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for the  
**Northwest Atlantic Fisheries**



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ICNAF Res.Doc.70/23ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1970Report of the Statistical Activities of the ICNAF Secretariat, 1969/70

by B.J.Kowalewski

Since the Annual Meeting of the Commission in Warsaw, 1969, 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.18 for 1968 (141 pages)

Due to the late submission by a non-member country, the complete manuscript was not submitted to the printer until mid-January 1970. Advance copies have been received from the printer and have been sent to the assessment scientists. Other copies will be available at the Annual Meeting. Regular distribution will be made in early July 1970.

In accordance with the Commission's requirements, the catch and effort statistics of the Northwest Atlantic harp and hooded seal fisheries since 1937 have been included in the Bulletin. Necessary changes have been made to the List of Northwest Atlantic species and to the List of Abbreviations and Symbols Used.

Also for the first time, data on catch and effort in ICNAF Subdivisions 5Ze and 5Zw as well as in Divisions A, B and C of Statistical Subarea 6 are published.

To accommodate the increased amount of statistical data, Tables 1 and 2 present data on catches from the ICNAF Convention Area only (Subareas 1-5) while Tables 1A and 2A have been added to present data from Statistical Subarea 6.

Some countries are still not distinguishing between side and stern trawler catches and are not distinguishing catches from Div.5Z as from Subdivision 5Ze and 5Zw.

The List of ICNAF Species is arranged according to Recommendations 3 and 4 in Redbook 1969, Pt.I, p.44, namely

- (i) Blueback, *Alosa aestivalis* (Mitchill), has been added to the list in position 109 among "Other Fish" species group;
- (ii) Rough scad, *Trachurus lathami* Nichols, has been added to the list in position 110 among the "Other Fish" species group;

A new species group, namely SEALS, has been added after the SHELLFISH, ETC. group. This includes:

- (i) Harp seal, *Pagophilus groenlandicus*, listed in position 111, and
- (ii) Hooded seal, *Cystophora cristata*, in position 112.

The definitions of the technical and commercial names of the seals at various ages have been added as footnotes to the List of ICNAF Species.

2. Sampling Yearbook Vol.13, Part I, for 1968 (305 pages).

Advance copies have been sent to the assessment scientists. Other copies will be available at the Annual Meeting. Bulk distribution will be made in early July 1970.

Herring sampling data for 1961-68 will be published as Part II of Volume 13 later in 1970.

The volume does not contain a summary of length and age sampling data in relation to the nominal catches because there was no such recommendation from the 1969 meeting. For the same reason the 1968 data are not presented in a Research Document to the 1970 Annual Meeting.

3. List of Vessels, 1968 (221 pages) was distributed in November 1969. According to the recommendation 24 of Redbook 1968, Pt.I, p.70, the details with regard to propellers and electronic equipment were deleted. Radio call signals and echosounder-vertical and echosounder-ranging or horizontal are published as required.

4. Fishing effort data summary (Res.Doc.70/24) will be distributed during the Annual Meeting.

5. Summary of statistics on discard and industrial fish for 1968 was distributed in May as Res.Doc.70/25. Summary of statistics on discards for 1967 was published in Redbook 1969, Pt.III, p.115-123 in accordance with Recommendation 13 of Redbook 1969, Pt.I, p.48.

6. Statistical Tables 1 and 3 for 1969 with preliminary data on 1969 catches will be distributed during the Annual Meeting as Res.Doc.70/31.

7. Statistical Areas. Following Recommendation 8 of Redbook 1969, Pt.I, p.45, the definitions and descriptions of the Northwest Atlantic Statistical Area were published in Redbook 1969, Pt.III, p.124-127.

8. Fish species.

- a) USA reported 13 tons of Frigate mackerel in its 1968 catches. The American Fisheries Society lists this species on p.34 and gives its scientific name as *Auxis thazard* (Lacepede). We recommend introducing Frigate mackerel into the List of ICNAF Species in the "Other Fish" group in position 113.
- b) Canada (Maritimes) has raised some doubt about the rules of designation of hakes recommended at the 1967 Annual Meeting. The matter should be given some consideration to decide which hakes should be reported as red hake and which as white hake.

9. Improvement of National Submissions

Fulfilling Recommendation 17 of Redbook 1969, Pt.I, p.50, the Secretariat sent letters to the member countries involved asking them to differentiate flounder catches by species. Letters were also sent to a number of member countries asking them, if possible, to improve their STANA submissions.

10. Cooperation with ICNAF Member Countries was very good. Most member countries met the deadlines set for reporting statistical data to the Commission. Corrections and supplementary data, when required, were supplied very quickly. On 6 April 1970, the Assistant Executive Secretary was acquainted by Woods Hole specialists with methods of work of this laboratory when the fishery data are processed for different purposes. It was a very profitable and practical meeting.

11. Cooperation with ICNAF Non-Member Countries, FAO, and especially the CWP Secretary, Mr Gertenbach, continues to be very helpful in the collection of data from ICNAF non-member countries. We were informed that in 1968 four non-member countries were operating in our area. Only two submissions with catch data (one of them with fishing effort data) reached the Secretariat and one of them very late (mid-January 1970).

12. Cooperation with International Organizations

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

FAO distributed STANA 2 and STANA 1W forms as well as STANA instructions to all ICNAF member and non-member countries fishing in the ICNAF statistical area and helped in collecting STANA data from non-member countries.

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

### 13. Current Problems

The ICNAF Secretariat is to be reorganized. The post of Assistant Executive Secretary, responsible mostly for statistical and financial matters of the Commission, will be changed. The main task of the new Assistant Executive Secretary will be to work on assessment problems of living resources in the Northwest Atlantic. He will not be able to spend so much time working on statistics. In these circumstances, mechanization for processing the statistical data and for preparing the Statistical Bulletin manuscript is required. Many, if not all, member countries are using punch cards when processing the ICNAF statistics. Punch cards, in my opinion, may be the first step toward mechanization of processing procedures in the ICNAF Secretariat. I am very well aware that the introduction of any change into the ICNAF reporting system requires a lot of preparatory work and discussion. May I express the hope that the new Assistant Executive Secretary, with the help of the scientists and statistical experts in the national statistical offices, will be successful when presenting the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin Vol.19 for 1969. My best wishes are with him.

There are still some areas where improved national submissions can make the statistical work of the Secretariat less time consuming. Member countries which can help on this point were contacted by letter.

The identification of flounder, not specified, and other fish, not specified, the full distinction between side and stern trawl catches and locating of catches in Subdivisions 5Ze and 5Zw instead of reporting catches in Div.5Z are further goals for improving our statistical reports and publications.

### 14. 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.

### 15. Personal Acknowledgement

After four years of work with the ICNAF Secretariat on 30 April 1970, I leave my post of Assistant Executive Secretary. I would like to say "Thank you very much" to all scientists, and especially to Dr McCracken, the former Chairman of Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee, for their advice and help. Wish the best to the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee and to the new Assistant Executive Secretary. Thank you.

Dartmouth  
30 April 1970