

AD HOC INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATION ON ATLANTIC  
FISHERY STATISTICS

September 28-29, 1979, Warsaw, Poland

- 1) The meetings took place on the mornings and afternoons of Friday and Saturday 28-29 September 1979 in the Palace of Culture and Science. As Convenor Mr L.P.D. Gertenbach opened the consultation and Mr D. Griffith was elected Chairman with Mr D.G. Cross and Mr L.P.D. Gertenbach as rapporteurs.
- 2) The participants in the consultation are listed in Appendix B.
- 3) The draft agenda was presented and adopted (see Appendix A).
- 4) A representative from each participating agency (ICCAT, ICSEAF, ICES, FAO, EUROSTAT and OECD) described briefly the present status of their fishery statistical programmes, including publications.
- 5) The FAO participant presented a draft questionnaire designed for submission to the IPFC's SCORRAD in Hong Kong in December 1979. It is designed to obtain information on the structure and status of national fishery statistical services. The meeting found it interesting but felt that its use should be confined to those regions where the national institutions are relatively poorly known to the international agencies and that this type of work should be tested, conducted and concluded in the IPFC/IOFI areas and possibly in the WECAFC, CECAF and GFCM areas.
- 6) The FAO participant reported that he had submitted and retrieved from virtually all the intergovernmental agencies the information required to prepare the 10th Session of the CWP in the form of an updated tabulation on "Statistical and Sampling Schemes of Various International Fishery Organisations" (see Appendix 9 to the Report of the 9th Session of the CWP). However it was considered that this questionnaire would have to be modified in order to have a meaningful return from OECD, FAO and EUROSTAT whose secretariats have wider responsibilities than those of the other agencies.
- 7) The FAO participant described the progress made with the FAO computer data base file containing almost 800 species items, from the 9 divisions and 53 groups of ISSCAAP. For each item there are now 6 descriptors (FAO English, French and Spanish names, Scientific name, FAO taxonomic code and 3-alpha identifier) as well as the common names in other national languages, the major fishing areas in which it is caught and the regional statistical codes used by NAFO, ICES, ICSEAF and EUROSTAT.
- 8) The participants welcomed the offer of FAO to provide computer print-outs of this species file with the data arranged and extracted in prescribed alphabetical and numerical order. Magnetic tapes will be made available to the agencies to permit them to prepare the tabulation of the material in a required order and format. The first of such tapes should be available on the basis of the material used for the printing of Volume 46 of the FAO Yearbook.
- 9) The ad hoc consultation ascertained that ICCAT will propose its Scientific Committee to collaborate in standardising the 3-alpha identifiers on a global basis but that due to local postal difficulties, had not received the draft identifiers, and thus had not commented thereon. In principle, ICCAT was willing to discard at the earliest opportunity, most of the species identifiers (2, 3 or 4-alpha) currently being used and which conflicted with the recently established inter-agency 3-alpha identifiers. There remained a few ICCAT abbreviations which cannot be changed because they not only represent ICCAT usage but have been widely used in the tuna fishery world. The ICCAT representative urged strongly that these few 3-alpha identifiers be amended as urgently requested by ICCAT. Following a discussion of these and other matters, in which various compromises and several important revisions were made the participants unanimously agreed on the following:

<u>Tuna species</u>	<u>ICCAT Codes</u>	<u>Draft 3-alpha Identifiers</u>	<u>Final 3-alpha Identifiers</u>
Thunnus alalunga	ALB	ALB	ALB
Thunnus obesus	BE	BET	BET
Thunnus atlanticus	BLF	BFT	BLF*
Thunnus thynnus	BFT	BLF	BFT*
Sarda sarda	BON	BON	BON
Auxis rochei	-	BLT	BLT
Orcznoptis unicolor	PBON	BOP	BOP
Auxis thazard	FRT	FRI	FRI
Scomberomorus cavalla	KM	KGM	KGM
Scomberomorus spp	SCOM	KGX	KGX
Tetrapturus pfluegeri	SPF	LSP	SPF*
Euthynnus alletteratus	LTH	LTA	LTA
Makaira indlea	BLM	MLA	BLM*
Makaira nigricans	BML	MLB	BUM*
Tetrapturus albidus	WM	MLW	WHM*
Thunnus maccozi	SBF	SBT	SBF*
Katsuwonus pelamis	SJ	SKJ	SKJ
Istiophorus platypterus	SAIL	SFA	SAI*
Scomberomorus maculatus	SPM	SSM	SSM
Acanthoczbium solandis	WAH	WAH	WAH
Thunnus albacares	YF	YEF	YFT*
Xiphias gladius	SF	SWO	SWO*
Big tunas	BIGT	-	BGT
Small tunas	SMAT	-	SMT
Young tunas	YOUNG	-	YOU
Other	OTHER	-	OTH

The changes have been indicated by an asterisk (\*)

