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the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Progress report in inter-agency cooperation in statistical matters, 1973-74

by

L. Butler  
Assistant Secretary CWP

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report, in the main, outlines activities in the field of inter-agency cooperation in fishery statistical matters since mid 1973 but where considered of interest refers to previous events.
- 1.2 The CWP held its Seventh Session at the FAO Headquarters, Rome from 10-16 November 1971. The CWP Study Group on Automatic Data Processing which met on 8-9 November 1971 submitted its report to the Seventh Session of the CWP. The Eighth Session of the CWP originally planned for 1973 has been postponed until 1974 for various reasons. Preliminary discussions on the Agenda, time and place, took place when the secretariats of the participating agencies met in Madrid and Lisbon just before the ICES Meeting of October 1973. The session is now scheduled to take place during 12 (or 13) to 21 September of this year in Paris, the host organization being CEED. A draft prospectus containing the draft agenda<sup>5/</sup> and papers to be provided was circulated to agency secretariats in March and comments are awaited.
- 1.3 Originally, ICES, ICNAF and FAO appointed participants from each of their secretariats and each regional agency also requested two member countries to nominate experts. In view of the increasing number of participating agencies which now number five (ICES, ICNAF, ICCAT, ICSEAF, FAO) and in view of the need to restrict the number of participants, it has been generally recognised that whilst each agency should continue to appoint Secretariat representatives, each regional agency should request the nomination of only

one country representative and not two as in the past. ICNAF should therefore decide the country to be asked to nominate a participant to the next session of the CWP. It is also to be recalled that the ICNAF Standing Committee on Research and Statistics ensure the participation of its Secretariat representatives (usually the Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Sampling and the Assistant Executive Secretary) in the Eighth Session.

## 2. Meetings

2.1 The Secretariat of the CWP participated in 1973 and 1974 in the following meetings:

- (a) on 16 January 1973 the Secretary convened in Rome, in accordance with the suggestion of the ICES Statistics Committee, September 1972, an ad hoc Working Group on the Contents of Regional Fishery Statistics Bulletins. Unfortunately, it was not possible to have an ICES representative present as originally planned because of changes in the ICES secretariat, but Mr. D. J. Garred (U.K.) was requested to participate in this meeting which dealt mainly with the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin. In view of the importance of the subject, it is suggested that this matter might be reconsidered by the CWP at its Eighth Session, discussing this matter in the light of the ICNAF experience in developing its Statistical Bulletin.
- (b) the Secretary of the CWP was present at two working groups established by ICSEAF which met in Madrid during May 1973. During these meetings detailed discussions took place between the CWP Secretary and the ICSEAF Secretariat on topics within the ATLANT programme and ICSEAF's participation in the CWP.
- (c) the CWP Secretary was also present at ICNAF's Standing Committee on Statistics and ICNAF's Subcommittee on Statistics and Sampling which met in May 1973, Copenhagen.
- (d) in view of the growth of CWP, the FAO Secretariat has been strengthened

by the appointment of Mr. L. Butler as Assistant Secretary<sup>1/</sup>  
He participated in the meetings of the ICES Statistics Committee,  
October 1973, Lisbon, held during the Sixty-first Statutory meeting  
of ICES and also chaired three separate meetings between the International  
Agency Secretariats and the National Fishery Statistical Offices of France,  
Spain and Portugal during the period 26 September to 2 October 1973; the  
report of these meetings is available as FAO Fisheries Circular No. 381,  
Rome, November 1973.<sup>2/</sup>

- (e) In January 1974, both the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of GMP were  
present at the Fourth Special Commission Meeting.

In paragraph 2.1 reference has been made to formal meetings convened and  
attended by the Secretariat of GMP, but throughout the period under review,  
the GMP Secretariat at various opportunities discussed and maintained  
correspondence with the participating agencies about details of the STATLANT  
programme. This continuing exchange between the Commission secretariats and  
the GMP Secretariat has, and does ensure a continuing improvement of the  
procedures and standards that are being used to transmit requests to countries  
and to issue reminders so as to facilitate the expeditious return of properly  
completed questionnaires to ICES, ICHAF, ICSEAF, ICCAT and FAO.

