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PROPOSALS FOR THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS FOR THE
WATERS TO THE SOUTH OF THE ICNAF CONVENTION AREA

by

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 Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. During its meeting in May-June 1966, Madrid, the ICNAF Subcommittee on Statistics and Sampling considered the possibility of extending southwards the area for which ICNAF would collect catch/effort statistics by fishing areas and species, and referred these questions to the Fifth Session of the Continuing Working Party.

1.2. These matters were considered already by the Continuing Working Party during its Third Session in 1963; its recommendations were not accepted by ICNAF in 1963, who considered it inappropriate under the circumstances then prevailing.

1.3. Acting on the 1966 Redbook Recommendation 13 (ii) of the ICNAF Subcommittee on Statistics and Sampling, the Executive Secretary of ICNAF approached the United States authorities for information and was informed by letter of 26 August 1966 that the United States is not now using a reporting system beyond territorial waters. However, they recommended a scheme for a Statistical Area 6, and added that using degree lines for statistical divisions could ultimately fit into the system used in the Gulf and Caribbean. The United States also recommended that Division 5Z be divided into 5Ze and 5Zw. Ideally, they stated, 5Zw would be included in proposed statistical divisions 6A and 6B, but it did not seem appropriate to them to have statistical divisions which overlap Convention lines.

1.4. Using part of the United States scheme proposed in August 1966, the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party prepared a draft paper submitted to ICNAF. Following distribution of draft copies of this paper through the Executive Secretary of ICNAF to US, USSR and Canadian authorities, the three countries questioned the necessity for having the subarea divided into divisions of one degree. The USA presented in December 1966 a second scheme for a statistical Subarea 6 for consideration by the Continuing Working Party. This scheme differs from its earlier proposal made in August 1966.

1.5. Canadian authorities have reviewed all the various alternatives and favour that presented in December 1966 by the US authorities.

1.6. In order that the Continuing Working Party may review this question further, the details of the various schemes have been assembled, document STANA:5/67/8E to provide the background, together with proposals for extending the STANA system to an area which, for the time being, is to be called in these papers the "Southwest North Atlantic".

2. EXTRACTS OF REPORTS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS

2.1. Extract from the Report of the Third Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, 18-22 March 1963, Rome (FAO Fisheries Reports No. 7 - File/R7):

"The Continuing Working Party noted that the eastward limit on the Atlantic side of the ICNAF Statistical Area is a line from the Greenland coast (Cape Farewell) due south along 44°00' west longitude to 59°00' north latitude; thence due east to 42°00' west longitude; thence due south to 39°00' north latitude. It also noted that the southern boundary of the ICNAF Statistical Area runs from 42°00' west longitude due west along 39°00' north latitude to 71°40' west longitude*; thence due north to the Rhode Island coast."

* In the original Report this was erroneously given as 71°00' west longitude.

"The Continuing Working Party suggested that ICNAF should consider at its next annual meeting extension of its Statistical Area southward and that through this proposed southward extension the line 42°00' west longitude be its eastward boundary. This boundary would run from a point in 42°00' west longitude and 39°00' north latitude due south to approximately 36°00' north latitude (the southernmost boundary of the ICES Statistical Area) and thence in a westerly, or north-westerly, or south-westerly direction to a point on the North American shore; this point to be based on a recommendation to be made by the United States having regard to an appropriate division of the fisheries along its Atlantic seaboard."

2.2 Extract from the ICNAF Redbook 1963, Part I (Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Proceedings 1963):

"(b) Statistical Areas

The Subcommittee reviewed the proposal of the Continuing Working Party which outlined the extension of the Area of ICNAF's statistical responsibilities to the southward and

recommends (52)

that ICNAF should not extend its statistical boundaries."

