

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1969Report of the Statistical Activities of the ICNAF Secretariat  
1968/69

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Since the Annual Meeting of the Commission in London, 1968, all feasible recommendations of the R&S Committee and the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee have been fulfilled by the ICNAF Secretariat and the following statistical activities have taken place:

1. Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 17 for 1967 (115 pages) was distributed in early May. The delay was due to late reporting of catch data (141 thousand tons) by a Non-member country.

Catch statistics were not available from Subdivisions 5Ze and 5Zw and from Divisions of Statistical Subarea 6 for 1967.

Some countries did not distinguish between side and stern trawler catches

The List of ICNAF species was arranged according to the Rec. 28, Redbook 1968, Pt. 1, p. 73, namely:

- (i) Roundnose grenadier, *Macrourus (Coryphaenoides) rupestris* (Gunn) was added to the List under position 108 among Other Groundfish group species;
- (ii) Two common names (Squeteague and Gray weakfish) have been given to the species *Cynoscion regalis*;
- (iii) Black sea bass has been moved from the "Other Groundfish" to the "Other Fish" species group;
- (iv) Blueback herring question is discussed in section 8 of this paper.

In further efforts to save space and printing costs in the section of the Statistical Bulletin in "Abbreviations and Symbols Used," the abbreviations for months were deleted and abbreviations for gears were limited to two or three letters.

A standard common heading was introduced in Table 5 for all countries.

2. Sampling Yearbook, Vol. 12, for 1967 (215 pages) was distributed in early May. A summary review of sampling activities together with the relevant catches for 1966 and 1967 was added to the usual content of this publication (Rec. 22, Redbook 1968, Pt. 1, p. 70).
3. List of Vessels, 1968

Three ICNAF Member Countries have not yet reported their data. Therefore, the List of Vessels could not be prepared in time for 1969 ICNAF Annual Meeting.

The call signals for each vessel have been reported by all but two of the reporting countries.

The 1968 ICNAF List of Vessels with fishing effort data for 1966, 1967 and 1968 will be published after all national submissions have been delivered to the ICNAF Secretariat.

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4. Fishing effort data

Only four ICNAF Member Countries submitted their 1968 data to the ICNAF Secretariat. Probably more reports will be handed to us during the Annual Meeting and it may be possible to issue a Summary of fishing effort data for 1968 in Warsaw.

The national ICNAF Stat. 3 reports at hand will be available at the Warsaw Meeting.

5. Summary of statistics on discard and industrial fish for 1966. Discard data for 1966 was published in Part III of Redbook 1968 (p. 29-36). Discard and industrial fish data for 1967 was distributed as Res. Doc. 69/23 (Rec. 27, Redbook 1968, Pt. 1, p. 72).
6. Statistical Tables 1 and 3 which present preliminary data on 1968 catches submitted on STANA 2 by countries fishing substantially in the Northwest Atlantic Area were distributed before the 1969 Annual Meeting as Res. Doc. 69/21. Detailed statistics for ICNAF cod and haddock catches 1958-68 by subarea and country were included for possible use by the Assessment Subcommittee scientists.
7. Main species sought. At the 1968 Annual Meeting the R&S Committee and the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee recommended:

"that the ICNAF Secretariat ask countries to report the criteria they use when completing the box 'main species sought' on the STANA 1W form" (Rec. 26, Redbook 1968, Pt. 1, p. 71)

In fulfilling the recommendation in January 1968 a special circular letter was distributed to all Member Countries. Eleven returns have been received. One country was unable to supply us with information. Nine countries stated that "main species sought" equals main species caught or landed. However, one country was using the following criteria: location and size of boat, gear used, season of catches and area fished.