### 3. Publications (FAO)

- 3.1 Since the ICHAF meeting of mid-1973, the FAO Department of Fisheries published  
Volume 34 of the Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, subtitled "Catches  
and landings, 1972" as well as Volume 35, subtitled "Fishery Commodities,  
1972".
- 3.2 Beginning with Volume 34, while the tables in Sections A and C of this  
volume will remain unchanged and follow the same pattern as in earlier  
volumes<sup>3/</sup> there were certain important changes in Section B. The series

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1/ Mr. Butler has been with FAO since 1967 and has been mainly concerned with the  
development of national fishery statistical services in Africa and Asia and the  
extension of the STATLANT system to the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific Areas.  
He participated in the third and fourth Sessions of the GMP, on the second  
occasion as Chairman.

2/ Summ.Doc.No.74/15.

3/ Section A, Country tables; Section B, Species tables; Section C, Fishing  
Area tables

of tables and titles in Section B is unaltered, but changes have been made in the order of the details presented.

The three-tier breakdown of ISSCAAP Species Groups by (i) species, (ii) areas and (iii) countries, are being maintained in each table.

However, instead of having the species breakdown first, followed by an area breakdown and then by a country breakdown, it was decided to have first the breakdown by areas and under each area a species breakdown with the latter broken down by countries. See table immediately below.

Order of Breakdown Elements: Yearbook of Fishery Statistics;  
Table B

Volume	1	2	3	4
32	ISSCAAP Group	Species	Area	Country
34	ISSCAAP Group	Area	Species	Country

This new order of breakdown elements facilitates the extraction and publication of regional circulars for each of the world's major marine statistical and inland fishing areas.

- 3.3 It is hoped that, in the near future, resources (manpower and funds) will permit FAO to computerise the production of the Yearbook, and supplementary statistical bulletins; indeed, just recently, concrete steps have been taken in this direction. When undertaking this work, FAO will pay very close attention to similar automatic data processing programmes being developed by regional commissions, as well as to any needs of such commissions which could also be met by the FAO programmes in this field.
- 3.4 It is expected that the FAO Yearbook of Fishery Statistics Volume 36 "Catches and landings, 1973" will be available by the end of 1974 or early 1975. Copies of this volume will be dispatched as soon as stocks are available. Comments and suggestions for its further improvement will be welcomed. Scientists and other users of the Yearbook reviewing the sections dealing with the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic, are particularly requested to review their national data to suggest improvements as to species identification, fishing area and the magnitude of the catches when applicable.
- 3.5 FAO is also releasing during 1974 (using the statistics in Volume 34 of the Yearbook) twenty-four FAO Fisheries Circulars, each of which is devoted to one of the major marine and inland statistical areas. Each regional circular presents for the eight years 1965 to 1972, annual nominal catches of species

by country? One of these Fisheries Circulars will be devoted to Statistical Area #1 and copies will be made available to all countries fishing in Statistical Area 47.

4. Statistical areas within the ICHAF Convention Area

The ICHAF and FAO Secretariats recently discussed the fact that countries were reporting catches off the east coast of Baffin Island and off the eastern Queen Elizabeth Islands and thought that it might be appropriate for ICHAF to create a new statistical sub-area similar to sub-area 6, outside the Conventien area, to cover the waters of the eastern parts of Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.

The FAO Secretariat would be interested to receive the views of ICHAF on this proposal and offers its own first thoughts on the subject at Appendix 2.

5. General Notes on Statistical Areas

5.1 In response to the CWP Study Group on Automatic Data Processing, the CWP at its Seventh Session recommended that FAO combine in a single publication all the maps and area codes now used by the regional bodies of the Atlantic, initially limited to those codes referring to sub-areas, divisions and sub-divisions.

