



**Report of the Sixth Session**

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**COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS**

**Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 - 7 February 1969**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ROME, 1969**



Report of the  
Sixth Session of the Coordinating  
Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics

Copenhagen, Denmark  
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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Rome, April 1969

## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the Report of the Sixth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP) held at the ICES Headquarters, Charlottenlund Slot, Charlottenlund, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3-7 February 1969.

Until the end of 1968 the CWP was known as the "Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area". The change of name has been authorized in decisions taken by ICES, ICNAF and FAO during 1968.

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1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND RELATED PROCEDURAL MATTERS

(Agenda Item 1)

- 1.1 Mr. Már Elísson (Iceland), the Chairman of the Fifth Session of the CWP (Aberdeen, Scotland, 10 - 14 April 1967) opened the Sixth Session of the recently renamed body - now called the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (previously known as the "Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area"). Item 1 of the Draft Agenda, dealing with procedural matters was adopted.
- 1.2 The Chairman introduced Mr. K. Løkkegaard, Kontorchef, Fiskeriministeriet, Copenhagen, who extended a welcome to the members on behalf of the Government of Denmark and its Ministry of Fisheries. Mr. Hans Tambs-Lyche, General Secretary of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, then welcomed the participants to the ICES headquarters, noting that the very first meeting reflecting FAO, ICES and ICNAF cooperation in fishery statistics had been held in the same locale (First International Meeting on Fishery Statistics, 26 - 30 May 1952, Copenhagen, Denmark).
- 1.3 The Chairman welcomed the observers present from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Council of Europe Secretariat. The Secretary informed the meeting that the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) had expressed regrets at being unable to have a staff member attend the Sixth Session. The Chairman welcomed Mr. J. Møller Christensen, the newly appointed Statistician to the Secretariat of ICES.
- 1.4 The Secretary, on invitation of the Chairman, explained that the new terms of reference of the CWP are being drafted by the FAO, ICES and ICNAF Secretariats, for approval by their governing bodies during 1969. It was also felt that new rules of procedure should be prepared for approval at the Seventh Session. In the meantime, it was agreed that, as far as applicable, the CWP should operate during this Sixth Session under the old terms of reference and rules of procedure.
- 1.5 Mr. Antonin Proulx (Canada) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Sixth Session.
- 1.6 It was decided that two Vice-Chairmen should be elected to ensure continuity, particularly in view of the extension of the CWP activities to the South and Central Atlantic.
- 1.7 Mme. G. Rossignol (France) was unanimously elected First Vice-Chairwoman, and Mr. K. Løkkegaard (Denmark) Second Vice-Chairman.
- 1.8 The Draft Agenda and the Schedule of Work were reviewed and adopted.
- 1.9 Rapporteurs were appointed and assigned agenda items as follows:
  - 1.1 - 1.7 Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
  - 2.1 Mr. J. Møller Christensen
  - 2.2 Dr. A.W. May
  - 2.3 Mr. W.F. Doucet
  - 2.4 Mr. P.L.C. Adam and Mr. W.F. Doucet
  - 2.5 Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
  - 2.6 Mr. J.A. Gulland

1.9 (concluded)

- 3.1 - 3.3 Mr. L.R. Day
- 4.1 - 4.5 Mr. P.L.C. Adam, Mr. L.R. Day and Mr. W.F. Doucet
- 5.1 - 5.2 Mme. G. Rossignol, Mr. H. Tambs-Lyche and Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
- 6.1 - 6.2 Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
- 7.1 Mr. J. Møller Christensen
- 8.1 - 8.6 Mr. M. Elisson, Mr. J.A. Pope and Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach
- 9, 10, 11 Mr. L.P.D. Gertenbach

- 1.10 The Sixt Session of the CWP covered nine morning and afternoon meetings. Mr. Proulx chaired eight meetings; Mme. Rossignol chaired one.

## 2. ICES STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATIONS

### (Agenda Item 2.1)

- 2.1 The General Secretary of ICES presented the fishery statistical programme of ICES (STANA:69/6/2A, "Report on the ICES statistical programme, 1967-69"). He reviewed the status of publications and stated that preparation of the Bulletin Statistique is now carried out by the ICES Secretariat without any delay. In the future the date of issue would depend on whether reporting countries keep the deadline set.
- 2.2 The CWP was informed that Portugal, in spite of numerous requests, had not yet forwarded data for the ICES Bulletin Statistique 1967 (deadline 31 May 1968). Also some of the STANA 1E data for the ICES Statistical News Letters, Vol. 41, "Nominal Catch and Fishing Effort, by Month", were still not available at the time of the meeting (deadline 15 May 1968).
- 2.3 The General Secretary asked the CWP to consider what could be done to assist countries in avoiding delays in reporting statistical data. After some discussion, it was agreed that personal communication with the Portuguese authorities it was necessary.
- 2.4 The CWP therefore recommends:
- That a meeting be arranged at a convenient opportunity between the Portuguese authorities responsible for compiling and preparing statistical data and a delegation from the Coordinating Working Party consisting of representatives from FAO and ICES, to discuss possible means which could overcome delays in reporting fishery statistics.
- 2.5 The CWP agreed that it would not be advisable to publish the ICES Bulletin Statistique without including the data from all countries. The CWP suggested that in the future all letters sent to national reporting offices concerning fishery statistics of the North Atlantic area should have a CWP letterhead which would include the names of ICES, ICNAF and FAO.