The Subcommittee will wish to make some decision on the following questions:

- (i) The "main species sought" box on STANA 1W sheet should be kept or deleted?
- (ii) If kept, what criteria should be used?
8. Blueback herring. At the 1968 Annual Meeting the R&S Committee and the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee recommended:

"that the ICNAF Secretariat investigate the questions relating to the reporting of blueback herring and other species reported in the national submissions but not included in the list of species in Vol. 16 of the Statistical Bulletin and make proposals to the 1969 meeting for their inclusion in the ICNAF species list." (Rec. 28, Redbook 1968, Pt. 1, p.73)

In fulfilling the recommendation the opinions of scientists of countries leading in herring fisheries have been collected. Here are the main points:

- (1) Herring, *Clupea harengus* L., should be distinguished from alewife, *Pomolobus pseudoharengus* (Wils.), and blueback, *Pomolobus aestivalis* (Mitch.);
- (2) To meet the ICNAF statistical requirements the following proposals have been made:
- (a) To report blueback catches as Other Pelagic Fish, not specified;
- (b) To report the alewife and blueback catches together. The name, blueback, should not be introduced into the ICNAF list of species. However, the scientific name of alewife should be changed to *Alosa (Pomolobus) spp.*; or

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- (c) To report any blueback catches as alewife catches with the addition of a footnote that blueback catches have been included.

In respect of para. (1), the ICNAF Secretariat is in favor of the opinion expressed in para. (2)(b). The decision is left to the Subcommittee.

9. Horse mackerel. One STANA 2 submission for 1968 reported catches of horse mackerel. The scientific name *Trachurus trachurus* has been given by the reporting country.

The American Fisheries Society's List of Common and Scientific Names lists only *Trachurus lathami* Nichols in Canadian and US waters. The Common name listed is Rough scad. The Secretariat proposes as follows:

- (1) Common name: Rough scad;  
Scientific name: *Trachurus lathami* Nichols.

- (2) To add the Rough scad to the "Other Fish" group of ICNAF species.

10. Cooperation with ICNAF Member and Non-member Countries was good. Most Member Countries met the deadlines when reporting the statistical data to the Commission. Corrections and supplementary information were sometimes required. They were supplied by the reporting countries.

FAO, and especially the CWP Secretary, is very helpful in the collection of data from ICNAF Non-member countries. Four Non-member countries reported 1967 catch data and two supplied fishing effort data.

11. Cooperation with international organizations.

Close cooperation in the statistical field has been maintained with FAO, ICES and OECD directly and through the CWP.

FAO distributed STANA 2 and STANA 1W forms as well as STANA instructions to all ICNAF Member Countries and to Non-member Countries fishing in the ICNAF Area and helped in collecting STANA data from ICNAF Non-member Countries.

ICNAF/ICES exchange of meeting reports and recommendations on statistical procedures as well as of statistical data has been continued.

The Assistant Executive Secretary paid a two day visit to ICES at Charlottenlund, Denmark and discussed with the ICES General Secretary and his staff the common ICNAF/ICES problems in fishery statistics.

Cooperation with CWP was very close. The Executive Secretary and Chairman of Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee attended the CWP Sixth Session held in Charlottenlund, Denmark.

12. Current problems. There are still some areas where improved cooperation with national reporting offices of ICNAF Member Countries is desirable. A lot of ICNAF Secretariat work might be saved, if the STANA submissions were completed strictly according to the instructions. For example, such a little detail like rounding of tons in catches is still absorbing our time because the rounding, recalculations of summaries vertically and horizontally as well as by species, group of species, division and subarea must be done by us.

The full distinction between side and stern trawl catches, location of catches in Subdivisions 5Ze and 5Zw and in Divisions of Subarea 6 are the next problems. However, the 1968 STANA 2 submissions showed that only one country did not locate the catches in Subdivisions 5Ze and 5Zw and another one did not report the catches in Subarea 6 by Division.

The seal statistics require further work by scientists and Secretariat.

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13. Acknowledgement.

The ICNAF Secretariat is pleased to express words of gratitude and acknowledgement to all people involved in the ICNAF Statistical work. Without their help and full cooperation the ICNAF Secretariat could not present the various statistical summaries. Thank you.

Dartmouth,  
12 May 1969