the Statistical News Letters series had been issued since the last meeting. However, it recognised that there are still a number of important gaps in the statistical and stock-record data submitted by member countries. It was agreed that all countries should be urged to supply such data in accordance with recommendations passed at earlier meetings of the Committee, and those of the "Statistical News Letters Working Group", and the Committee endorsed the Recommendation C (1) passed by the Herring Committee.

6. Factory Trawler Statistics

The Committee again noted the growing difficulties in some countries in collecting statistics of catch and fishing effort, according to the area and time of capture for these factory trawler fleets, which undertake long voyages, often covering a number of statistical areas. The Secretary of the CWP announced that the results of enquiries which he had made concerning these difficulties and the methods of dealing with them in countries with such fleets would be presented to the forthcoming meeting of the CWP, which would report the results of its deliberations on this problem to the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Fishing Effort Statistics

(a) The information supplied by countries on their definitions of future effort measures and their breakdown of the classes of fishing units used in reporting catch and fishing effort statistics was noted. It was agreed that further consideration of these items should be made at the forthcoming meeting of the CWP, with a view to standardizing the definitions of fishing effort units in reporting fishing effort statistics.

(b) It was also agreed that amendments to the "Notes" for the completion of STANA 1E forms should be made to clarify the reporting of fishing effort data for pair-trawlers.

(c) It was decided that the category "otter trawl" in the gear categories for which fishing effort data are reported for publication in Table 6 of Bulletin Statistique, should be divided into "stern" and "side" trawling respectively, and that the "Notes" for the completion of the STANA 1E forms be amended accordingly.

8. STANA Reporting Procedures

Amendments to the Notes for the completion of STANA reporting forms arising from decisions taken at the meeting were noted.

9. Relations with other International Bodies

(a) The Chairman announced that the 5th Session of the CWP will take place in April 1967, probably in Aberdeen, Scotland. It was agreed that the Council be requested to provide the necessary funds for the General Secretary, the Chairman of the Committee, who are the ICES members of the Working Party to attend the meeting (Rec. A(2)).

(b) The Observers from the Statistical Offices of the European Communities and from the Fisheries Division of OECD announced that their organisations would probably be convening meetings during the coming year at which matters of direct relevance to the ICES statistical programme would be dealt with. The Committee agreed that the close collaboration between the Council and these organisations in their statistical activities should be maintained, and that the Council should be requested to make the necessary funds available for the Council to be represented at these meetings should they be relevant.

10. Election of Chairman

Mr. B.B. Parrish was elected Chairman of the Statistics Committee for the coming year.

11. Acknowledgements

In concluding the meeting the Chairman expressed the Committee's appreciation of the continued valuable assistance provided by Mr. Gertenbach, the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party and the FAO Statistical Office in fulfilling its statistical programme.

II. Contributions

S:1	F.A.O.	"Maps of the Northern Atlantic Fishing Areas".
S:2	F.A.O.	"Catches in The North Atlantic".
S:3	F.A.O.	"Notes for the completion of STANA 1E".
S:4	F.A.O.	"1. Summaries of Nominal Catch in the North-East Atlantic". "2. 1965 Nominal Catch by Species and Countries in the North-East Atlantic".
S:5 Ref. Comp. Fish.Cttee.	F.A.O.	"Report on National Definitions of Fishing Effort Measures".
S:6 Ref. Comp. Fish.Cttee.	F.A.O.	"List of National Classes of Fishing Units used in Catch Effort Statistics".
A:7	F.A.O.	Not issued
S:8	F.A.O.	"Proforma of proposed ICES List of Fishing Craft, based on the ICNAF Pattern" and "ICNAF Comments (1966) on Proposed List of Fishing Craft for the North Atlantic".
S:9	Hans Tambs-Lyche	"Report of the Statistical Editor".
S:10	ICNAF	"Report of the ICNAF Statistics and Sampling Sub-Committee".

III. Recommendations

The Statistical Committee recommends:-

- A (1) that the necessary funds be made available for the General Secretary and the Chairman of the Committee to attend the 5th Session of the FAO/ICES/ ICNAF Working Party on Fishery Statistics in North Atlantic Area, which will take place in April 1967, probably in Aberdeen, Scotland.
- A (2) that funds be made available for the Council to be represented at meetings which may be held during the coming year by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the Fisheries Division of OECD should the subject matter be of direct relevance to the Council's statistical programme.