- 2.6 The General Secretary of ICES informed the Coordinating Working Party of changes in the lay-out and contents of the Bulletin Statistique of ICES. He stated that the alterations recommended by the CWP at its last meeting had been implemented. No changes were reported in the Statistical News Letters.
- 2.7 The General Secretary announced that the post of Statistician of ICES had been filled. Accordingly, it was now possible (a) to compile long-term series of nominal catch statistics for some important species in the ICES area and (b) to appraise the present statistical coverage in the ICES Statistical Area (North) both with respect to the Bulletin Statistique and the Statistical News Letters.
- 2.8 The General Secretary stated that ICES would hold a special meeting in conjunction with its Statutory Meeting in 1970 to discuss "methods for measurement of fishing effort for different fisheries and application of such methods for fishery statistics". Also an ICES Working Group would "study the problems of evaluating the various characteristics of fishing vessels in terms of their effect on fishing effort measurement".
- 2.9 The CWP noted that the Consultative Committee of ICES at its 1968 meeting had discussed the need to collect effort and catch per unit effort statistics with respect to the trawl fishery for (i) Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and (ii) deepwater prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) through the STANA forms (for CWP action see Section 12.3 of this Report).

### 3. ICNAF STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATIONS

#### (Agenda Item 2.2)

- 3.1 The Executive Secretary of ICNAF presented the report of the ICNAF Statistical Programme, 1967-69 (STANA:69/6/2C). Cooperation of member countries in submitting catch and effort data was considered good, and all except one or two countries reported by means of STANA forms. Statistical data from non-member countries were obtained by direct correspondence and with the assistance of the Secretary of the CWP.
- 3.2 The CWP was advised that the ICNAF Statistical Area had been extended southward to the Cape Hatteras region (Sub-area.6), and that Division 5Z had been divided into two Sub-divisions, 5Ze (East) and 5Zw (West). Catch and effort data for the new Sub-area 6 were included in Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 16 for 1966.
- 3.3 The Executive Secretary advised that subjects currently under review, for the improvement of statistical reporting, included the separation of Atlantic halibut and Greenland halibut, the criteria used by countries in reporting "main species sought" on the STANA 1W forms, and the ICNAF species grouping.
- 3.4 The Executive Secretary reported that continued, close cooperation with FAO and ICES was maintained directly and through the CWP. Cooperation with OECD and SOEC was also continued through the CWP.

- 3.5 Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 15 for 1965 and Vol. 16 for 1966 were distributed in March 1967 and April 1968 respectively. Preparation of Vol. 17 for 1967 has been delayed by late submission of data from a non-member country, due to the reorganization of its statistical office and procedure.
- 3.6 The Executive Secretary reviewed changes and additions to the list of species in Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 16 for 1966 and Vol. 17 for 1967, and reported on changes in headings and format in these issues (STANA:69/6/2C). ICES total catches and catches of species of common interest to ICES and ICNAF have been included in Table 3, beginning with Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 16.
- 3.7 ICNAF Statistical Form 4 has been revised to distinguish between discards (whole fish thrown overboard at sea) and fish used for industrial purposes (whole fish turned at sea into fish meal). A summary of the statistics on fish discards for 1966 was published in the ICNAF Redbook 1968, Part III, p. 29 - 36.
- 3.8 Preparation of the 1968 List of Vessels which will include a summary of fishing effort for 1966, 1967 and 1968 is in progress. Reporting countries have been asked to distinguish between (a) echo-sounder (vertical) and (b) horizontal ranger to supply radio call signals. Data on propellers, radio and navigational equipment are no longer requested.
- 3.9 Sampling Yearbook, Vol. 12 for 1967, containing length and age data for selected major species and a summary of sampling activity is in preparation.
- 3.10 Statistics of catches of harp and hood seals in the Northwest Atlantic will be published in the Statistical Bulletin of ICNAF in the near future. FAO expressed an interest in a common reporting form for seal statistics.
- 3.11 The problem of obtaining statistics from countries beginning to fish in the ICNAF area was discussed. FAO reported that, when information regarding such fishing is available, requests for at least catch statistics are made to these countries.

#### 4. THE FAO STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF FISHERY STATISTICS

##### (Agenda Item 2.3)

- 4.1 The CWP heard a report on the Programme of Work of the Fishery Statistics and Economic Data Branch, Department of Fisheries, FAO (STANA:69/6/2E). The activities of this Branch are centred principally upon:
  - (a) the development, establishment and promotion of standard concepts, definitions, classifications and general methodology in the field of fishery statistics for use at national and international levels;
  - (b) the collection of fishery data, their processing and preparation for publication in FAO Yearbooks, Bulletins or Circulars, or through other media, according to internationally accepted concepts and methods; and

4.1 (concluded)

- (c) advisory and consultative services to FAO member countries for improving the coverage and quality of fishery statistics to meet national, regional and international requirements.

In carrying out these tasks data are collected and assembled for the assessment of fishery resources, as well as for the economic evaluation of fisheries. Continuous efforts are made to improve the timeliness, quality and presentation of data appearing in the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics and other publications. Mechanization of data processing is being coordinated as speedily as possible within the framework of the overall computerization programme of FAO.

