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PROGRESS REPORT TO ICNAF ON VARIOUS STATLANT MATTERS

Note by the Secretary, CWP, 1 May 1971

1 NOTES FOR THE COMPLETION OF STATLANT FORMS FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC

- 1.1 As reported to ICNAF in previous years, it has become necessary to redraft the notes in the light of the overall Atlantic-wide need for standard notes (classifications, concepts, definitions, etc.) and standard STATLANT forms. This work has now been completed and it is possible to present closely comparable notes for not only ICNAF and ICES (as in the past) but now also for (1) CARPAS (Southwest Atlantic) (2) CEECAF (Eastern Central Atlantic) (3) GFCM (Mediterranean and Black Sea) and (4) Southeast Atlantic (for the proposed ICSEAF).
- 1.2 It is proposed to review all the notes for the various Atlantic regional fishery bodies at the 7th Session of the CWP, November 1971. The new versions will be used in 1972 when requesting national offices to complete STATLANT forms with 1971 data.
- 1.3 FAO Fisheries Circular Nos. 273 ("Notes for the completion of STATLANT form 21A - Northwest Atlantic Area: Catch summary") and 274 ("Notes for the completion of STATLANT form 21B - Northwest Atlantic Area: Catch effort") are presented to ICNAF's STACRES for consideration and for comment.

2 ADDITIONAL NOTES

- 2.1 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 248 Rev. 1 ("Classification, definition and codification of fishing effort statistics") gives the latest version of the ICES/ICNAF standard concepts, definitions and classifications with respect to effort measures.
- 2.2 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 260 ("Nominal catches" and "Landings": "Definitions and Notes") gives the basic definitions on various fundamental concepts relating to catch data:
- (1) "gross catches", "discarded catches", "nominal catches", "landings", etc.
 - (2) "live weight", "landed weight" and conversion factors
 - (3) "year of capture", "year of landing"
 - (4) "direct foreign landings"

This Circular also presents a summary of adjustments, inclusions and exclusions that have to be made when establishing the coverage of the data to be reported on NOMINAL CATCHES.

- 2.3 ICNAF's STACRES might wish to improve these notes and to introduce certain amendments.

3 NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHING AREAS

- 3.1 During its 6th Session (3-7 February 1969, Copenhagen), the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics) reviewed the detailed information on the classification of fishing areas presented in document STANA 69/6/8D ("Classification and Codification of Fishing Areas"). The CWP recommended that this document be re-issued and distributed to ICNAF, ICES and CECAF. FAO Fisheries Circular No. 235 consists of an expansion of the details relating to the Northwest Atlantic and to the ICNAF convention area and their further breakdown by sub-areas and divisions. The purpose of this Circular, by bringing together all these details, is to facilitate reviews and refinements of the definitions of the statistical areas and their sub-areas and divisions.
- 3.2 ICNAF's STACRES recommended (Recommendation No. 8) that the contents of this Circular be incorporated for reference purposes in the Redbook 1969, Part. III (see pages 124-127).
- 3.3 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 235 Rev. 1 ("Fishery Statistical Notes: Northwest Atlantic Statistical Area (FAO Fishing Area 21)") the revisions are in the North Atlantic map where some changes in NEAFC regional boundaries were made are submitted to ICNAF's STACRES for review and for improvements where necessary. Such improvements would be incorporated before this Circular is used as part of the notes for the completion of the STATLANT forms during 1972.

4 SPECIES CATEGORIES: NORTHWEST AND NORTHEAST ATLANTIC

- 4.1 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 277 ("Northwest and Northeast Atlantic: Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants for statistical purposes") has been prepared by the FIES secretariat to present:
- (a) the statistical categories (at the item level) for which data are available and published in either FAO, ICNAF or ICES statistical publications
 - (b) descriptions of the species coverage of the various FAO, ICES and ICNAF statistical items, indicating the one or more species included.
- 4.2 The material shown is arranged according to the "Divisions" and "groups" of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP). The statistical items or categories within each group are arranged in taxonomic order, i.e., in numerical order of the taxonomic code used by FAO in The Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries.
- 4.3 This Circular No. 277 is planned to replace both (1) No. 208 ("Northwest Atlantic species names") used for ICNAF statistics and (2) No. 207 ("Definitions of teleost and cartilaginous fish species and their groupings as listed in column C of Form STANA 1E") used for ICES statistics. In 1972 when the CWP Secretary makes requests to national offices for 1971 catch summary data and catch/effort data by Northwest and Northeast Atlantic fishing areas, FAO Fisheries Circular No. 277 will be used as part of the notes accompanying the STATLANT forms.
- 4.4 FAO Fisheries Circular No. 277 is submitted to ICNAF's STACRES for comment and for consideration. It would be most helpful if inadequacies, errors, etc. are pointed out for correction by the CWP Secretary. It will also be presented to ICES in September 1971 and to the 7th Session of the CWP, November 1971. All suggestions for improvements would be incorporated after the CWP meeting, and the revised version would then be available for use with the STATLANT forms early 1972.