5.2 In response to this recommendation, the CWP Secretariat has prepared as FAO Fisheries Circular No. 372 a consolidated document bringing together all the information on statistical areas throughout the world, i.e. the descriptions at present appearing in various circulars, each devoted to a particular major statistical area (South Atlantic, Eastern Central Atlantic, Mediterranean, Southeast Atlantic, etc.). The comprehensive circular which will appear in the very near future will be presented to the CWP's Eighth Session before it is issued in final form, unless a second draft is requested; regional maps will be included in the final version.

5.3 ICHAF has already been giving attention to the possibility of introducing smaller statistical areas and this is a matter which has also been raised in ICES. These developments in the North Atlantic could be kept under review by the CWP.

6. Concepts concerning catches and landings

6.1 Some basic definitions of these concepts were issued in a preliminary version of FAO Fisheries Circular No. 428. The CWP Secretary has now consolidated all the material (which appear in various Fisheries Circulars, in the Introduction to the Yearbook, etc.) in an expanded version of Fisheries Circular No. 428. It is hoped that this consolidated version will prove to be of value to users. Printed

in May 1973 it was made available as part of the background material provided with the requests submitted to national statistical offices in early 1974 asking for 1973 data.

- 6.2 Problems related to direct foreign landings - and it would appear that these activities are on the increase - require particular attention. It should again be pointed out to all countries that in collecting data and submitting catch statistics they should include in their national submissions the live weight equivalent (nominal catches) of quantities landed by their vessels in foreign ports. On the other hand, they should exclude from their national statistics (which should be treated as imports) landings made in domestic harbours by foreign vessels. However, where there may be doubt if foreign landings have been reported by the flag state, separate reports may be made by the country in which landings occur.
- 6.3 There is a possibility that funds may shortly be available for the employment of a consultant to study the situation in the Eastern Central Atlantic in detail, paying attention to national accounting practices and in particular trying to identify cases of catches not missed or double counted (coverage problem). It is to be expected that this study would lead to the establishment of principles etc. for statistical and national accounting procedures to be followed, all of which would need to be internationally agreed in the context of the national accounts procedures prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office.
- 6.4 The instructions for the completion of Form STAF/LANT 21B require that data on nominal catch refer to the landings on a live weight basis. These magnitudes, therefore, will not include that portion of the gross catch which has not been utilized on board and has been returned to the sea as whole fish - discarded catches. It should also be noted that discarded catch does not include heads, fins, viscera and other parts of fish which after gutting may be retained on board or dumped, i.e. discards do not include the waste and offal, whether kept on board or returned to the sea. Similarly, discards do not include "trash-fish" which are used industrially on board vessels to produce fish meal; such fish which is landed in the form of fish meal is included in the nominal catch.
- 6.5 The Eighth Session of CWP is to consider the design of forms for reporting statistics of:
- (a) discards
  - (b) sports fishing

both of which are excluded from nominal catch and also a form to show separately statistics on:

- (c) trash fish

although the catches of this class of fish are already included in nominal catch.

#### 7.0 List of North Atlantic Species

7.1 In October 1972 the GWP Secretary issued a revised version of this list as FAO Fisheries Circular No. 471 (Preliminary). It has been made available to all countries fishing in FAO Statistical Areas 21 and 27. This Circular is at present being revised and will be presented to the 8th Session of GWP.

7.2 At present ICGMIF classifies catches of squids as follows:

- (i) Loligo species
- (ii) Illex species
- (iii) Other species, a.e.i.

It has been noticed, however, that in practice the main catches are Loligo pealei and Illex illecebrosus. If this is the case <sup>might be given</sup> consideration to reporting catches of squid ~~according to~~ according to the following classifications:

- (i) Longfinned squid - L. pealei
- (ii) Shortfinned squid - I. illecebrosus
- (iii) Other squids n.e.i. - Illex and Loligo spp.