- 4.2 The close collaboration of FAO with ICNAF, ICES, OECD and other agencies in the field of fishery statistics was recognized by the meeting, and appreciation was expressed for the assistance given by FAO in the development of statistics in the North Atlantic area through the CWP.
- 4.3 The FAO representatives reported that the contents and format of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, "Catches and Landings" were now under review and that a reduction in the size (No. of pages) of subsequent issues of this publication was contemplated - through the deletion of the Notes at the end of the book, reduction of the number of years for which statistics are given in the Summary Tables, and re-arrangement of the lay-out.

5. OECD STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATIONS

(Agenda Item 2.4)

- 5.1 The statistical work of OECD as reported to the CWP is dealt with under Item 4 of the Agenda. It was also noted that two OECD studies were recently undertaken having bearing on the work of the CWP, namely a study of the international market for frozen fish, and a review of the fisheries of OECD member countries for 1967.

6. STATISTICAL PROGRAMME AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE  
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

(Agenda Item 2.5)

- 6.1 The Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) was recently transferred from Brussels to Luxembourg, and was not able to send an observer to the Sixth Session of the CWP, as it had done for earlier Sessions. The CWP expressed its appreciation for the paper prepared by the SOEC describing its fisheries statistical programme (STANA:69/6/2J).
- 6.2 The CWP noted the further refinements to be introduced in the annual publication of the SOEC and that a new publication will provide monthly data.

6.3 The CWP welcomed the SOEC's plan to tabulate the landings of the Common Market countries according to:

- (a) amounts landed at own ports;
- (b) amounts landed at other Common Market ports;
- (c) amounts landed at third-country ports.

This kind of work, as well as FAO's studies of the statistical practices in recording direct foreign landings in areas such as West Africa, would contribute to a further improvement in the fishery statistics available nationally and internationally, and to eliminating errors due to double counting or under-reporting.

## 7. SUMMARY TABLES FOR NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST ATLANTIC

(Agenda Item 2.6)

7.1 The CWP agreed that ICES should continue to prepare summary catch tables for the main species and areas, which would cover a series of past years. Consideration should also be given to the preparation of combined ICES/ICNAF tables converging all the catches from main North Atlantic stocks.

## 8. QUANTITY CONVERSION FACTORS

(Agenda Item 3)

8.1 The CWP examined document STANA:69/6/3A which showed the conversion factors used by the countries fishing in the North Atlantic to convert landings from landed weight to live weight (nominal catch), arranged according to species. It was agreed that this form of presentation was useful. The CWP noted that significantly different factors were reported by various countries for some species and types of processing.

8.2 The CWP discussed proposals for further national action to improve the determination, collection and publication of conversion factors. It reaffirmed the opinion expressed at its Fifth Session that it was not intended to establish common international factors, but to draw attention to significant differences. The Coordinating Working Party therefore recommends:

- (a) that the Secretary of the CWP circulate the lists of conversion factors to all national statistical offices requesting that, where significant deviations in factors are apparent for a given species and type of processing, either tests of the accuracy of these factors be made, or an improved description of the type of processing and the method of obtaining the factors be provided;

8.2 (concluded)

- (b) that the deadline for returning the lists and comments be 15 April 1969;
- (c) that the revised lists be made available for comment to ICNAF for its May 1969 meeting, and to ICES for its October 1969 meeting;
- (d) that the final lists be printed as a FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics.

8.3 The Executive Secretary of ICNAF pointed to the significance of conversion factors for fishery regulatory purposes. He stated that both ICNAF and NEAFC are studying the regulation of their international fisheries by means of catch quota systems. Since catch quotas, if applied, will be in terms of the live weight equivalent of the landings, conversion factors will be required for calculation involving fish processed at sea.

9. FISHING FLEET STATISTICS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL REGISTERS OF FISHING CRAFT

(Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3)

9.1 A review was made of the national classes of fishing units used in catch/effort statistics by ICNAF and ICES (STANA:69/6/SE). It was recognized that there was a continuing need for distinguishing between these classes of fishing units on the basis of:

- (a) the fishing gear (method) used;
- (b) the method of propulsion (fishing craft);
- (c) the vessel-size category.

9.2 The CWP, noting that changes are needed in the description and classification of fishing gear and vessel categories, recommends:

That the appropriate revisions be made in the Notes for the completion of the STANA forms (see Section 12.1 paragraphs (i) and (j) of this Report).

9.3 The Observer from OECD presented the preliminary results of the experimental work carried out by that Organization in the field of fishing fleet statistics in Belgium, France and Portugal (STANA:69/6/4A). He explained that the purpose of the experiment was three-fold:

- (a) to identify the characteristics needed for a proper description of the fishing fleet and to provide guidance to national offices in establishing fishing fleet registers;
- (b) to determine the collection and tabulation procedures most appropriate in this field of statistics; and
- (c) to develop a satisfactory technique for combining and relating fishing fleet data with other pertinent statistics, so as to create a harmonized system of statistics covering all phases of fishery operations.

9.3 (concluded)

He also reported that the list of fishing craft characteristics upon which the study was based was established by a group of experts, which met in OECD in 1967, consisting of statisticians, economists, biologists, technologists, naval architects and administrators.

