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Progress Report on Various Statistical Matters

prepared by  
The Secretary  
Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics  
Department of Fisheries  
FAO

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PROGRESS REPORT ON VARIOUS STATISTICAL MATTERS

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared for presentation to Committees, Commissions and Councils and other regional fishery bodies associated with CWP (STATLANT) programme

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FAO Fisheries Circular (FAO Fish.Circ.)

A vehicle for the distribution of short or ephemeral notes, lists, statistical tabulations, etc., including provisional versions of documents to be issued later in other series.

PROGRESS REPORT ON VARIOUS STATISTICAL MATTERS

by

L.P.D. Gertenbach  
Secretary, Coordinating Working Party on  
Atlantic Fishery Statistics

1. Species Names

1.1 The Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, at its Fifth Session (Aberdeen, Scotland, 10-14 April 1967) reviewed Fisheries Circular No. 99 "Draft Version of FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics subtitled "North Atlantic Species Names" and made the following remarks:

"8.4 The CWP reviewed the draft version of the FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics subtitled "North Atlantic Species Names" submitted as document STANA:5/67/4C (FAO Fisheries Circular No. 99). It confirmed the view expressed at its Fourth Session that this proposed Bulletin of Fishery Statistics would be most useful for fishery workers concerned with North Atlantic fishery statistics; and to the end of further extending the STANA reporting system, it considered it most desirable to have such a document in a regular series for purposes of reference in the preparation of notes, instructions and reports on fishery statistics concerned with these North Atlantic species

8.5 The CWP reconfirmed the recommendation of the Fourth Session (1965) "that FAO should publish a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics in which should be tabulated the scientific, English, Spanish and French common names of all species appearing in the tables in the publications of ICES, ICNAF and FAO .

8.6 The CWP, after reviewing the draft version of the Bulletin, recommended:

- (a) that it would be useful if the identifying numbers used against items in the draft OECD Dictionary were carried into Table A of this FAO Bulletin;
- (b) that the scientific names of the fish should go on the extreme left-hand side of all tables in this publication (i.e. as the first column);
- (c) that a full check of the names against the ICES, ICNAF and OECD lists should be made."

1.2 The staff of the Current Statistics and Economic Data Section are revising extensively the contents of the Yearbooks of Fishery Statistics and in doing so will produce a detailed list of species names used in international and regional fishery statistics. It is proposed that these tables - to be issued experimentally as a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics - be presented not only to the CWP's Seventh Session (1971) but also to ICES and ICNAF at their 1971 Sessions.

2. Codification of Species Items

2.1 In Section 1.1, it was mentioned that the contents of the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, Volumes subtitled "Catches and landings", are being extensively revised. Each statistical item within the standard FAO Groups established as part of the divisions and groups of ISSCAAP is identified in terms of an internationally appropriate FAO common name in English, French and Spanish. Further identification will be in terms of the scientific binomials and by reference to:

- (a) the FAO taxonomic classification for bibliographic and fishery data storage and retrieval, and
- (b) to the item numbers in the Multilingual Dictionary of Fish and Fish Products issued by the OECD in 1968.

- 2.2 The codification of the selected species items will be developed in the light of these lists appearing in the experimental Bulletin mentioned above (see 1.2). A special paper on the codification of these items will be presented to the Seventh Session of the CWP and to ICNAF and ICES in 1971.
- 2.3 It is hoped that in establishing such an international codification there would be a possibility of arriving at an international code that could be used with or without adaptations by all fishery commissions and other regional sea area bodies. In developing these codes close collaboration shall be maintained by FAO with ICNAF, ICES, ICCAT, GFCM, CECAF, CARPAS, IOFC, IPFC, etc.

### 3. Conversion Factors

- 3.1 Conversion factors, used by various countries fishing in the North Atlantic to convert the landed weight to the original live weight, appeared in the following Fisheries Circulars:
- (a) Fisheries Circular No. 157 "Conversion factors used by countries reporting data on STANA forms".
  - (b) Fisheries Circular No. 228 "Quantity conversion factors for use in fishery statistics of the North Atlantic".
  - (c) Fisheries Circular No. 228, Rev. 1.
  - (d) Fisheries Circular No. 228, Rev. 2.
- 3.2 The latest version of these conversion factors appearing in Fisheries Circular No. 228, Rev. 2 have been submitted (under cover of a letter dated 29 January 1970) to all national offices concerned with the request to undertake their final review and revision.
- 3.3 As soon as comments from all countries have been received a Bulletin of Fishery Statistics incorporating all revisions and additions is to be issued by early January 1971. This Bulletin will be distributed to the 1971 meetings of ICNAF, ICES and to the Seventh Session of the CWP.

### 4. Joint ICES/ICNAF List of Fishing Vessels in the Northeast Atlantic

#### 4.1 Extract from CWP Report 1969.

- 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."

