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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1974

Report of Statistics Committee (ICES)
(extract from Procès-Verbal de la Réunion, 1973)

Chairman: Mr J.A. Pope

Rapporteur: Mr David de G. Griffith

The Committee met on 3 and 4 October 1973. The members were welcomed by the Chairman and the list of members was checked. The Agenda was adopted.

1. Administrative Report

- 1.1 The UK representative reported that the collection and processing of fishery statistics in England and Wales had not, in fact, continued unchanged, as stated in the Administrative Report; a new system had been in operation since 1 January 1972.
- 1.2 The Danish representative stated that the system in Denmark was in the process of being changed, and undertook to make a report on these changes to the next Statutory Meeting.

2. Progress Report

The Statistician presented the Progress Report for the year. It was noted that STATLANT 27A Forms had now been received from France, Spain and Portugal, and that STATLANT 27B material was also coming in from those countries which had not yet supplied this information. The Committee also noted the NEAFC Resolution calling for submission to the ICES of catch data on 14 selected species by 1 February of the year following that to which the data applied.

3. Bulletin Statistique

- 3.1 The Statistician pointed out that many tables in the Advance Release could not be completed because of the late submission of data by France, Spain and Portugal and asked if the Committee felt that there was any value in producing an incomplete Advance Release. The Committee endorsed the importance of this publication - even if there were gaps in the information it contained - and requested the Statistician to provide and circulate an Annex to the Advance Release which would contain this late information. (C. Res. 1973/1:13).
- 3.2 Some discussion took place on the reporting of statistics on aquaculture products. The Statistician was requested to collect information on the treatment of these species in national reporting practices, and to present a paper on the subject to the next Statutory Meeting.
- 3.3 The Committee examined the recommendations concerning the layout of the "Bulletin Statistique" which had been made by the Working Group on an Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics, and agreed as follows:

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| Tables 1 and 2 | Layout as recommended in Doc. C.M.1973/D:4. Title to include the words "ICES Statistical Area" and not merely "ICES Area". |
| Table 3 | As recommended. Additional tables for "Total Demersal Species" and "Total Pelagic Species" were not required, nor were additional tables showing percentage distributions. |
| Table 4 | As recommended. |
| Table 4a | The Table was felt to serve no useful purpose and it will not be included in subsequent issues. |
| Tables 4b and 5 | As recommended. |

Table 6 This Table is to be removed from the Bulletin and the equivalent tables in "Statistical News Letters" are to be re-designed as recommended.

Tables 7-10 As recommended.

It was noted that these changes may ultimately involve a change in the format of the Bulletin, which would then have a format similar to that of the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin. Note was also taken of the Roundfish Working Group's recommendation that the catches of Divisions VIIa and VIIf should no longer be combined for inclusion in Table 4.

4. "Statistical News Letters"

The Committee considered the views expressed in two papers to the Hydrography Committee (Docs. C.M. 1973/C:15 and C:16), and proposed C.Res.1973/4:9. The amount of data available at the moment of the distribution of fishing effort would not warrant the production of charts illustrating this distribution.

5. Interagency Matters

5.1 The Extract of the Report of the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee of ICNAF was presented by the Assistant Executive Secretary of the Commission, and note was taken of the recommendations contained therein. In view of the activities in ICES and ICNAF concerning ADP systems, the Committee felt that there was a need for an exchange of ideas and up-to-date information and accordingly proposed C.Res.1973/3:8.

5.2 The FAO representative presented Doc. C.M.1973/D:10 and Doc. C.M.1973/D:11, and the STATLANT programme was discussed.

5.3 A verbal report was made of the discussions which had taken place in Paris, Madrid, and Lisbon between national reporting agencies and representatives of ICES, ICNAF, FAO, OECD, ICCAT and ICSEAF on problems associated with the reporting of fisheries statistics. It was noted that these three countries were in the process of introducing new processing systems, but that catch data which had been produced entirely by these new systems would not be available until 1975 (1974 data) for the ICES statistical area. The Statistician will present the written report of these discussions to the mid-term meeting of the Liaison Committee.

5.4 The Committee noted that the next CWP meeting would be held during 1974, and that Norway would be the member country to be nominated by ICES.