9.4 The CWP expressed satisfaction with the work of OECD in this field and registered its keen interest in the further development and finalization of this undertaking. It noted, in particular, the relevance of the OECD list of vessel characteristics to the requirements of ICES and ICNAF for fishing power studies.

9.5 The CWP agreed that a second meeting of experts should be convened by OECD and other interested parties when the tabulation of the data collected in the three "test" countries is completed. Such a meeting might, inter alia:

- (a) revise, amend or finalize the list of fishing craft characteristics on which the study was based, so that it can serve as a more definitive frame of reference for the future establishment of fishing fleet registers;
- (b) refine and finalize the definitions of the characteristics adopted;
- (c) establish the bases for fleet classification in the countries surveyed and in other countries where similar data are or might become available.

9.6 In view of the importance of this project for the possible future development of fishing fleet statistics in other countries and areas, the CWP agreed that ICES, ICNAF and FAO should collaborate to the extent possible, at least in a consultative capacity, and participate in a meeting of experts, when convened.

The CWP also suggested that the OECD consult with the ICES Working Group on fishing craft characteristics and their effect on fishing effort measurement, before finalizing the results and recommendations of its study.

9.7 The Observer from OECD also reported on a second statistical experiment being conducted by the Organization at the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer relative to the development of statistics of fish catches and of fish marketing and utilization. The experiment is to register catches by fishing craft at the first point of sale (in this case the auction market), obtaining the price received by fishermen and determining disposition or distribution.

9.8 The CWP expressed great interest in this study and asked to be kept informed of its progress and outcome.

9.9 The CWP noted the difficulties encountered in preparing precise, comparable international tables showing fishing fleets according to internationally standardized size categories. Data on fishing vessels are collected in accordance with regulations and licensing requirements which vary from country to country; in consequence, it is not always possible to follow the normal arithmetical practice of "rounding off" craft size to the nearest GRT, as the national legal requirements might specify licensing categories for craft "less" or "above" a certain tonnage. The CWP therefore suggested that the Secretary investigate the various national procedures and submit a report at the Seventh Session.

10. JOINT ICES/ICNAF PUBLICATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC  
FISHING CRAFT LISTS

(Agenda Item 4.4)

- 10.1 The CWP concluded that a joint ICES/ICNAF fishing craft list of vessels above 150 GRT could be published in 1970 or 1971, but not in 1969.
- 10.2 The CWP agreed, however, that a more flexible system of storing and retrieving vessel data would be desirable. The CWP recommends:
- That ICES and ICNAF examine the possibility of adopting an automatic data processing system to facilitate the handling of fishing vessel data and to add flexibility to its future use.
- 10.3 The CWP expressed doubt regarding the adequacy of the vessel characteristics adopted long ago by ICES and ICNAF for the assessment of fishing power. It was generally felt:
- (a) that the criteria for fishing power assessment should be more clearly defined; and
  - (b) that the list of vessel characteristics now in use by both agencies should be reviewed and perhaps revised in the light of changes in fleet composition and fishing practices generally.

11. EXTENSION OF THE STANA SYSTEM TO THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

(Agenda Item 5)

- 11.1 The Secretary presented document STANA:69/6/5A, and outlined the statistical part of the Report of the ACMRR/ICES Working Party on the Fishery Resources of the Eastern Central and Southeast Atlantic, Tenerife, March 1968.
- 11.2 The CWP reviewed the Report's list of statistical categories and the proposed definitions of the categories in terms of species, genera and families. It endorsed the proposals as the basis for further discussion and development. It noted that the proposals correspond closely with the species and their grouping and arrangement now used in FAO and ICES publications. It also noted that the proposals (with respect to species) would be reviewed by the FAO Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) at its First Session in Accra, 24 - 28 March 1969.

- 11.3 The CWP discussed the system of geographical divisions for the Eastern Central Atlantic Area prepared by the ACMRR/ICES Working Party and accepted by ICES in October 1968. These divisions were closely related to the "old" ICES system for the area and to the different modifications of that system, which had been adopted by several countries fishing in the area for their national statistics. Scientists from these countries have indicated to the ACMRR/ICES Working Party meeting that the adoption of the new common system would probably not present great difficulties for their countries.
- 11.4 The CWP recommends:
- That the system of sub-areas and divisions for the Eastern Central Atlantic Area, as presented in STANA:69/6/5A (FAO Fisheries Circular No. 219), be adopted for international fishery statistical purposes and that ICES request those countries still using the "old" ICES system, or a modified version, to adopt the new system formulated by the ACMRR/ICES Working Party as soon as practical.
- 11.5 The CWP agreed that, for some purposes, Arabic numerals would be more convenient than Roman numerals for the designation of sub-areas and divisions, especially if the fishing areas are arranged in a system consisting of sub-areas and divisions.
- 11.6 The Secretary of the CWP reported that FAO intended to introduce a STANA-type system, at an early date, for reporting catches by species and by sub-areas and/or divisions in the Eastern Central Atlantic Area. It was agreed that any problems of coordination could be discussed conveniently at the Seventh Session of CWP. It was also agreed that the new International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), if established by that time, should be represented in such discussions.
- 11.7 With reference to the Southeast Atlantic Area, the CWP found the system of sub-areas and divisions proposed by the ACMRR/ICES Working Party to be logical and convenient. It agreed that, until a Convention for the area entered into force, reporting of catch statistics in this Area should be in accordance with the proposed system as provisionally illustrated in document STANA:69/6/8D.
- 11.8 The immediate action to be taken by ICES, FAO and CEECAF is outlined above. It is expected that the problems will be discussed further at the Seventh Session of the CWP in 1970. The CWP recommends:
- That the Secretary prepare draft versions of the STANA forms to be used by countries fishing in the Eastern Central Atlantic and in Southeast Atlantic to report nominal catches by species, sub-areas and divisions.