- 10) The FAO participant described the progress made in retrieving and tabulating (for 20 countries and 65 species) approximately 500 sets of conversion factors. The participants supported his plans for the presentation of this material in loose-leaf form. It is the intention to computerise the data and to request national offices, every three years, to update and expand the data sets. In this activity FAO and EUROSTAT would continue to pool their resources.
- 11) It is not expected that there will be a demand in the immediate future for significant changes in the boundaries of Major Fishing Areas. However the need for data to be collected and reported by much smaller units (e.g. statistical rectangles or one-degree squares) in the context of EEZ management was identified by the participants as being a potential requirement for regulatory bodies which are not already handling data in this way.
- 12) FAO is experiencing difficulties in some regions in developing standard concepts for the precise demarcation between inland and marine fishing areas.
- 13) The participants discussed the allocation of catches by reporting countries, particularly in the light of the recent increase in the number of cooperative ventures. It was felt that the situation had not changed significantly from that discussed at the 9th Session of the CMP and thus the recommendation of that meeting, namely that the flag of the vessel should, for the time being, be considered as the paramount indication of nationality and should only be overridden when it is obvious that the wording of chartering and joint operation contracts indicate otherwise or when the interrelationships are too complicated to settle, was endorsed. It was felt that problems resulting from the reallocation of catch quotas would be resolved most readily by adjustments to the systems of monitoring quotas.
- 14) Attention was drawn to the joint FAO/EUROSTAT questionnaire on fleet statistics. This questionnaire has been successfully introduced for completion by the EEC Member States but the FAO Senior Fishery Statistician reported that the number and completeness of returns from other countries had been rather disappointing.
- The EUROSTAT representatives described the proposed statistical register of EEC fishing vessels. Initially the contents of the register would correspond with the contents of the national registers and would be restricted to the structural characteristics of the vessels. Once the register has been established, effort would be made to harmonise the content and to include operational characteristics. EUROSTAT was investigating methods of aiding EEC Member States in submitting the information on individual vessels in a harmonised manner and it was hoped that the register would be operational by mid-1980. FAO was awaiting the results of this work before attempting the introduction of a world-wide register.
- The FAO participant introduced a draft document on statistical standards, fishing craft, fishing gears and fishing effort. The participants considered this to be a useful document and requested that a means of publishing the final form of this

document should be investigated. One proposal was for the compilation of a glossary of terms, concepts and definitions used in fishery statistics and it was suggested that this glossary should be a subject for discussion at the 10th Session of the CWP.

15. The Consultation considered it advisable that, before FAO proceeds with the use of word-processing equipment to produce the English, French, and Spanish notes for the completion of the various STATLANT forms to be dispatched in early January 1980, the various instructions should be standardised and harmonised as far as possible. A small task force, through comparison of the detailed notes, eliminated a number of unnecessary discrepancies and produced the final drafts for immediate reproduction by FAO. In the absence of a representative from NAFO it was decided that the revised versions relating to the completion of the forms STATLANT 21A and 21B are to be submitted to Mr V.M. Hodder for final approval.
16. It is hoped that the few remaining differences will be eliminated by a similar exercise to be undertaken during the 10th Session of the CWP.
17. In noting the urgent need for a publication or a series of publications on glossaries for fishery statistics, it was reported that, in certain countries and for certain species, recreational fisheries are growing in importance. The OECD representative reported that investigations into the current national statistics on recreational fisheries showed that there was a high degree of variation both in quality and coverage. The FAO representative mentioned that he had expressed, to the statistician of the International Tourist Organisation, the hope that the latter organisation would be able to participate in the 10th Session of the CWP.
18. The participants discussed the draft agenda of the 10th Session of the CWP and prepared a document for the CWP Secretary to distribute (Appendix C). The Consultation also agreed that the 10th Session will take place in Madrid from 22-29 July 1980, with ICCAT and ICSEAF as host agencies.
19. The EUROSTAT participants reported that they had difficulties in manually processing the data received on STATLANT forms and that, like ICES, EUROSTAT preferred to receive the data on magnetic tape provided that the tape specifications were suitable.
20. Some countries have requested a reduction in the size of the STATLANT forms. However, a careful review of the forms indicated that many other even more serious problems would arise from such reductions and changes.
21. The representatives of both EUROSTAT and ICES commented on the very late return of completed STATLANT questionnaires for 1978. The FAO participant announced that, although his overall world-wide retrieval was significantly better than in previous years, his situation for western European countries was also less satisfactory.

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. General Statement
3. Registers of international and national statistical focal points or institutions
4. Species items
5. Conversion factors
6. Fishing areas
7. The allocation of catches by country
8. STATLANT forms and notes for completion
9. 10th Session of the CWP
10. Fleet statistics
11. Other matters

APPENDIX C

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC STATISTICS

Tenth Session

Madrid, 22-29 July 1980

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Provisional  
Agenda Item

1 Procedural Matters

Opening of the tenth session by the CWP Secretary.  
Welcoming address.  
Election of Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen.  
Adoption of Agenda and Schedule of Work.  
Appointment of Rapporteurs.  
General and administrative announcements.