2.3. Extract from the ICNAF Redbook 1966, Part I (Standing Committee on Research and Statistics Proceedings 1966):

"8. Extension of ICNAF Statistics Collection Southward

The Subcommittee interpreted this item to be within its field and considered questions about collection and publication of catch/effort data by country, species and fishing area for the region off the east coast of North America south of the ICNAF Convention Area. From Article VI of the Convention, paragraphs 1(b) and 1(f), ICNAF is empowered to request such information. The Subcommittee was informed by the Continuing Working Party Secretary that FAO collects for publication, total nominal catch figures by countries and species for the Western Central Atlantic, a region which includes the area of most interest to ICNAF. The Subcommittee recognized an urgent need for catch/effort statistics for the region between the ICNAF Convention Area and Cape Hatteras, and agreed that a joint statistics collection scheme for this region should be worked out. It considered that the Continuing Working Party was the most appropriate body to advise ICNAF in this matter."

2.4. Extract from the draft report of the Fifth Session of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area (10-15 April 1967)

"14.2 The extension of the ICNAF statistical area to the water adjoining its southern boundary

14.2.1 The Continuing Working Party reviewed document STANA:5/67/8E which contains a report prepared by the Secretary in response to a request made by ICNAF in 1966. It noted that this document also includes various proposals made by the United States Authorities.

14.2.2 The Continuing Working Party recommends:

(a) that the Secretary of the Continuing Working Party prepare a new version of the materials contained in document STANA:5/67/8E to provide a description of the proposals made by the United States in December 1966 and to present this paper to the forthcoming meeting of ICNAF at the end of May 1967;

(b) that ICNAF review and accept the proposal made by the United States in December 1966."

3. PROPOSALS ACCEPTED BY THE CONTINUING WORKING PARTY

3.1. ICNAF should consider adding Subarea 6 to the five subareas now forming part of its statistical area. This Subarea 6 would cover what is provisionally called the "waters of the Southwest North Atlantic". This proposed Subarea 6 could be defined as follows:

Waters of the Southwest North Atlantic bounded by a line beginning at a point on the coast of Rhode Island in 71°40' west longitude; thence due south to 39°00' north latitude; thence due east to 42°00' west longitude; thence due south to 35°00' north latitude; thence due west to the coast of North America, thence northwards along the east coast of Hatteras Island, past Oregon Inlet along the Atlantic coast of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island to the point of beginning.

3.2. It would appear that there are no obstacles to prevent ICNAF from extending its statistical area to beyond its Convention boundaries. This has already been done by including in ICNAF's Statistical Area the territorial waters adjoining the existing five subareas of the ICNAF Convention Area.

3.3. This southward extension of ICNAF to 35°00' north latitude, would result in the ICNAF Statistical Area having a southern boundary at nearly the same latitude, i.e. 36°00' north, as the ICES (Northeast Atlantic) Statistical Area. The North Atlantic Region would then consist of (a) the Northwest Atlantic, covered by ICNAF, and including the Southwest North Atlantic waters, and (b) the Northeast Atlantic, covered by the ICES Northeast Atlantic Statistical Area. It would, therefore, take in all Atlantic waters lying to the north of a line drawn along 36°00' north latitude from Punta Marroqui (the southernmost point of the European continent) due west to 42°00' west longitude, thence due south to 36°00' north latitude, thence due west to a point near Cape Hatteras on the North American coast.