5 NEW FAO TABULATIONS ON CATCHES BY SPECIES, BY AREAS AND BY COUNTRIES

- 5.1 In Volume No. 28 ("Catches and landings, 1969") of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, the tables in Section B, (Section C in the earlier volumes) present nominal catch data for each of the revised ISSCAAP's "Group of species". In these tables each group of species is broken down by statistical "items", e.g. species, genera, or families.
- 5.2 The coverage and contents of each of the tables (i.e. groups of species) have now been reviewed and have been retabulated and published in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 270 ("Nominal Catches, by species, by fishing areas and by countries") to reflect the following improvements:
- (a) A breakdown by fishing areas has now been introduced under each item. The catches of each statistical item (species, genus or family) have, therefore, been allocated to one or more fishing areas. The sub-totals for each fishing area are broken down further by country. The fishing areas used in these tabulations are the seven major inland fishing areas (each covering one of the seven continents) and the nineteen major marine fishing areas into which the three oceans (Atlantic, Indian and Pacific and their adjacent seas) have been split. This breakdown by areas should facilitate and expedite the extraction and preparation of the regionally oriented statistical tables and publications required by various fishery commissions, councils, etc.
 - (b) The statistical items under each ISSCAAP group are no longer arranged in alphabetic order of the English common names as hitherto, but in the taxonomic order according to the numerical codes used in The Current Bibliography for Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries. As explained in the introduction to Fisheries Circular 270 this will ensure that all species belonging to the same genus follow one another in immediate sequence; all genera belonging to the same family are also presented together. This should greatly facilitate the calculation of any special sub-totals by families, genera, etc.
 - (c) The introduction of more detailed breakdowns, according to the areas fished, often results in a more precise identification of the species, and also permits the identification of new statistical items at the family, genus or even species level, where these were formerly included under the very general categories called "Various", "Other", and "Unsorted", etc.
- 5.3 This FAO Fisheries Circular No. 270 is being circulated to national focal points for fishery statistics and to experts for their comments, revisions and corrections. It is hoped that all these comments, including the up-dating of the tables with data for the two calendar years 1969 and 1970, could be made available to FAO by 31 May 1971. This would permit the inclusion of these new versions of the tables in Section B of Volume No. 30 of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics sub-titled "Catches and landings, 1970", scheduled for publication in October 1971.

6 QUANTITY CONVERSION FACTORS

- 6.1 This Bulletin presents in final form the material shown in the Fisheries Circulars previously issued; it incorporates amendments and/or additional information supplied to FAO by the countries concerned after the publication of Fisheries Circular 228, Rev. 2.
- 6.2 It should be noted that the need for accurate conversion factors was discussed at the mid-term meeting of the ICNAF Standing Committee on Regulatory Measures, London, 27-29 January 1969 (see ICNAF Commission Document 69/2). This Standing Committee stated that:

- 6.3 "Since catch quotas would be in terms of landed equivalent whole fish, it would be necessary to establish conversion factors where the fish underwent processing at sea, and also the method of treatment of discards. These matters would need to be settled by experts at the time a scheme was formulated in the light of the particular circumstances, and the FAO/ICES/ICNAF Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fisheries Statistics (CWP) could advise".
- 6.4 It should also be stressed that, according to the opinions expressed by the CWP at its Fifth and Sixth Sessions, this work is not intended to establish common international factors.
- 6.5 FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics, No.25 ("Conversion Factors: North Atlantic Species, 1970") is intended to stimulate national statistical offices to compare the conversion factors they are now using for individual species and for particular types of dressing with factors used by other countries for the same species and degree of processing or handling. Where such a comparison shows significant differences it would be advisable that the national offices investigate the reasons for such discrepancies and if these reasons could not be established, then the accuracy of the conversion factors should also be tested.

7. ARRANGEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE CWP (COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS)

- 7.1 The first meeting of ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas), Rome, 1-6 December 1969, in considering the activities of the Coordinating Working Party, recommended that the Commission should participate in its work. The Council of ICCAT at its First Regular Meeting (Madrid, 16-20 November 1970) confirmed that the Commission should be represented at the Seventh Session of the CWP. The Chairman of ICCAT in a letter of 1 March 1971 to the Director-General of FAO reiterated the importance of the participation of the Commission in the work of the CWP and requested the support of FAO to that effect.
- 7.2 ICCAT's request was presented to the sixth session on 15-21 April of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) - see document COFI/71/5(a) Sup.1 of 25 March.
- 7.3 The following is an extract from the draft report of COFI (paragraph 24): "The Committee was informed of the desire of ICCAT to participate in the work of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP). Taking into account the need to standardize the selection and publication of fishery statistical data in the Atlantic Ocean, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Council of FAO to authorize at its Fifty-sixth Session (7-18 June 1971) the participation of ICCAT in the work of CWP, by appointing up to four experts to it. It was, however, pointed out that the number of experts, which each participant was entitled to appoint, would have to be reviewed if the number of participants increased in the future."
- 7.4 The observer for ICES at COFI, Mr. Tambs-Lyche (General Secretary, ICES) informed COFI that ICES welcomes the participation of ICCAT in the CWP and that ICES is expected to agree to such participation later this year. To permit ICCAT's participation in the Seventh Session of the CWP it is necessary that also ICNAF would endorse ICCAT's participation at its May 1970 meeting.
- 7.5 Details of the Seventh Session of the CWP