## 12. REVISION OF NOTES FOR THE COMPLETION OF STANA FORMS

### (Agenda Item 6.1)

- 12.1 The CWP reviewed and discussed document STANA:69/6/6A consisting of nine FAO Fisheries Circulars containing instructions for the completion of the STANA forms. The CWP recommends:

12.1 (concluded)

- (a) that in future the Fisheries Circulars be divided into three separate documents: (i) the Fisheries Circulars covering FAO needs; (ii) those concerned with ICES' requirements; (iii) those concerned with ICNAF's requirements;
- (b) that the Fisheries Circulars, (Nos. 201, 203, 206 and 208), presenting the notes for the completion of STANA forms relating to the Northwest Atlantic, be presented as a paper to the Annual Meetings of ICNAF;
- (c) that the Fisheries Circulars, (Nos. 202, 204, 206 and 207) presenting the notes for the completion of STANA forms relating to the Northeast Atlantic continue to be presented to the Annual Meetings of ICES;
- (d) that the names of the taxonomists appearing after the binomials in Fisheries Circular, No. 208 be deleted, as these would be shown in the Northwest Atlantic List published in the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin;
- (e) that Fisheries Circular, No. 207 be revised especially to delete *Arengus minor* on line 60 and to ensure that the French and Spanish common names of fish correspond to those published in the ICES List of Names of Fish and Shellfish;
- (f) that FAO revise the North Atlantic map published as Fisheries Circular, No. 206 to incorporate the NEAFC Regions shown on the map reproduced on page 79 of the ICES Bulletin Statistique, Vol. 51 (1966) and to include the notes at the bottom of page 78 of this Bulletin Statistique;
- (g) that FAO simplify the descriptions in Section 3.21 of Fisheries Circulars Nos. 200 and 201 and in Section 5.31 of Fisheries Circulars Nos. 203 and 204, by presenting only two concepts: (i) landings (landed weight) and (ii) nominal catch (live weight);
- (h) that ICNAF review the fish names shown in the tables in its Statistical Bulletin, to ensure that they correspond to the names appearing in the List of Fish Names published in the same Bulletin;
- (i) that ICES approve the revision of the last paragraph under 2.21 of Fisheries Circular, No. 204 to indicate that ICES, like ICNAF, would prefer the use of the standard GBT categories for identifying fishing class units (see also Section 9.9);
- (j) that the CWP Secretary revise Section 2.11 of Fisheries Circular, No. 203 and Section 2.11 of Fisheries Circular, No. 204 to standardize the terminology and ensure that the definitions refer specifically to either gear or fishing methods and not to type of craft.

12.2 The CWP noted that serious difficulties are arising through the reporting of an appreciable percentage of effort data arrived at by means of estimates. The CWP recommends:

- (a) that this problem be drawn to the attention of the stock assessment experts at the next ICNAF and ICES meetings;
- (b) that this question be included on the agenda of the special meeting on fishing effort measures, to be convened just before the 1970 Statutory Meeting of ICES.

12.3 The CWP noted the ICES need for effort and catch data with respect to the trawl fishery for (i) Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and (ii) deepwater prawn (*Pandalus borealis*). The CWP recommends:

- (a) the amendment of the STANA 1E notes (Fisheries Circular, No. 204) to provide for this request;
- (b) that STANA 1E forms be used for this purpose by national offices, by deleting two names in Column C and by inscribing instead "Norway lobster" and "Deepwater prawn" respectively.

### 13. IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF NATIONALLY-SUBMITTED DATA

(Agenda Item 6.2)

13.1 Noting that the STANA system is to be extended to the South and Central Atlantic, the CWP was of the opinion that "associate experts"\* of FAO might be of great assistance to the fishery statistical offices of the developing countries of the member countries of ICES, ICNAF and FAO and of these inter-governmental agencies themselves.

13.2 Quality control of national statistical data is a growing need. The CWP recommends:

That the international agencies and the national offices consider arranging exchange visits by their staff members either at the time of international meetings, or on other occasions, to exchange and gain experience, thereby ensuring mutual benefit.

### 14. DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW OF THE INTER-AGENCY NORTH ATLANTIC PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF FISHERY STATISTICS

(Agenda Item 7)

14.1 The CWP reviewed request made several years ago for the preparation of a paper dealing with the historical and technical development of the "Inter-agency North Atlantic Programme in the Field of Fishery Statistics". It noted that the details of the "programme" are covered in various Fisheries Circulars containing the instructions for the completion of the STANA forms.

