

## SECRETARIAT REPORT CONCERNING THE WORKING GROUP ON DATA MANAGEMENT

During the 1978 SCRS meeting, the following recommendation was made:

"...a Working Group be established on data management, which should work closely with the Secretariat and review the work to be done, system being used, economical aspects of the work..." (Section 5.1.a, Report of the Sub-Committee on Statistics)

The Working Group met during the SCRS Session and "requested the Secretariat that a questionnaire be sent to each national correspondent to help determine the long- and short-term data processing to be performed by the Secretariat." (Appendix 8 to the 1978 SCRS Report)

This questionnaire specified by the Group was amplified by the Secretariat and sent out to all the national statistical correspondents and laboratories. At the present time, ten countries have responded. A summary of these responses was circulated among the Group members on April 2, 1979, and is herewith.

The Group requested the Secretariat "to perform a second comparative study between the mini-computer and conventional data processing systems" and report to the SCRS Chairman before the 1979 SCRS Officers meeting. "This study should also include the possibility of users paying for computer time and outputs beyond some minimal level..." (Appendix 3 to the 1978 SCRS Report)

Until the evaluation of the data volume expected to be generated by the Skipjack Program and of the level of processing required to provide the available data to users are made, the Secretariat's study cannot be completed. Therefore, the Secretariat again requested that the members of the Working Group (Mr. R. H. Pianet, Convener) answer the following questions:

- a) What is the nature of the data which each National Office should send to the Secretariat to be considered as input data?
- b) What kind of output and in what format should the Secretariat make the data available?
- c) Which publication series should be maintained and in what form?
- d) When a National Office or a scientist requests that the Secretariat do a job for them, what can the request entail and who assumes the responsibility of the bill for the work accomplished?
- e) Should the Commission acquire a mini-computer, should the present system be maintained or should another system be considered?
- f) How can data exchange between the scientists be achieved?

The Officers met in July in the Canary Islands. They also analyzed the problems involved and suggested that the Working Group study and prepare answers for the following. (SCRS/79/23)

1. What are the objectives of the common data base?
2. What data should be input and in what format?
3. What level of processing is required in what format?
  - i) On a regular basis
  - ii) On an irregular basis
4. What output is required in what format?
  - i) On a regular basis
  - ii) On an irregular basis
5. How should the output be made available?
6. What statistical publication should be maintained and in what format table; which data should be published?
7. What is the guideline for doing the job on ICCAT funding?
8. What are the arrangements to be made for other jobs which are not in the category described above?

The Officers recommended that as soon as the Group has completed its studies the Secretariat should start a cost-effective study on various systems. This study can be done by the Secretariat staff or by contract with an outside analyst.

As of the time of writing this report, the Working Group had not finished its work.

Until the problem is settled, the Secretariat is following the policy agreed upon at the 1977 SCRS meeting concerning the functions of the Secretariat processing services:

"a) Duplication of data which recently became available should be provided to member country laboratories on request at the Commission's expense."

"b) The results of regular work (recommended by the Committee) should be made available to the member country laboratories at the Commission's expense." (The Data Record is included in this category, in terms of data processing.)

"c) Any extraordinary work requested by member countries which is not within the scope of the work assigned to the Secretariat by the SCRS should be borne by the country requesting such information." (Addendum 2 to Appendix 4 to the 1977 SCRS Report)

SUMMARIES OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRES

	Beckett (Canada)	Le Gall	Barz - ALJ	Farrugia - RF	Ponsneau	Menzah (Chana)	Kume (Japan)	Kim (Korea)	Lin (Maroc)	Pianet (Senegal)	Reppen (South Africa)	Caricos (Spain)	Sakayama (USA)	Sordano (USA)
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TASK I

Expected inputs to the Secretariat data system																		
Input form	Magnetic tape																	
	Listings of tape																	
	Manually filled form	X																
Input volume		present																
Expected outputs																		
Output form	Magnetic tape																	
	Hard copy																	
	Publication	X																
Level of Processing	Statistical Bulletin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Output volume																		

TASK II

Expected inputs to the data system																		
Input form	Magnetic tape																	
	Listings of tape																	
	Manually filled form	X																
Input volume		present			200pg/yr			present	present									
Expected outputs																		
Output form	Magnetic tape		X															
	Hard copy	X	X	X														
	Publication	X																
Level of Processing	Keep data in base & distribute catalogue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mag tape or hard copy avail. by request	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Data sum. by fleet - larger time-area	X																
	Data combined between fleets, substituted & raised					X												
	Data analyses by Secretariat																	
Output volume																		

BIOLOGICAL

Expected inputs to the data system																		
Input form	Magnetic tape																	
	Listings of tape																	
	Manually filled form	X	X															
Input volume					200pg/yr			present	present									
Expected outputs																		
Output form	Magnetic tape		X															
	Hard copy		X	X														
	Publication																	
Level of Processing	Keep data in base & distribute catalogue	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Mag tape or hard copy by request	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Data sum. by fleet - larger time-area (no substitution nor raising)																	
	Data combined between fleets, substituted & raised					X												
	Data analyses by Secretariat																	
Output volume																		

DISSEMINATION

Catalogue and available on request		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Published in present form																		
Published in another form																		

REMARKS CONCERNING THE STATISTICAL BULLETIN

by R. H. Pianet (Convener)

1. The presentation of the species breakdown could be improved by adding sub-totals by area.
2. In each new Statistical Bulletin, the oldest year is eliminated, which means that the historical data progressively disappears and it is therefore necessary to keep a complete set of the publication. Moreover, many modifications of old data have been made, which makes it difficult to evaluate their worth.

In this regard, it would be useful to publish special volumes of the Statistical Bulletin in which all the final data for a 10-year period would be presented. Before the final publication, a provisional edition should be circulated among the statistical correspondents so that:

- a. they verify and approve the data concerning their country
- b. they eliminate, where possible ( and I think that this occurs frequently) all the "miscellaneous" categories such as "Gear Unknown", "Area Unknown", and "Mixed Species."
- c. the missing data be completed

At first, two volumes could be published: one for the period previous to 1960 and one for 1960 to 1970.