2 Agency Programmes and Publications Presenting Atlantic  
Fishery Statistics

Brief verbal introductions will be made by the participants from FAO, NAFO, ICES, ICSEAF, ICCAT, WECAF, CECAF, GFCM, CARPAS, EUROSTAT, and OECD. These will introduce and include (i) a brief written summary and (ii) a detailed report submitted by each agency.

The Secretary of the CWP will present a report on the activities of the CWP Secretariat and his outline of work that might be successfully concluded under the aegis of the CWP.

3 Fishing areas for Statistical Purposes

A review of the boundaries of the major inland and marine fishing areas with particular emphasis on any problems of demarcation and proposed changes that might appear necessary.

Consideration of the current practices and acceptable procedures for the further breakdown of these Atlantic major fishing areas and related ones in Sub-areas, Divisions, Sub-divisions, etc. Attention will be given to the demarcation of the boundaries of the major fishing areas, their Sub-areas, Divisions, Sub-divisions, etc, in the light of developments and requirements in terms of EEC management policies and their monitoring.

4 Fishing Fleet and Fishing Vessel Statistics

Review of the development of questionnaires for completion by national offices. Critical review of world and regional publications on fishing fleet statistics.

Consideration of current developments and trends in the establishing and maintenance of national, regional, and global registers of individual vessels.

Introductory discussion of the inclusion of operational characteristics in fleet statistics taking into account fleet management programmes and EEC policies.

5 Fishing Gears and their Standard Classification

Review of current classifications of fishing gear for use in national, regional and international statistics and in the monitoring of EEC policies.

Consideration of the first improved and expanded gear classification accompanied by definitions and descriptions, if not illustrations.

6. Species Items and their Groupings

The currently used 9 divisions and 51 groups of FAO's International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants have served very well with the development and increase in the number of individual species items. While there is no urgent need to introduce any drastic changes in the groups within the next few years, it is advisable to initiate studies to identify alternative groupings for introduction by as many national and regional agencies as possible sometime in the 1980's. The first step towards such a reconsideration and its possibilities could be made in a paper by the CWP Secretary.

Review of existing identifiers and qualifiers to individual species items - English names, French names, Spanish names, scientific names, taxonomic codes, 3-alpha identifiers, computer codes, etc,

7. Landings Statistics

The work of EUROSTAT and FAO with the collection, processing and publication of annual and monthly landings (quantities and values in national currencies) will be reviewed in the light of regional and global needs. Particular attention will be given to the inadequacies in these statistics which might not facilitate inter-country comparability aggregates.

8. Conversion Factors

Review of the publications and reports by FAO and EUROSTAT on their current activities to compile by species items and product diversifications and according to countries conversion factors (yield rates) on:

- (a) factors to convert landings to nominal catches
- (b) factors to convert commodities to maximum catches
- (c) factors to convert quantities expressed in different measure units

Proposals will be made to expand and improve all aspects of this work which, on a country basis, might require triennial updating together with a report on the methods used to establish the nationally provided factors.

9. Statistics on Aquaculture - Inland and Marine

The inadequacy of data on this growing sector of the fishing industries require a thorough review of the statistics that should be regularly collected on enterprises in the marine areas and it appears advisable not to separate from these the aquaculture activities in inland waters. Work is being done in this direction and the CWP might be able to advance these activities.

10. Recreational Fishing

Catches taken by sports fishermen are generally excluded from the fishery catch data published nationally, regionally and internationally. For particular species and in particular countries the quantities removed by sports fishermen might be very significant for stock assessment purposes, food supply indicators, investment opportunities, etc. The participants might wish to review the possibilities of improving the records kept on the catch results in these fisheries.

11. Log Sheets and Log Books

Review of log sheets, log books, and other national documents require to monitor EEC programmes. Proposals for improvements and their standardisation to facilitate completion, surveyance and processing,

12. Standardization and Harmonization of Questionnaires, Forms, Notes, etc.

A very significant degree of standardization and harmonization of questionnaires, the notes for the completion etc. has already been achieved. It should be possible at the stage noting modern word-processing techniques, etc. to complete this work.

13. Retrieval Difficulties - Non-Respondent and Late Respondents

A review of the very poor submission performance by certain statistical offices of developed countries with large fisheries in their own and other waters requires consideration of remedial action.

14. The Allocation of Catches by Nationality

The use of flags of convenience, joint ventures, cooperative agreements, agreements on the fishing of EEC waters, are a few of the issues complicating the allocation of nationality to appreciable quantities of catches. The CWP discussed this problem at its last session. It is obvious that this matter will again require further discussion and elaboration.

15. Glossaries for Fishery Statistics

Report by FAO on manuals and glossaries covering various aspects of fisheries statistics. These drafts should cover classifications, concepts, etc. suitable for use in national, regional and international systems. The usefulness of these would require comment with proposals for future expansion and improvements. To some extent this would involve the alternative species groupings mentioned in Agenda 6.

16. Any Other Business

- (a) Time, date and place of Eleventh Session
- (b) Other matters
- (c) Close of 10th Session.