\* An "associate expert" is a person seconded to FAO from a national office to work on problems of mutual interest at Headquarters or in the field, usually for a period of not less than one year, financed by the national office.

- 14.2 The CWP remained of the opinion that a general description of the "programme" would be useful but considered that in view of other recently developed high priority claims on staff and time, the work on this review should, for the time being, be suspended. Furthermore, since the STANA system is a developing one and is now being extended to the South and Central Atlantic, it was felt that the exercise should be postponed until further developments, refinements and extensions have taken place.

## 15. STANDARDIZATION OF SYMBOLS IN TABLES

### (Agenda Item 8.1)

- 15.1 As a result of discussions at previous meetings, and of investigations of all the implications, the CWP was now in a position to reach a conclusion on the standardization of symbols in ICES, ICNAF and FAO fishery statistical publications.
- 15.2 The CWP recommends:
- (a) That the FAO Department of Fisheries, ICES and ICNAF and any other regional fisheries body in the Atlantic and adjacent waters adopt (i) the standard symbols presented in Section 1 of the Appendix to Fisheries Circular No. 223; (ii) the standard presentation of millions, thousands and decimals described in Section 3 of this Circular; (iii) the standard time references described in Section 4 of this Circular; (iv) that footnotes be used to explain the remaining concepts to avoid the introduction of other symbols in addition to the standard ones proposed here.
  - (b) That the aforementioned descriptions are included as an appendix to this Report (see Appendix IV).
- 15.3 The CWP discussed standardization of abbreviations for months of the calendar year. It felt that either Roman numerals or the first three alphabetic letters of the month might be used. However, it recognized that in multilingual publications difficulties might be encountered if alphabetical contractions were used.

## 16. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF COUNTRIES

### (Agenda Item 8.2)

- 16.1 The Secretary of the CWP presented a progress report on the world-wide standardization and codification of country names for statistical purposes. He pointed out that these matters were being reviewed in detail by the Secretariats of the United Nations, FAO and the other specialized agencies. It was hoped that these country-nomenclatural lists and corresponding codes would be finalized by the time of the Seventh Session of the CWP. The Secretary of the CWP agreed to keep ICES and ICNAF informed about developments in this field which are closely related to the introduction of the proposed automatic data processing system.

17. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF SPECIES AND SPECIES GROUPS

(Agenda Item 8.3)

- 17.1 The CWP noted the need to extend the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP). It was considered that the proposed extension (Appendix "B" of Fisheries Circular, No. 232) would not cause any difficulties for the present statistical programmes of ICES or ICNAF. However, ICES indicated that it would continue to use in its publications the group nomenclature more appropriate to the species composition of the Northeast Atlantic groupings.
- 17.2 FAO, through the CWP, extended an invitation to both ICES and ICNAF to provide expert advice on the proposed extension of ISSCAAP, especially on the new groups under the divisions covering crustaceans and molluscs.
- 17.3 The CWP was informed about the progress made by FAO in investigating the feasibility of introducing automatic data processing systems, and noted that these studies would take into account the requirements of ICES and ICNAF.

18. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF FISHING AREAS

(Agenda Item 8.4)

- 18.1 The CWP reviewed the compilation of detailed information on classification and codification of fishing areas in document STANA:69/6/8D.
- 18.2 The CWP recommends:
- That document STANA:69/6/8D be reissued and distributed to:
- (a) ICNAF for consideration of the details in Appendix "D" relating to the Northwest Atlantic Area;
  - (b) ICES for consideration of the details in Appendix "D" relating to the Northeast Atlantic Area, and
  - (c) both ICES and CECAF for consideration of the details relating to the Eastern Central Atlantic Area.
- 18.3 The CWP recommends:
- That FAO draw the attention of all countries fishing in the Southeast Atlantic Area to the relevant details included in Appendix "D" of STANA:69/6/8D as revised.

19. STANDARD CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF FISHING EFFORT MEASURES

(Agenda Item 8.5)

- 19.1 The CWP expressed its appreciation to Professor Dr. A. von Brandt for clarifying certain technical details in relation to his world-wide classification of fishing gear.
- 19.2 The CWP reviewed the gear classifications used by ICES and ICNAF and took note of certain differences and deficiencies which would require rephrasing of the relevant STANA Notes (see Section 12.1, paragraph (j) of this Report).
- 19.3 The CWP recommends:
- . That Professor Dr. A. von Brandt and the Secretary of the CWP prepare a revised version of FAO Fisheries Circular, No. 229 for initial review by ICES and ICNAF during 1969/70 and for circulation to countries. A second revision, taking into account all comments, should be presented to the 1970 ICES Special Meeting called to discuss methods of measuring fishing efforts for different fisheries and their application for fishery statistics.
- 19.4 The CWP considered an ICNAF request to refine the definition of the effort measure "days on ground" on the STANA form. The CWP, however, noted that increased amounts of data on more precise and useful types of effort measures e.g. "days fishing" have become available. The CWP recommends:

That both ICNAF and ICES consider deleting "days on ground" from their lists of effort measures.

