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Proposals for Amendments in the Representation on the
Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the
North Atlantic Area

by

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 During 1967, the CWP, ICNAF and ICES made certain proposals regarding the appointment of representatives to the CWP, as well as suggestions for slightly amending its title.

The second part of COFI/68/15, presented to the Third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, 24-30 April 1968, contains (i) a summary reviewing the activities of the CWP, and (ii) the proposals made by the CWP, ICNAF and ICES. These paragraphs, extracted from document COFI/68/15, are given in Appendix A to this paper. Paragraph 36, as indicated in the footnote to this appendix, has been slightly amended following discussions between the Observer for ICES at the recent COFI Session and the FAO Secretariat.

2. Action taken by COFI

- 2.1 COFI discussed the proposals regarding the future of the CWP, and reported as follows (possibly subject to one or two minor editing changes):

- (a) The Committee was informed that the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area (CWP) as well as ICES and ICNAF who participated with FAO in the CWP, had suggested certain changes in its composition and its title.
- (b) The Committee accordingly decided to recommend to the Council to take steps to have the statutes of CWP amended so that it would be composed of experts of whom FAO, ICNAF and ICES would each appoint up to four, each organization following its own constitutional procedures;
- (1) its title would henceforth be "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics"; and

- (2) it would be made clear that as far as FAO was concerned the CWP was established as a joint working party of experts under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Constitution and that the Director-General would continue to appoint to it individuals in their personal capacity to participate on behalf of FAO.
- (c) The Committee in noting the usefulness of the work of the CWP further recommended that FAO should continue to provide the secretariat services of the CWP, to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES.
- (d) In recommending the new title of this body, the Committee noted that the statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic area were valuable in relation to other areas in the Atlantic Ocean, and that opportunity should be taken, whenever it offered, to apply these procedures and concepts in other parts of this Ocean.

3. Explanatory Notes

- 3.1 Should the recommendations which COFI is making in its report for action by the FAO Council, to be held from 7-25 October 1968, be acceptable to both ICNAF and ICES, the Secretary of the CWP would arrange to change the title as from 1 November 1968 to Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics.
- 3.2 The inter-agency CWP is to meet annually, but it should be stressed that it would deal with statistical questions relating to fishing areas other than the Northeast and the Northwest Atlantic only every second year, and that it would confine itself to the North Atlantic problems in the alternate years. Taking this arrangement into account, the following schedules of sessions and their coverage are presented provisionally for review by FAO, ICES and ICNAF:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Areas covered</u>
1968	- Sixth	Northwest and Northeast Atlantic
1969	- Seventh	Western-central and Eastern-central Atlantic Mediterranean and Black Sea Southeast and Southwest Atlantic
1970	- Eighth	Northwest and Northeast Atlantic
1971	- Ninth	Western-central and Eastern-central Atlantic Mediterranean and Black Sea Southeast and Southwest Atlantic
1972	- Tenth	Northwest and Northeast Atlantic

1973 and subsequent odd-numbered years:

Western-central and Eastern-central Atlantic
Mediterranean and Black Sea
Southeast and Southwest Atlantic

1974 and subsequent even-numbered years:

Northwest and Northeast Atlantic

- 3.3 The cost of statistical forms not relating to the North Atlantic would not be the financial responsibility of ICNAF or of ICES where these forms relate to statistical areas not of direct concern to ICNAF and ICES. The existing forms used for the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic would be identified by the well-known abbreviation "STANA". It is proposed that the other forms, used for the Western-central, Eastern-central and the Southeast and Southwest Atlantic would carry the code name "STATLANT", the abbreviation for "Statistics-Atlantic".

APPENDIX A^{1/}

CONTINUING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE
NORTH ATLANTIC AREA: ITS ACTIVITIES AND PROPOSED CHANGES

Establishment of the Continuing Working Party (CWP)

23. The Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, organized by FAO, co-sponsored by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), and held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22 - 29 September 1959, recommended the formation by FAO, ICES and ICNAF of a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area. Paragraph 91 B of the report of this expert meeting reads as follows:

" On the completion of the proceedings the following conclusions were agreed by the Meeting:

- (i) The Meeting invites the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, and ICES, ICNAF and FAO to appoint one expert each to form a continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic area with the power to co-opt additional members to help them in their tasks.
- (ii) The Working Party should keep under continuous review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting, consult with the officers of governments and of international organizations with respect to difficulties encountered and, keeping in mind the actual state of fishery statistical services in the different countries, make suggestions for further national and international action in its field to governments and international organizations as appropriate.
- (iii) The Meeting requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to arrange for its Fisheries Division to function as Secretariat for the meetings of this Working Party. "

24. The report of this expert meeting was presented to the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, 1959, which adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No.23/59

"THE CONFERENCE

"Notes with satisfaction that the Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, organized by FAO, co-sponsored by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, and held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-30 September 1959, has agreed on recommendations to governments and international organizations designed to improve and considerably simplify the collection and reporting of fishery statistics in the North Atlantic area

"Welcomes the suggestion of the meeting for the establishment of a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, to keep under continuous review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting, consult with the officers of governments and of international organizations with respect to difficulties encountered and, keeping in mind the actual state of fishery statistical services in the different countries, make suggestions for further national and international action in its field to governments and international organizations as appropriate.