#### 8. Fishing Effort

8.1 As is well known, information on fishing fleet statistics, on fishing gear and on fishing effort measures appears in various Fisheries Circulars and in reports of the GWP. It recently became obvious, in view of the demand for these circulars, that it would be most convenient if the information they contained were brought together and consolidated between the covers of a single document. A compendium has now been produced as Fisheries Circular No. 429, which covers:

- (a) notes of fishing fleet statistics;
- (b) notes on fishing gear statistics;
- (c) notes on fishing effort statistics;
- (d) notes on classes of fishing units;
- (e) OECD report on fishing fleet statistics.

8.2 In September 1970, ICES sponsored a special meeting on fishing effort measurements in Copenhagen; further discussions on this subject took place during two ICES working parties, L'Anse-au-Loup 1973. Further, at its meeting in Copenhagen (May/June

1973), the ICMAP Sub-committee on Statistics and Sampling took note of the recommendation of the Special ICMAP Meeting of Experts on Effort limitation, Woods Hole, 26-30 March 1973, that the CWP be requested to provide a more precise definition of "days on grounds" than that currently in use. After discussion of the difficulties involved in trying to arrive at a more precise definition, the Subcommittee recommended:

- (i) that the question of the more precise definition of the effort concept "days on grounds" be referred to the next session of the CWP.
- (ii) that prior to that session the CWP Secretary obtain from member countries comments and suggestions to assist the CWP in arriving at a more precise definition than that currently in use.
- (iii) that, pending a decision on the question, the effort concept "days on grounds" not be reinserted on STATLANT 21B forms at this time.

8.3 An enquiry was sent to all countries and agencies interested in the Atlantic fisheries on 11 March 1974. To date, replies have been received from:

1. England and Wales
2. Canada
3. ICSEAF
4. Portugal

It is hoped that more replies will become available in time for a report to be submitted to the 8th Session of CWP.

9. STATLANT Forms 21A and 21B

9.1 STATLANT form 21A is used by national offices for reporting each year the total annual nominal catch (quantity) taken in all commercial, industrial and subsistence fisheries in Fishing Area 21, broken down by species and Division (with sub-area totals).

9.2 The instructions for completing form STATLANT 21A are contained primarily in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 442 NOTES FOR THE COMPLETION OF FORM STATLANT 21A "FAO STATISTICAL FISHING AREA 21 - NORTHWEST ATLANTIC: CATCH SUMMARY", (Rome November 1973).

Circulars to be consulted for supplementary details are:

- (i) FAO Fisheries Circular No. 440: NORTHWEST ATLANTIC (AREA 21 - ICMAP): DESCRIPTION OF FISHING AREA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES and NORTHEAST ATLANTIC AREA (AREA 27 - ICES and NEAFC): DESCRIPTION OF FISHING AREA FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES (Rome, October 1972).



(ii) FAO Fisheries Circular No. 441 NORTHWEST ATLANTIC (AREA 21 - ICMAP) AND NORTHEAST ATLANTIC AREA (AREA 27 - ICES) AND CLASSIFICATION OF AQUATIC ANIMALS AND PLANTS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES (Rome, October 1972).

(iii) FAO Fisheries Circular No. 428: "NOMINAL CATCHES" AND "LANDINGS": DEFINITIONS AND NOTES, Rome, May 1973 <sup>4/</sup>

National offices are asked to send one copy of the completed STATLANT Form 21A to ICMAP and another copy to the CWP Secretary.

9.3 Form STATLANT 21B is used by national offices for reporting each year on all commercial and industrial subsistence fishing activity in the Area 21 (i.e. fishing effort data) and the corresponding nominal catch (total quantity broken down by main species caught) for each class of fishing unit (gear/craft combination) within each ICMAP division. Statistics are to be on a monthly basis, with annual totals.