A draft prospectus covering the November 1971 meetings of the CWP in Rome including the Seventh Session of the Coordinating Working Party is presented as a separate paper (see ICNAF Res.Doc.71/19). Attention is drawn to the following:

- (a) The Seventh Session of the CWP is scheduled to take place in Rome over a period of 7-8 days during the first half of November. It is to be preceded by a two-day meeting of an ad hoc CWP Working Group on Automatic Data Processing.
- (b) The ad hoc CWP Working Group on Automatic Data Processing is to meet on Monday and Tuesday (8 and 9 November 1971). The first meeting will start at 10.00 on Monday.

- (c) The first meeting of the Seventh Session of the CWP will start at 10.00, Wednesday (10 November 1971). It is expected that the last meeting will close late on Tuesday afternoon (16 November 1971).
- (d) It is expected that both the Working Group on ADP and the CWP will meet in Rome, Italy. The meetings will be accommodated in FAO's Building ^{WFW}, located in Via Cristoforo Colombo (No.426) about 4 km from FAO Headquarters.

7.6 ICNAF's attention is drawn to the prospectus and the Secretary of the CWP would welcome suggestions for comments on the general arrangements and on the provisional agenda. It would also like to obtain from ICNAF at its May meeting or shortly afterward the names of the ICNAF participants. It should be noted that ICCAT will be responsible for the travel and per diem costs of the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of ICNAF's Sub-Committee on Sampling and Statistics.

8 CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING GEAR FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

- 8.1 An ad hoc Working Group on the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) met at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 21 through 23 April 1971. The List of Participants is given in Appendix 1.
- 8.2 This Working Group developed from an invitation extended by the Secretary of the CWP to Dr. A.I. Treschev (VNIRO; Moscow) and to Professor Dr. A von Brandt (Bundesforschungsanstalt für Fischerei, Hamburg), to come to Rome to discuss the establishment of an International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear. This invitation was made during the course of the ICES Special Meeting on the Measure of Fishing Effort, September 1970, Copenhagen.
- 8.3 The Working Group decided in view of the urgency of the matter to issue a Preliminary Report. A final report which would include detailed appendices, as well as illustrations of the different types of gear, and which would take possibly a year to prepare, should be issued during the course of 1972. The Group recommended that this final report should be completed by means of correspondence. It also expressed the hope that it would be possible for Professor von Brandt and Dr. Treschev to arrange for the illustrations to be included in the final version.
- 8.4 The divisions and groups of the ISSCFG as proposed by the ad hoc Working Party is presented as ICNAF Res.Doc. 71/20.

9 FISHING FLEETS STATISTICS AND NATIONAL REGISTERS OF FISHING CRAFT

- 9.1 ICNAF has been producing, periodically, for several years a list of vessels fishing in the ICNAF Convention Area. The ICES Statistics Committee considered the need for publishing a similar list of fishing craft fishing in the Northeast Atlantic. The matter was referred to the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, which suggested that ICNAF and ICES considered the advisability of issuing periodically a joint list of vessels fishing in the North Atlantic.
- 9.2 These matters have been repeatedly reviewed in the recent sessions of the ICNAF Sub-Committee on Statistics, the ICES Statistics Committee, the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP).
- 9.3 At the meeting of the ICNAF Standing Committee on Research and Statistics, held in Warsaw, 1969, the Secretary of the CWP was requested to prepare a draft joint list of vessels fishing in the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic and to present it at the 1971 annual meetings of ICNAF and ICES, to enable these bodies to decide on whether or not to proceed with the proposal to publish periodically such a joint list.

- 9.4 The FAO Secretariat issued a fishery circular and standard forms under cover of a letter addressed to the national fishery statistical focal points of all countries who have boats fishing in the Northeast or Northwest Atlantic. Many countries completed these forms in accordance with the instructions, but in a few cases it appeared that some confusion was caused by requesting information for vessels of 150 tons and more if they fish in the Northeast Atlantic or Northwest Atlantic while vessels of 50-149 tons were to be reported only if they fished in the Northwest Atlantic at least.
- 9.5 It did not prove feasible to complete the manuscript as some replies are still outstanding and a few of those received are incomplete.
- 9.6 The Secretary of the CWP would like to suggest that such a joint list of vessels should only be issued if the requirements as to the fleets to be reported do not vary from region to region. It might be advisable to establish 100 tons as the minimum for the inclusion of any vessel in the joint register. In view of the continuing expansion of long distance fishing operations, it might even be better not to confine the register to the vessels fishing in the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic. The best solution now might be to issue from time to time an FAO Bulletin of Fishery Statistics covering all the vessels of say 100 g.r.t. or more regardless of the fishing area frequented.