20. FUTURE PROGRAMME FOR THE CWP

(Agenda Item 9)

- 20.1 The CWP noted that its terms of reference, statutes and rules of procedure will be reviewed during 1969 by FAO, ICES and ICNAF and will be incorporated in a document to be circulated before the Seventh Session of the CWP.
- 20.2 The CWP established a "Steering Committee", consisting of the ICES General Secretary, the ICNAF Executive Secretary, the CWP Chairman, the two Vice-Chairman, the Chief of the FAO Fishery Statistics and Economic Data Branch and the CWP Secretary, to organize the Seventh Session, to take place during 1970.
- 20.3 The Agenda of the Seventh Session will be arranged so that its items are divided into two main fields: (a) North Atlantic, and (b) South and Central Atlantic, to facilitate attendance according to the individual interests of participants.

21. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT OF  
THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CWP

(Agenda Item 10)

- 21.1 A draft report will be circulated by the Secretary of the CWP to all participants by mid-February. An English version will be made available to ICNAF before its 1969 Annual Meeting. Both an English and a French version will be made available to the ICES Meeting in October 1969.
- 21.2 French, Spanish and English versions will be circulated by the Secretary, as appropriate, to all country members of ICES and ICNAF and any other countries fishing in the North Atlantic, Eastern Central and Southeast Atlantic.
- 21.3 Extracts of the paragraphs applicable to the Eastern Central Atlantic Area will be included in a paper to be presented by the FAO Secretariat to the First Session of CECAF, Accra, March 1969.

Appendix I

AGENDA

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 1.1 Election of temporary Chairman, if necessary
- 1.2 Approval of Agenda items 1.1 - 1.7
- 1.3 Approval of new Statutes and Rules of Procedure
- 1.4 Election of Chairman under new Rules of Procedure
- 1.5 Adoption of Agenda items 2 - 11
- 1.6 Review and adoption of schedule of work
- 1.7 Appointment of rapporteurs

2. REVIEW OF AGENCY PROGRAMMES AND PUBLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS

- 2.1 ICES statistical programme and publications
- 2.2 ICNAF statistical programme and publications
- 2.3 FAO fishery statistical programme and publications
- 2.4 OECD fishery statistical programme and publications
- 2.5 SOEC fishery statistical programme and publications
- 2.6 Proposals for advance summary tables for the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic

3. QUANTITY CONVERSION FACTORS

- 3.1 Review of FAO documents presenting quantity conversion factors
- 3.2 Proposals for further national action to improve the determination, collection and publication of fishery conversion factors

4. FISHING FLEET STATISTICS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REGISTERS OF FISHING CRAFT

- 4.1 Review of lists of national classes of fishing units used in catch/effort statistics
- 4.2 Determination of fishing craft characteristics to be recorded in an international list or register
- 4.3 The use of automatic data processing facilities for the collection and reproduction of craft data in an international register of fishing craft for the world as a whole, or specifically for the North Atlantic
- 4.4 Consideration of the feasibility of issuing a joint ICNAF/ICES publication on North Atlantic fishing craft lists
- 4.5 Ways and means to improve statistics on the actual and potential fishing fleets

5. EXTENSION OF THE STANA SYSTEM TO THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC
  - 5.1 Review of report of the ACMRE/ICES Working Party on the Fishery Resources of the Eastern Central and Southeast Atlantic
  - 5.2 Consideration of ICES recommendations at its October 1968 meeting
  - 5.3 Action to be taken by ICES, FAO and CEECAF
  
6. FURTHER REFINEMENT AND STANDARDIZATION OF INTER-AGENCY REPORTING SYSTEMS FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC
  - 6.1 Review of Notes for the Completion of the STANA 2, 1E and 1W forms
  - 6.2 Review of the quality of nationally-submitted data
  
7. OUTLINE OF THE COORDINATED INTER-AGENCY NORTH ATLANTIC PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF FISHERY STATISTICS
  - 7.1 Review of the proposed FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics describing the "Inter-Agency North Atlantic Programme in the Field of Fishery Statistics"
  
8. STANDARD CLASSIFICATIONS AND CODIFICATIONS
  - 8.1 Standardization of symbols used in tabulations
  - 8.2 Classification and codification of countries
  - 8.3 Classification and codification of species and species groups
  - 8.4 Classification and codification of fishing areas
  - 8.5 Classification and codification of fishing effort measures
  
9. FUTURE PROGRAMME FOR THE COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS
  - 9.1 Date, place and subject matter of the Seventh Session
  
10. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COORDINATING WORKING PARTY
  
11. OTHER MATTERS

Appendix II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

(Arranged according to Agenda Items)

STANA:69/6/.. a/

Agenda Item 1

- .../1A Advance information for participants, including (i) provisional agenda; (ii) provisional schedule of work; (iii) provisional list of documents
- .../1B *Statutes and rules of procedure* b/
- .../1C Changes in the CWP

Agenda Item 2

- .../2A Report on the ICES statistical programme, 1967-69
- .../2B ICES Bulletin Statistique, Vol. 51
- .../2C Report on the ICNAF statistical programme, 1967-69
- .../2D ICNAF Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 17
- .../2E Report on the FAO fishery statistical programme in the field of fishery statistics, 1967-69
- .../2F FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Vol. 24, "Catches and landings, 1967"
- .../2G FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Vol. 25, "Fishery commodities, 1967"
- .../2H FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, Vol. 15, "Fishing fleet statistics, 1967"
- .../2I Report on the OECD fishery statistical programme, 1967-69
- .../2J Report on the fishery statistical programme of the Statistical Office of the European Communities, 1967-69

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a/ All documents for the Sixth Session of the CWP are identified by the code "STANA:69/6/.."

b/ "STANA:69/6/.." documents .../1B, .../7A, and .../8C were proposed as documents for the Sixth Session of the CWP but were not issued; instead verbal statements were made to the meeting.