9.4 Instructions for the completion of Form STATLANT 21B are contained primarily in FAO Fisheries Circular No. 443: NOTES FOR THE COMPLETION OF FORM STATLANT 21B "FAO STATISTICAL FISHING AREA 21 - NORTHWEST ATLANTIC: CATCH/EFFORT". Together with this circular these referred to in paragraph 9.2 should also be consulted for supplementary details along with FAO Fisheries Circular No. 429 "Notes on International Classifications and Definitions used in Fishing Fleet, Fishing Gear and Fishing Effort Statistics"; Rome, October 1973. See also Section 8.1 above.

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<sup>4/</sup> See also reference to Fisheries Circular 428 in Section 6.1

Appendix I

PROVISIONAL AGENDA: EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CWP

	<u>Document No.</u>
	<u>CWP-8/</u>
1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.1 Opening of session	1A
1.2 Approval of Agenda Items 1.3 through 1.6	1A
1.3 Election of Chairman	1A
1.4 Adoption of Agenda Items 2-12	1A
1.5 Review and adoption of schedule of work	1A, 1B
1.6 Appointment of Rapporteurs	1A
2. REVIEW OF AGENCY PROGRAMMES AND PUBLICATIONS PRESENTING ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS	
2.1 FAO Statistical programme and publications in general and specifically for the Atlantic and for the GFCM, CARPAS, CECAF, and WECARC	2A
2.2 ICNAF statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2B
2.3 ICES statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2C
2.4 ICCAT statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2D
2.5 ICSEAF statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2E
2.6 OECD fishery statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2F
2.7 SOEC fishery statistical programme, publications and ADP processing	2G
2.8 The STATLANT Programme under the aegis of the CWP 1C, 2H, 2I	
3. CLASSIFICATION AND CODIFICATION OF FISHING AREAS OF THE ATLANTIC AND ADJACENT SEAS	
3.1 Review of papers consolidating existing material, including maps, of each of the major fishing areas in the Atlantic	) 3A, 3B,
3.2 Development of an Atlantic-wide system, within a world framework, of a codification of areas for ADP processing of catch and effort data	) 3C, 3D )
4. CLASSIFICATION AND STATISTICAL CATEGORIES REFLECTING SPECIES, GENERA, FAMILIES AND GROUPS, FOR THE WORLD IN GENERAL AND THE ATLANTIC IN PARTICULAR	
4.1 Improvements needed in the FAO classification of statistical categories reflecting recommendations of regional bodies	) 4A, 4B, ) 4C, 4D, ) 4E, 4F,
4.2 A review of the FAO classification and its possible modification for particular regions	) 4G, 4H )
4.3 Consideration of a worldwide codification of statistical categories for use in an ADP system	) )
5. DEFINITIONS OF BASIC CONCEPTS PERTAINING TO "NOMINAL CATCHES" AND "LANDINGS"	
5.1 Definitions of basic concepts pertaining to "Nominal Catches" and "Landings"	5A, 5B

- 5.2 Development of a system of reporting "Discards" 7E
- 5.3 Conversion factors 5A
- 6. STANDARD CONCEPTS, DEFINITIONS AND CLASSIFICATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHING FLEET AND FISHING EFFORT STATISTICS
  - 6.1 Review of the Report of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear 6A, 6B
  - 6.2 Consideration of the utilization of this framework for listing fishing gear in the notes and in the statistics of regional Atlantic fishery commissions, committees and councils 6A
  - 6.3 Consideration of the possibility of showing catch (by principal species) for regions according to principal types of gear 6A
  - 6.4 Ways and means to improve statistics on the actual and potential fishing fleets 6D
  - 6.5 Review of the definition on the fishing effort concept "number of days on ground" 6G
- 7. REVIEW OF STATLANT FORMS AND NOTES FOR THEIR COMPLETION
  - 7.1 Overall review of all forms to be used by Atlantic fishery regional bodies, commissions, committees and councils 7A, 7B
  - 7.2 Further proposals for improvement, refinement and standardization of notes for the compilation of STATLANT Forms 7A, 7B, 7E
  - 7.3 Review of existing procedures for the distribution and collection of STATLANT forms and proposals for improvement 7A, 7B, 7E
  - 7.4 Consideration of ways and means to expedite (a) return of completed forms and (b) the publication and distribution of resultant international tabulations 7A, 7B
- 8. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE CWP STUDY GROUP ON ADP 7D, 7E
- 9. STANDARDIZATION OF COUNTRY NOMENCLATURE AND SYMBOLS AND FOOTNOTES IN FISHERY STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS
  - 9.1 Standardization of country nomenclature and country codification ) 1D
  - 9.2 Standardization of symbols, definitions and footnotes ) 1A Appendix 6
- 10. PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CWP
  - 10.1 Publication of the Report of the Eighth Session of the CWP 1A
  - 10.2 Distribution of the Report of the Eighth Session of the CWP 1A
- 11. OTHER MATTERS
  - 11.1 Other business 1A
  - 11.2 Date and place of Ninth Session of the CWP