4.2 Extract from ICNAF Report 1969.

"ICNAF List of Vessels, 1968

The Subcommittee noted that the "ICNAF List of Vessels for 1968" could not be produced in time for the 1969 meeting because three member countries had not reported their vessel data. The 1968 list will now be published as soon as all submissions have been received.

The Subcommittee, taking into account the CWP's review of the possibility of producing a joint ICES/ICNAF list of vessels either in 1970 or 1971, preferably following the introduction of a flexible automatic data processing system.

recommends (12)

- (i) that the CWP Secretary prepare a draft version of a joint ICES/ICNAF list of vessels; this document to be presented to both 1971 ICNAF and ICES meetings;
- (ii) that the CWP's doubts regarding the adequacy of vessel characteristics adopted long ago by ICES and ICNAF for the assessment of fishing power, be referred to the 1970 ICES Special Meeting on the Measurement of Fishing Effort;
- (iii) that the "ICNAF List of Vessels for 1971" be prepared as in the past unless decisions to the contrary are made at the ICNAF meetings in 1970 and 1971;
- (iv) that a final decision about a joint ICES/ICNAF list of vessels be taken at the 1971 meeting.

The Subcommittee noted that several aspects relevant to these questions might be raised at the July 1969 meeting of the ICES Working Group on Vessel Characteristics in Relation to Fishing Effort and the OECD - convened meeting (June 1969) on fishing fleet statistics."

4.3 Extract from ICES Report 1969

"Joint ICES/ICNAF List of North Atlantic Fishing Craft (10)

Taking into account the review of the CWP on the possibility of producing a joint ICES/ICNAF list of vessels in 1970 and 1971, the Committee agreed to accept an offer of the CWP Secretary to prepare a draft version of a Joint ICES/ICNAF list of vessels and present this to the Committee Meeting in 1971".

- 4.4 The form to be submitted to the national offices for inserting vessel details in accordance with a joint list would be issued in the near future.
- 4.5 It is proposed that after the first publication, changes might be made in the forms to incorporate any suggestions that might come from the OECD meeting on Fishing Fleet Statistics, the ICES Working Group on Vessel Characteristics and the ICES Special Meeting on Measurement of Fishing Effort

5. CWP Sessions and Collaboration with Regional Fishery Bodies

- 5.1 It is proposed to organize the Seventh Session of the CWP during the first half of 1971, preferably before the 1971 meeting of ICNAF.
- 5.2 The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas has indicated that it would like to participate in future sessions of the CWP in the same way that FAO, ICES and ICNAF are now collaborating. It is also to be hoped that should the Convention on the Conservation of the Living Resources of the Southeast Atlantic be ratified and the Commission established that the new ICSEAF would also participate in the activities of the CWP.

6. Revision of the STATLANT (previously called "STANA") Forms

- 6.1 It is to be expected that the STATLANT or STANA system would be extended throughout the whole of the Atlantic and that forms similar to those used for the North Atlantic would be introduced for the Central and South Atlantic. It is essential to ensure thorough standardization of all common factors to facilitate the task of national offices completing these forms for the submission of catch and effort data.
- 6.2 It will be necessary also to consider the review of the STATLANT Notes and to take into account recommendations and definitions concerning effort measures. Additions and refinements to the list of species would also have to be undertaken. It is expected that these changes would not only apply to the North Atlantic but also to the species code in the Central and South Atlantic.
- 6.3 The Secretary of the CWP is now reviewing these STATLANT Notes and would submit his revisions of them for approval to the Seventh Session of the CWP and to the 1971 meeting of the participating agencies, i.e. ICNAF, ICES, ICCAT, etc. In the meantime it is intended to use the old forms and notes.
- 6.4 National offices would facilitate in these tasks if they would comment on the difficulties they have encountered and what improvements they would like to see.

7. Log Books

- 1 The following paragraph appeared in an ICNAF Document Report of the mid-term meeting of the Standing Committee on Regulatory Measures:

"The Committee agreed that an essential part of a catch quota scheme is an effective system of obtaining national fishery statistics by species and sub-areas. This could be facilitated by having a log book on each vessel operating under the quota scheme. Data recorded by the captain would not only be of value in reporting under the quota scheme but in stock assessment studies by the scientists. A combination of log book entries, international inspection reports under a scheme which ICNAF now had authority to adopt, and observations by air and sea patrols could significantly reduce the danger of false log book entries. It was agreed

- 1) that the Commission should ask the Panels to study the possibility of using a uniform or standard form of log book;
  - 2) that all log book entries made by each vessel operating under a quota scheme should be summarized and not just those entries relating to the catches in the area of restriction;
  - 3) that there should be an exchange of existing log book sheets between countries through the Secretariat in order to inform all countries of the kinds of information now being collected."
- 7.2 The Secretary of the CWP would wish to indicate that log books might have to be introduced to cover also fishing in other areas of the Atlantic. It might therefore be worthwhile to have inter-agency discussions with national officials to design log books that would be suitable not only for national needs, but would also facilitate multiple use in different fishing areas throughout the whole of the Atlantic. This would enable a fishing boat, moving from one area to another, to continue to use the same type of log books recording data required, not only by its national offices, but also by the different regional commissions and councils.