Agenda Item 3

- .../3A Tabulations of quantity conversion factors for use in fishery statistics

Agenda Item 4

- .../4A Harmonization of fishing fleet statistics in relation with fishing effort data
- .../4B ICNAF List of vessels and summary of fishing effort in the ICNAF Convention Area, 1968
- .../4C List of vessels fishing in the ICES Area (North): Parts I and II

Agenda Item 5

- .../5A The extension of the STANA system to the Eastern Central Atlantic

Agenda Item 6

- .../6A Notes for the completion of STANA forms
- .../6B Review of some aspects affecting adversely the quality of nationally-submitted data in response to the STANA requests

Agenda Item 7

- .../7A *Draft of "Inter-Agency North Atlantic programme in the field of fishery statistics" b/*

Agenda Item 8

- .../8A Standardization of symbols
- .../8B Classification and codification of countries
- .../8C *Classification and codification of species and species groups b/*
- .../8D Classification and codification of fishing areas
- .../8E Classification and codification of fishing effort measures

Appendix III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, OBSERVERS, ETC.

A. ICES PARTICIPANTS, ALTERNATES, OBSERVERS, ETC.

1. Mr. J. Møller Christensen  
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2. Mr. M. Elísson  
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3. Mr. J.A. Pope  
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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland  
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4. Mrs. G. Rossignol  
Attaché principal d'Administration  
Secrétariat Général de la Marine Marchande  
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Paris, 7e., France
5. Mr. H. Tambs-Lyche  
General Secretary  
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea  
Charlottenlund Slot  
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B. ICNAF PARTICIPANTS, ALTERNATES, OBSERVERS, ETC.

6. Mrs. Pie Barfod  
Economic-Statistical Consultant  
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7. Mr. L.R. Day  
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B. (concluded)

8. Mr. K. Lökkegaard

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C. FAO SECRETARIAT PARTICIPANTS

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13. Mr. J.A. Gulland

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D. OTHER PARTICIPANTS, OBSERVERS, ETC.

14. Mr. P. Adam

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15. Mr. A. Bethge

Principal Administrative Officer  
Economic Division  
Council of Europe  
Strasbourg, France

16. Professor Dr. A. von Brandt  
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Palmaille 9, Germany

E. SECRETARY

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Appendix IV

STANDARD PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS, FOOTNOTES, TIME PERIODS, NUMBERS, DECIMALS, ETC.

1. EXPLANATION OF STANDARD SYMBOLS

- . . category or entry not applicable
- ... data not available; unobtainable; not submitted in time for inclusion
- none; magnitude known to be nil or zero; given in original source as "nil or negligible" without any further indication of the magnitude
- 0 } magnitude known to be more than zero but less than half the unit or  
0.0 } final digit used; magnitude negligible or insignificant; data could  
be available in other tabular presentations where the unit used is  
less than that used here
- | a marked break in a series presented horizontally
- a marked break in a series presented vertically
- ( ) data expressed in measure units other than those used in the table; data that must be shown distinctly

2. EXPLANATION OF STANDARD FOOTNOTES

Standardized footnotes (but not additional symbols) could be selected for use in particular tables, series of tables or complete publications according to the needs of any specific publication. These footnotes could be assigned to cover any one or more of, for example, the following concepts:

- ✓ provisional data; preliminary data; data subject to revision
- ✓ revised version of data previously published in an earlier issue
- ✓ unofficial data
- ✓ data calculated by the FAO Secretariat
- ✓ data estimated by the FAO Secretariat
- ✓ data not included in totals or subtotals
- ✓... data not available - subtotals and totals include estimates, not published, made by the FAO Secretariat

### 3. STANDARD PRESENTATION OF TIME PERIODS

Landings data normally refer to "year of landing" or "month of landing", i.e. to the period during which the fish was landed. Nominal catch data normally refer to the "year of capture" or "month of capture", i.e. to the period during which the catch was made. The "year of landing" and "year of capture" usually coincide. In some instances catches are made in one year or month, and landed in the succeeding year or month. Where time adjustments are necessary, these procedures are footnoted.

The calendar year is indicated by the normal annotation (e.g. 1938, 1948, 1958, 1963, etc.)

A split year - a twelve-month period beginning in one calendar year and ending in the next - is indicated by an oblique stroke (e.g. 1960/61, 1962/63)

A period of consecutive calendar years, or of split years, including both years specified, and an average of a period of consecutive calendar years, or of split years, are indicated by a dash (e.g. 1948-52, 1953-57, 1958-62; 1951/52-1961/62; 1962/63-1966/67)

### 4. STANDARD PRESENTATION OF THOUSANDS, MILLIONS AND DECIMALS

Thousands and millions are separated by a space

A period (.) is used to divide the decimals from the whole number, i.e. decimal figures are always preceded by a period