NOTES ON A NEW STATISTICAL SUB-AREA IN THE NORTHWEST  
ATLANTIC (FISHING AREA 21)

1. The northwest boundary of the ICAF Convention area bisects the waters of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait. Hitherto the waters of the western half of Baffin Bay and Davis Strait have been considered to form part of FAO's fishing area 18 - Arctic Sea - and, therefore, have not been included in the Northwest Atlantic Area, FAO's No. 21.
2. Recently countries have been reporting catches from these waters consisting of species caught in ICAF sub-area 2. It therefore appears advisable to establish a new sub-area forming part of the Northwest Atlantic covering these waters which would then be excluded from fishing area 18.
3. The northwest boundary<sup>of ICAF</sup> is drawn from a point  $78^{\circ}10'N$  latitude on the west coast of Greenland, southward to a point in  $75^{\circ}00'N$  latitude and  $73^{\circ}30'W$  longitude; thence along a line to a point in  $69^{\circ}00'N$  latitude and  $59^{\circ}00'W$  longitude; thence due south to a point in  $61^{\circ}00'N$  latitude and  $59^{\circ}00'W$  longitude; thence due west to  $64^{\circ}30'W$  longitude; thence due south the coast of Labrador.
4. The line mentioned in the preceding paragraph would constitute the eastern boundary of this new sub-area to ensure there would be no overlapping with the existing ICAF sub-areas 1 and 2.
5. If such a new sub-area within the areal framework of an expanded Northwest Atlantic Statistical area 21 is established, it will become necessary to determine the precise northern and western boundaries of this new sub-area and the following must be taken into account in establishing these boundaries:
  - 5.1 If the Kane Basin is to be excluded then it might be advisable to draw the northern boundary along the parallel  $78^{\circ}10'N$  across Smith Sound separating Greenland from Ellesmere Island. However, if the Kane Basin is to be included in the new sub-area then a parallel should be chosen across either the Kennedy or Robeson Channels.
  - 5.2 It is assumed that the whole of Jones Sound might be included in this sub-area and the boundary here could be drawn across the western entrance near North Kent Island.
  - 5.3 A decision might have to be taken about which meridian is to be used to draw the western boundary across Lancaster Sound and possibly also across Eclipse Sound to the south of Bylot Island.
  - 5.4 If the Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay are to be excluded from the new sub-area then a boundary could be drawn from a point in  $61^{\circ}00'N$  latitude and  $64^{\circ}30'W$  longitude in a northwesterly direction to Resolution Island and then across Gabriel Strait.
  - 5.5 If Hudson Strait and Ungava Bay are to be included in the new sub-area then the boundary might have to be drawn across the western entrance to Hudson Strait in the vicinity of Mill, Salisbury and Nottingham Islands.
  - 5.6 The inclusion of Hudson Bay and James Bay might require a boundary across the Foxe Channel and Roes Welcome Sound. Should it be advisable to include the Foxe Basin then the west boundary might be along a meridian crossing the Fury and Hecla Strait.