8. STATLANT Form Modifications for ADP Purposes

8.1 Extract from ICNAF Report.

"Subcommittee noted with interest the suggestion that the format of STANA forms might at this stage be modified, if feasible, to be used for the printing of the data by ADP machines and recommends (15)

That the CWP Secretary investigate the proposal to modify the STANA forms so that they would be compatible to ADP machine processing and following inquiries directed to all reporting national offices. report to ICNAF, ICES and the CWP's Seventh Session on the implementation of this suggestion."

8.2 The Secretary of the CWP wrote to national offices to obtain comments and suggestions on this matter. Replies from countries are given in Appendix A.

8.3 After completion of the work of species items mentioned in Section 1, the codification of such items and the revision of the Notes and the development of new forms for use throughout the Atlantic, there would be an opportunity to modify the format of the forms to suit ADP purposes.

8.4 The Secretary of the CWP would like to propose that all these changes be put into effect at the same time rather than introduce them piecemeal, and intends to continue with the existing forms pending final approval of all proposed modifications. It is hoped that the revised notes and forms would be in effect and used from beginning 1972.

APPENDIX A

STANTANT forms modifications for ADP purposes

BELGIUM

Adjusting the shape of the STANA forms to permit the computer used by national offices to print directly on these STANA forms would certainly result in some time and staff saving. In Belgium "I.B.M." and "General Electric" computers are both used. However, operators fear that, even if perforating and spacing of rows and columns are well designed to suit those computers, some deflection from the original lining cannot be avoided. Moreover the normal computer printing paper seems to be rather narrow to contain the number of columns printed on STANA forms.

It would be possible to supply computer print-outs to FAO, ICES, and ICNAF, but due to the above mentioned narrowness of computer printing paper the figures showing the monthly results will be printed one beneath the other instead of on a horizontal line.

CANADA

STANA 1W is not used by Canada as our detailed report has been transmitted to ICNAF in the form of computer print-outs. STANA 2 is used to submit summary but we do not have any suggestions for its revision.

DENMARK

The shape of the STANA forms is convenient as long as the present procedure is used for the preparation of Danish fishery statistics.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

We think that it would be an expedient solution if your proposal to adjust the shape of the STANA forms in order to permit the computers to print directly on these forms would be put into practice. Because of the extensive programming work involved, it would however be necessary to inform us of this change well in advance.

FINLAND

We have no difficulties in using the present STANA forms.

FRANCE

At present the figures are inserted by hand in the STANA forms; the logbooks from which the data are extracted are also handwritten. For this reason there is no need, for the time being, to change the format of the STANA forms in order to have computers print the data directly on the forms.

At present a statistical system is being studied for the North Atlantic for the collection of effort data to be processed by computers. It is therefore too early to make suggestions on the changes that might be required in the format of STANA forms to allow computers to print data directly on the forms. The paper suggestions will be made at a later date.

GREENLAND

Our statistical reporting is not yet so advanced that we can contribute with any bright ideas here.

IRELAND

We have found the STANA forms satisfactory for our purposes.

NETHERLANDS

Fishery statistics are not entirely worked up by computer in the Netherlands so that, for the present, there is no possibility of transferring the data to forms directly.

The possibility to transfer the data to computer print-outs directly, may be desirable to work up data rapidly and mechanically; it will hardly save time (at least where the Netherlands are concerned) at national offices.

NORWAY

At present, we are not able to change over to direct computer print on STANA-forms. However, we are interested in such improvements as suggested in your letter as the question of direct computer prints is likely to arise sooner or later.

POLAND

Regarding the size and shape of presently used statistical forms for reporting to FAO, ICNAF and ICES, we have as a matter of fact noticed that some are rather large and untypical. However, since the forms are at the same time neatly prepared and in such a proper manner (coloured set of sheets with carbon paper) we do not seem to experience any technical difficulties in operating, typing or distribution.

PORTUGAL

For us there is no problem concerning the present format of the STANA forms.

SWEDEN

For the time being and for the near future we are able to report catches and landings only on STANA 2 forms, which will be filled in by typing. For that purpose the recent format seems to be convenient.

UNITED KINGDOM

The processing of our statistical data is to be transferred in the near future to a new computer. In due course we shall certainly look into the question of having print-outs of STANA forms produced by the new computer, or other similar computer print-outs of the information requested by International Organizations. Such arrangements, should save a considerable amount of time in national offices as well as speeding up the process of submission to ICNAF, ICES and FAO.

UNITED STATES

I have looked into the problem of using machine compatible print-out forms for STANA forms. The size required is standard stock, at least here in the United States. There is no problem in printing the standard STANA layout on these forms. They would be continuous forms, with two or three carbons as now, which burst between pages in the same manner as regular IBM paper.

USSR

No comments on the format, the present form is suitable for us.