6. Measurement of Fishing Effort

The Chairman introduced the Report of the meeting on the Measurement of Fishing Effort, held at IJmuiden on 7 and 8 May 1973. A brief account of the discussion of this Report and that of the Working Group on Research on Engineering Aspects of Fishing Gear, Vessels and Equipment held during the meetings of the Gear and Behaviour Committee was presented by the Chairman of the latter Committee. The subject of the "Swept Volume Method", proposed by Dr A.I. Treschev, was discussed at some length, but the Committee was of the opinion that, whilst it agreed with the conclusions of the Meeting - that there was some scientific potential in Dr Treschev's proposed method - swept volume was only a part of the total complex of factors which determined the effectiveness of fishing gear. The statistics currently being recommended for collection as measures of fishing effort still appeared at present to be the most meaningful and most useful, and no changes were deemed to be necessary. Countries should, however, be encouraged to continue their studies of the measurement of fishing effort. The Committee noted C.Res. 1973/4:10.

7. Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics

The Chairman of the Committee presented the Report of the Working Group on an Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics. The Report outlined the general way in which the Working Group considered how a computer-oriented system for handling catch/effort and biological statistics (System c) should be set up. The Working Group, whilst noting that a system such as they favoured was in use at the Danish Fishery Institute, was very much aware that System c) in its complete form would entail a great deal of systems analysis and programming effort which would require the appointment of a full-time programmer on the staff of the Secretariat. In the meantime, in order to gain experience with System c), the Working Group had re-stated the recommendation contained in the Council's resolution (C.Res.1972/2:12(c)) that a trial of System c) should be made, using herring data. It was noted that this recommendation had been supported by the Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee and that they had nominated a person to act in liaison capacity between the North Sea Herring Assessment Working Group and the ADP Working Group.

In its discussion of this subject, the Committee was of the opinion that before embarking on such a pilot study it was essential to have a clear indication of the Council's policy on whether or not it supported the setting up of an ADP System for ICES. In this connection the Committee noted that both

ICNAF and ICCAT were actively pursuing such a policy. If the Council wished to pursue this matter further, the ADP Working Group would have to meet again in order to produce a complete detailed specification of the requirements and the costs (broken down into capital, manpower and running costs) of carrying out a specific trial run, namely that using North Sea herring material. Such a study should also take into account the requirements for producing the "Bulletin Statistique" by computer.

8. National Statistical Systems

In response to the Resolution C.Res.1972/4:5, papers describing systems currently in use for the collection and processing of national fishery statistics were presented by seven member countries. The accounts were agreed to be extremely useful and the Committee proposed C.Res.1973?5:7.

9. National Catch and National Sampling Schemes

The Statistician presented Doc. C.M.1973/D:9, which had also been discussed by the Pelagic Fish (Northern) and the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committees. The Statistics Committee noted the recommendations of these Committees and expressed their support of C.Res.1973/4:8 and C.Res.1973/5:10.

The Statistics Committee also agreed that surveys of the kind carried out in Doc. C.M.1973/D:9 serve a useful purpose in showing areas where, broadly speaking, the sampling effort might be improved.

10. Election of Chairman

In accordance with the established procedures, Mr J. Møller Christensen was elected Chairman of the Statistics Committee for the following three years.

11. Other Business

Note was taken of Doc. C.M.1973/M:20 (Section 2.14.j), in which EIFAC stated that the development of statistics of elver and adult eel catches was one of a number of areas where active cooperation with ICES was possible.

12. Communications

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| D:1 | | "Administrative Report" |
| D:2 | J.A. Pope
and A. Saville | "Scottish Fisheries Statistics" |
| D:3 | F. Billström | "Swedish fishery statistics: a description of the current system and the forms used" |
| D:4 | | "Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on an Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics" |
| D:5 | K. Michielsen
and P. Hovart | "Fish landing records at ports in Belgium - A description of methods for collecting statistical data in Belgium" |
| D:6 | A. Meyer | "The new German logbook system and the working-up of the data" |
| D:7 | K. Hoydal | "A new statistical system for the Faroese fishery" |
| D:8 | | "Extract of the Report of the Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee of ICNAF" |
| D:9 | D. de G.
Griffith | "A comparison of national catches and national sampling activities in the ICES Area" |
| D:10 | | "Notes for the Completion of Forms STATLANT 27A and 27B - Northeast Atlantic: Catch Summary and Catch/Effort" |
| D:11 | FAO | "Progress Report on an Interagency Cooperation in Statistical Matters" |
| D:12 | D. de G.
Griffith | "Progress Report" |
| D:13 | M.C.H.
Wagemans and
H. de Kleijn | "Netherlands' fishery statistics" |
| D:14 | P.L. Mietle | "The Norwegian fishery statistics system" |