1/ This is the second, Paragraphs 23 through 39, of three parts of a Paper COFI/68/15 (OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED BY THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE AND BY THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AT ITS SECOND SESSION: Expert advice to FAO in the field of fisheries) presented to the FAO Committee on Fisheries Third Session, Rome, 24 - 30 April 1968, for discussion under Item 9 of its Provisional Agenda.

"Agrees that the Working Party should consist of one governmental expert each nominated by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, one expert each nominated by the Secretary-General of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the North-West Atlantic Fisheries, one expert nominated by the Director-General of FAO, and such additional experts as may be nominated by the Working Party itself; and

"Authorizes and requests the Director-General to establish the Working Party in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution and to arrange, as requested by the meeting, for the FAO Fisheries Division to function as secretariat for the Working Party."

Activities and Achievements of the Continuing Working Party

25. The following five Sessions have taken place during the eight years 1960-1967:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Report</u>
First	Bergen, Norway	25-26 May 1960	} Fisheries Circular } No.37
Second	Washington, D.C.	6 - 8 June 1961	
Third	Rome	18-22 March 1963	FAO Fish. Rep., (7)
Fourth	Rome	9 -12 March 1965	FAO Fish. Rep., (21)
Fifth	Aberdeen, Scotland	10-14 April 1967	FAO Fish. Rep., (45)

It is proposed to hold the Sixth Session in 1968 and the Seventh in 1969. The Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference, November 1967, approved the proposals for holding the Sixth and Seventh Sessions.

Achievements

26. During the eight years of its existence, the CWP has become the principal instrument for the coordination of fishery statistics of the North Atlantic by FAO, ICES and ICNAF in consultation with experts from member countries of the agencies served and with observers from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC).

27. By integrating and coordinating the statistical programs of FAO, ICES and ICNAF relating to the fishery statistics of the North Atlantic Area, the CWP has made possible the standardization of statistical reporting systems, resulting in the elimination of many individual reporting forms and the adoption of a limited number of standard statistical questionnaires. The standard classification of species, vessels and fishing gear, together with the adoption of standard definitions of fishing effort, has greatly facilitated the work in the national offices of reporting North Atlantic fishery statistics to the three agencies represented on the CWP. For the same reason, the work of the CWP has brought about the improvement of both the quantity and quality of fishery statistics and has facilitated the timely submission of statistical data from national offices to the three agencies served. At the same time, the work of the secretariats of the international agencies which established the CWP has also been significantly facilitated (e.g. instead of each agency submitting individual statistical requests to national offices, single requests are made on behalf of these agencies by the Secretary of the CWP). In brief, the overall result of the work of the CWP has been that more and better statistics have been obtained through less effort, and much greater comparability of fishery data published by FAO, ICES and ICNAF has been achieved.

28. While the CWP has confined its attention to the development and improvement of fishery statistics relating to the North Atlantic, the benefits have not accrued solely to countries fishing in that area. The statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic have, in fact, served as models for application in fishing areas elsewhere. The results attained are being extended to other parts of the world, especially to areas where other bodies have been or are being established within the framework of FAO.

29. Specialized fishery statistics, especially those relating to catch and effort, which national offices are collecting for ICES and ICNAF and which are also used by the Fish Stock Evaluation Branch of FAO, are subject to constant refinement and improvement. This is so because of the changes which are taking place both in the fishing industry and in the techniques applied in stock evaluation. It is for this reason that the CWP continues to play an important role in coordinating fishery statistical programs and in keeping under continuous review the concepts, definitions, classifications and techniques of data collection and processing in use in an area as important as the North Atlantic.

Proposed changes in the representation on the Continuing Working Party

Action by the CWP

30. In paragraph (16.4) of the Report of the Fifth Session held in Aberdeen, Scotland, 10-14 April 1967, the CWP recommended for consideration by ICES, ICNAF and FAO:

- "(a) that ICNAF, ICES and FAO should continue to be represented in the Continuing Working Party by two members and that observers from other interested agencies, e.g. the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Statistical Office of the European Communities, continue to be invited to attend the Continuing Working Party's sessions as in the past;
- "(b) that the number of national representatives in the Continuing Working Party should stay the same, i.e. a total of four, but that beginning in 1967 and each year thereafter, ICNAF and ICES should each nominate one country for membership for a period of two years; that for this purpose Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany could be considered to have been nominated by ICNAF, and the United Kingdom and Iceland by ICES, when the Continuing Working Party was established in 1960, and one of each pair of members could be replaced or renominated at the 1967 meetings of ICNAF and ICES;
- "(c) that as far as possible the national representatives should be chosen so as to cover between them all the fields of interest of the Continuing Working Party - administration, biology, economics, technology, etc;
- "(d) that the terms of reference remain the same, although the desirability of a review at the Sixth Session would possibly arise;
- "(e) that the name of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area be changed to Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic, and that this body be established on an inter-agency basis; "