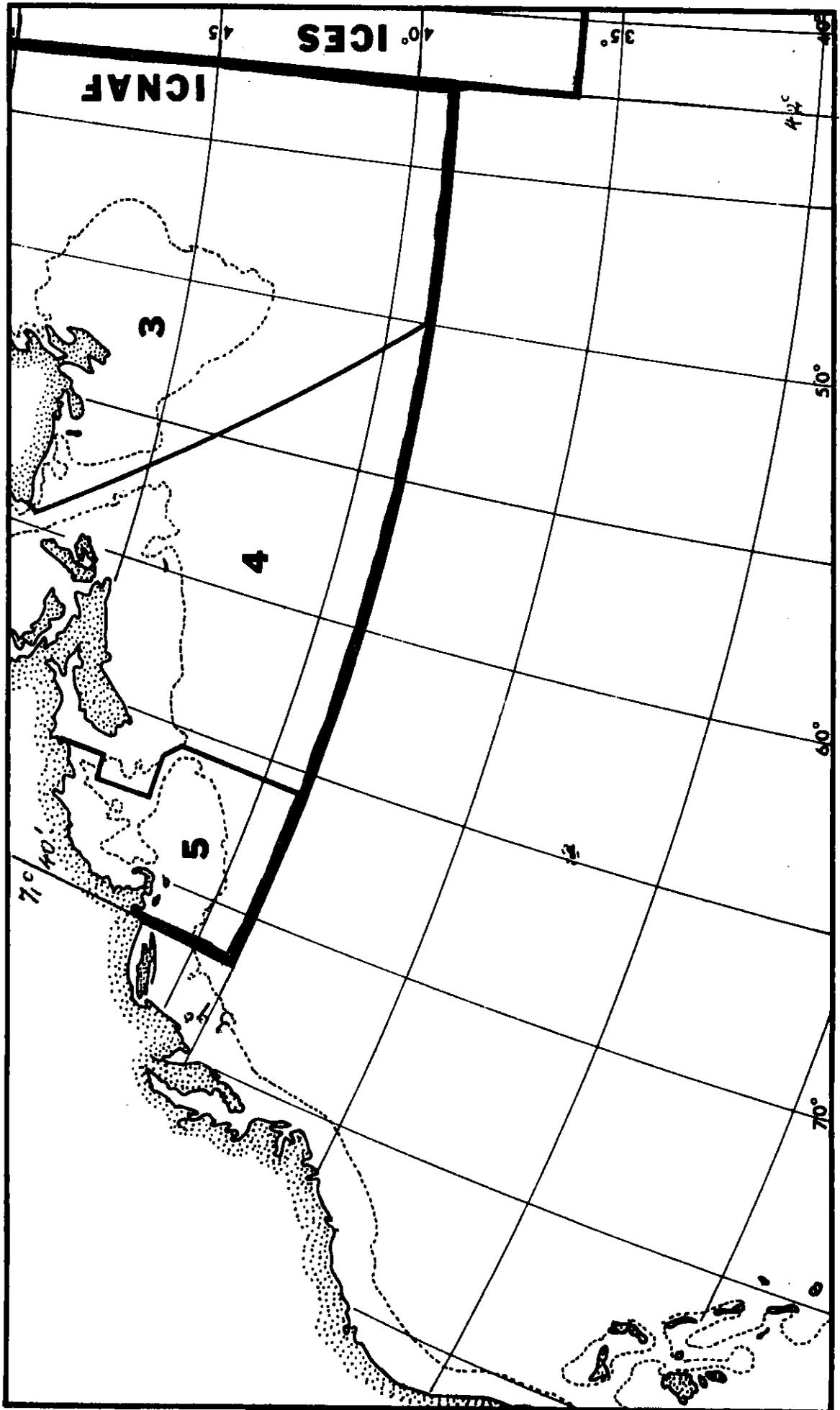
3.4. This would require an adjustment in the statistics prepared by FAO on a worldwide basis according to major fishing areas. The catches reported in the southwest north Atlantic, which have until now been included in FAO's "Western Central Atlantic", would have to be transferred for past, current and future years, to the Northwest Atlantic. These adjustments in the FAO tabulations should create no great difficulties to the FAO Secretariat.

3.5. Changes would have to be made in certain parts of the notes for the completion of the STANA 2 ICNAF Summary and STANA 1W forms. The map of the North Atlantic would have to be re-drawn with minor changes to indicate the extension of the ICNAF area to the new subarea, and the list of species would have to be expanded.

3.6. However, it will be necessary for ICNAF, when it makes this decision, to decide also on certain details which would then have to be included in the Notes for the STANA reporting system. These are as follows: (a) the precise breakdown of the divisions of Subarea 6, and (b) the common names and scientific names of any species of commercial significance in the proposed Subarea 6 not yet appearing as individual entries in the ICNAF list of species. These are to be added to this ICNAF list.

3.7. ICNAF could also consider the possibility of creating within Subarea 6 a separate division for the waters of Chesapeake Bay, by drawing a line either from Cape Charles to Cape Henry or by drawing it along 76°00' west longitude. Either of these two lines would separate the Chesapeake Bay waters from the open waters of the proposed divisions 6B and 6C, as shown in Appendix II.

Appendix I. Base map showing present extent of ICNAF statistical collections southward.



Appendix II. Proposal for extension of ICNAF statistics collections southward.