Action by ICNAF

31. The Report of the Fifth Session of the CWP was reviewed by ICNAF at its annual meeting in May-June 1967, and the following has been extracted from its report:

"Representation on the CWP

At its fifth session, the CWP considered its terms of reference; the continuing need for such a group; its name; and possible changes in representation on the CWP. The subcommittee supported the conclusions reached by the CWP to rename the group the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic. The subcommittee agreed that one country from North America should be included in national representation on the CWP. For immediate action, it was agreed that the Federal Republic of Germany should be replaced, preferably by Denmark. After the 1968 meeting of the CWP it is expected that the USA will replace Canada."

Action by ICES in 1967

32. The report of the CWP and the action taken by ICNAF was also reviewed by ICES at its annual meeting in October 1967, and the following is extracted from the report of ICES:

" The Committee considered the recommendations of the CWP regarding its future composition, terms of reference, title and status. It endorsed the CWP's view that despite the growing importance of fishing activities in areas other than the North Atlantic, it should continue to concentrate its activities, for the time being, on the statistical problems in the North Atlantic, with special reference to improving the quality of catch and effort statistics, but also to the development and improvement in "economic" statistics (e.g. products, prices, fishing fleets, etc.)

"The Committee also recommends (B(5))

- "(a) that the CWP's proposals regarding its future composition be approved by ICES, and that France be invited to replace Iceland in the Committee for the next two years.
- "(b) that the Council approve the new name of the Working Party as the "Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic";
- "(c) that the Working Party be established on an inter-agency basis. "

Proposals for Consideration by the Committee on Fisheries

33. It is now necessary to consider what action might be recommended to FAO's governing bodies respecting the future status of the CWP.

34. An urgent question which requires consideration is that of the composition of the CWP. In accordance with Resolution 23/59, the CWP has heretofore been composed of seven experts, one designated by each of four specified Governments, and one each by the Executive Heads of FAO, ICNAF and ICES. In addition, Resolution 23/59 also provides that additional experts may be appointed by the CWP itself.

35. In order to facilitate the rotation of the Governments which might be invited to nominate experts, it would seem desirable not to designate the Governments by name. In this way, no action would be required of the governing bodies of the three organizations which established the CWP every time that different Governments were invited to nominate experts. Moreover, it would be desirable for the three organizations to retain full authority to appoint members of the CWP and not to allow the latter to appoint additional members. This would conform to FAO's normal procedures.

36. ^{2/} It is therefore suggested that, in order not to restrict the membership of the CWP unduly, FAO, ICNAF and ICES should each appoint from two to four experts acting in their personal capacity. Each organization would follow its own constitutional procedures with respect to the nomination of these experts, and ICNAF and ICES could approach individual governments with a view to their designating experts who would be, on account of their functions, in a good position to advise on questions relating to the reporting of fishery statistics by Governments. As far as FAO is concerned, a recommendation might be made to the Council to the effect that the Director-General should continue to appoint individuals to participate on behalf of FAO, and to continue providing the secretariat services of the CWP. FAO would continue to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES.

37. The title of the CWP might also be changed to "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fisheries Statistics".

38. If the Committee endorses the suggestion made in this paper, it may wish to recommend appropriate action by the Council at its next session in October 1968. Such an opportunity might also be taken to make it clear, as far as FAO is concerned, that the CWP was established as a joint FAO/ICES/ICNAF inter-agency Working Party of Experts under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the FAO Constitution. It should be noted that this is an inter-agency body to coordinate statistical programs and that members of the secretariats of the agencies would play an important part in its work. As far as FAO is concerned these FAO staff members would be designated by the Director-General.

39. The Council is carrying out a review of FAO's statutory bodies, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) stressed in paragraph 23 of the report of its Seventeenth Session that it would be desirable to specify the precise authority and provisions under which statutory bodies were established. These clarifications would serve to eliminate any doubt which might arise under the terms of Resolution 23/59 as to the composition and membership of the CWP.

^{2/} During its discussion of this paper, COFI was informed that following discussion between the Observer from ICES and the FAO Secretariat, Paragraph 36 has been slightly modified as follows:

"It is therefore suggested that, in order not to restrict the membership of the CWP unduly, FAO, ICNAF and ICES should each appoint up to four experts. Each organization would follow its own constitutional procedures with respect to the nomination of these experts. As far as FAO is concerned, a recommendation might be made to the Council to the effect that the Director-General should continue to appoint individuals acting in their personal capacity to participate on behalf of FAO, and to continue providing the secretariat services of the CWP. FAO would continue to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES."