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Notes on International Classifications and Definitions Used in Fishing Gear,  
Fishing Effort and Fishermen Statistics<sup>1</sup>

by

CWP Secretary  
FAO, Rome, Italy

INTRODUCTION

1. This document represents a compilation of all the available statistical standards and classifications established in recent years for use in statistics on fishing gear, fishing effort, fishermen, etc., by international, regional and national fishery statistical focal points. The material reflects discussions of previous drafts at the 7th, 8th and 9th Sessions of the CWP, at ICES, NAFO (ICNAF) and ICSEAF meetings etc., as well as in meetings organized by EUROSTAT.
2. The items of the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) marked with asterisks are additions proposed by the Secretary of the CWP. Further revisions of this classification have been proposed by Mr. C. Nédélec, Fishery Industry Officer, Fisheries Technology Service, Fisheries Department, FAO, Rome; his suggestions for improvements appear in Appendix B to this document.
3. In recent years a great deal of thought has been devoted in various quarters to the refinement and improvement of these classifications. New technical developments with reference to fishing gears will no doubt require statisticians to reconsider these elements. However, it can be considered that we have now reached a milestone in this preparatory work. Before publication it is necessary for the CWP to review these for the last time and make suggestions for last-minute improvements and refinements.
4. FAO intends to produce the material in this document together with those in documents CWP-10/18 and CWP-10/40 as a technical paper, which would serve as the basic reference document in these fields.

<sup>1</sup> Prepared for 10th Session of Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, Madrid, Spain, 22-29 July 1980.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING GEAR (ISSCFG)

Gear Categories	Standard Abbrevia- tion	ISSCFG Code
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SURROUNDING NETS		01.0.0
With purse lines	PS	01.1.0
- one boat	PS1	01.1.1
- two boats	PS2	01.1.2
Without purse lines (lampara)	LA	01.2.0
SEINE NETS		02.0.0
Beach seines	SB	02.1.0
Boat or vessel seines	SV	02.2.0
- Danish seines	SDN	02.2.1
- Scottish seines	SSC	02.2.2
- Pair seines	SPR	02.2.3
Seine nets, not specified	* SX	02.2.4
TRAWLS		03.0.0
Bottom trawls (general)	TB	03.1.0
- beam trawls	TBB	03.1.1
- otter trawls (side or stern not specified)	OTB	03.1.2
- otter trawls (side)	OTB-1	03.1.2.1
- Otter trawls (stern)	OTB-2	03.1.2.2
- pair trawls	PTB	03.1.3
Midwater trawls (general)	TM	03.2.0
- otter trawls (side or stern not specified)	OTM	03.2.1
- otter trawls (side)	OTM-1	03.2.1.1
- otter trawls (stern)	OTM-2	03.2.1.2
- pair trawls	PTM	03.2.2
Otter trawls (not specified)	OT	03.3.0
Pair trawls (not specified)	PT	03.4.0
Other trawls	TX	03.5.0
- shrimp trawls	* TXS	03.5.1
- nephrops trawls	* TXN	03.5.2
DREDGES		04.0.0
Boat dredges	DRB	04.1.0
Hand dredges	DRH	04.2.0
LIFT NETS		05.0.0
Portable lift nets	* LNP	05.1.0
Boat - installed lift nets	* LNB	05.2.0
Shore - operated stationary lift nets	* LNS	05.3.0
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FALLING GEAR		06.0.0
* Cast nets	FCN	06.1.0
* Other gears (not specified)	FON	06.2.0
* GILLNETS, TRAMMEL NETS AND ENTANGLING NETS		07.0.0
Set gillnets	GNS	07.1.0
Drift gillnets	GND	07.2.0
Encircling drive-in gillnets	GNC	07.3.0
Fixed gillnets	* GNF	07.4.0
Gillnets (not specified)	* GNX	07.5.0
* Trammel nets	TN	07.6.0
* Combined gillnets - trammel nets	GTN	07.7.0
* Entangling nets (not specified)	EN	07.8.0

Gear Categories	Standard Abbreviation	ISSCFG Code
TRAPS		08.0.0
Stationary uncovered pound-nets	FPN	08.1.0
* Pots and fyke nets	FPF	08.2.0
* - Pots	FPO	08.2.1
* - Fyke nets	FYK	08.2.2
Stow-nets	FSN	08.3.0
Barriers, fences, weirs, etc.	FWR	08.4.0
Aerial traps	FAR	08.5.0
Traps (not specified)	FIX	08.9.0
HOOKS AND LINES		09.0.0
Hand-lines and pole-lines	LHP	09.1.0
Hand-lines and pole-lines (mechanized)	LHM	09.2.0
Set lines (longlines set)	LLS	09.3.0
Drift lines (longlines drift)	LLD	09.4.0
Longlines (not specified)	LL	09.5.0
Troll lines	LTL	09.6.0
Mechanical squid jiggers	LMJ	09.7.0
Dory vessel line gears	LDV	09.8.0
Hand and other lines	* LHO	09.9.0
Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX	09.9.9
GRAPPLING AND WOUNDING		10.0.0
Harpoons	HAR	10.1.0
HARVESTING MACHINES		11.0.0
Pumps	HMP	11.1.0
Mechanized dredges	HMD	11.2.0
Other appliances	HMX	11.3.0
MISCELLANEOUS GEAR	MIS	20.0.0
Hand and landing nets	* MHL	20.1.0
Drive-in-nets, n.e.s	* MDN	20.2.0
Gathering by hand with simple hand implements with or without diving equipment	* MHI	20.3.0
Stupefying materials (solid, liquid, gas) and explosives	* MSM	20.4.0
Trained animals	* MTA	20.5.0
Electrophysically induced narcosis	* MEN	20.6.0
RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR	RG	25.0.0
GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED	NK	30.0.0

DESCRIPTORS AND DEFINITIONS OF FISHING EFFORT MEASURES BY GEAR CATEGORIES

Level of priority	Fishing gear	Effort measure descriptors	Definitions
A. <u>FIRST</u>	Surrounding nets (purse seines)	<i>No. of sets</i>	Number of times the gear has been set or shot, whether or not a catch was made. This measure is appropriate when school size and packing density is related to stock abundance or sets are made in a random manner.
		<i>Searching time</i>	This represents time on the grounds less time spent shooting net and retrieving the catch as well as time hove to. This measure is complicated by the use of aircraft spotting as well as by the dissemination of information from vessel to vessel. The measure is appropriate when school size and packing density is unrelated to stock abundance and a set is only made when a school has been located.
	Beach seines	<i>No. of sets</i>	Number of times the gear has been set or shot, whether or not a catch was made.
	Boat seines (Danish seine, etc.)	<i>No. of hours fished</i>	Number of hours during which the seine was on the bottom and fishing.
	Trawls	<i>No. of hours fished</i>	Number of hours during which the trawl was in the water (midwater trawl), or on the bottom (bottom trawl), and fishing.
	Boat dredges	<i>No. of hours fished</i>	Number of hours during which the dredge was on the bottom and fishing.
A. FIRST (continued)	Gillnets (set or drift)	<i>No. of effort units</i>	Length of nets expressed in 100-metre units multiplied by the number of sets made (= accumulated total length in metres of nets used in a given time period divided by 100).
		<i>No. of effort units</i>	Length of net expressed in 100-metre units multiplied by the number of times the net was cleared.
	Traps (un-covered pound nets)	<i>No. of effort units</i>	Number of days fished times the number of units hauled.
	Covered pots and fyke nets	<i>No. of effort units</i>	Number of lifts times the number of units (= total number of units fished in a given time period).
	Longlines (set or drift)	<i>Thousand of hooks</i>	Number of hooks fished in a given time period divided by 1000.

Level of priority	Fishing gear	Effort measure descriptors	Definitions
	Handlines (pole, troll, jig, etc.)	No. of line-days	Total number of lines used in the given time period.
	Harpoons	-	(Report effort levels B and C only)
B. <u>SECOND</u>	All gears	No. of days fished	The number of days (24-hour periods, reckoned from midnight to midnight) on which any fishing took place. For those fisheries in which searching is a substantial part of the fishing operation, days in which searching but no fishing took place should be included in "days fished" data.
C. <u>THIRD</u>	All gears	No. of days on grounds	The number of days (24-hour periods, reckoned from midnight to midnight) in which the vessel was on the fishing ground, and includes in addition to the days fishing and searching also all the other days while the vessel was on the ground.
D. <u>FOURTH</u>	All gears	No. of days absent from port	The number of days absent from port on any one trip should include the day the fishing craft sailed but not the day of landing. Where it is known that fishing took place on each day of the trip the number of "days absent from port" should include not only the day of departure but also the day of arrival back in port. Where on any trip a fishing craft visits more than one "fishing area" (as defined for statistical purposes) and appropriate fraction of the total number of days absent from port should be allocated to each "fishing area" in proportion to the number of days spent in each, so that the total number of days absent on the trip will be the sum of the number of days allocated to all of the different "fishing areas" visited.
E. <u>FIFTH</u>	All gears	No. of trips made	Any voyage during which fishing took place in only on "fishing area" is to be counted as one trip. When in a single trip a craft visits more than one "fishing area" an appropriate fraction of the trip should be apportioned to each "fishing area" in proportion to the number of days spent fishing in each, so that the total number of trips for the Major Fishing Area as a whole will be the same as the sum of trips to each "fishing area".

FISHING GEAR SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS

Gear type specified separately, in accordance with international classification.

1. Trawls and Danish/Scottish seines
  - 1.1 Headline length (m)
  - 1.2 Net circumference at the opening, stretched (m)
  - 1.3 Mesh opening of codend <sup>1/</sup> (mm)
  - 1.4 Otter board type (for otter trawls)
  
2. Dredges
  - 2.1 Beam width (m)
  - 2.2 Mesh opening (mm)
  
3. Purse seines and other seines (excluding Danish/Scottish)
  - 3.1 Floatline length (m)
  - 3.2 Net depth, stretched (m)
  - 3.3 Mesh size stretched <sup>2/</sup> of body and/or bunt (mm)
  
4. Gillnets and other entangling nets
  - 4.1 Total length of floatline (m)
  - 4.2 Net depth, stretched (m)
  - 4.3 Mesh size, stretched (mm)
  - 4.4 Bottom set or drifting (specify)
  
5. Trap nets (including pound/fyke nets)
  - 5.1 Number of catching chambers for one trap net
  - 5.2 Length of leader or wings (m)
  - 5.3 Mesh size stretched of chambers (mm)
  
6. Pots
  - 6.1 Number of entrances for one pot
  - 6.2 Mesh opening (mm)
  - 6.3 Total number of pots used during fishing operation
  
7. Longlines
  - 7.1 Total length of main line used during fishing operation (m)
  - 7.2 Total number of hooks used during fishing operation
  - 7.3 Bottom set or drifting (specify)
  
8. Others (specify)

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<sup>1/</sup> In accordance with ISO definition. Dimension generally used in fishing regulations for towed nets.

<sup>2/</sup> Length of mesh, fully stretched, in accordance with ISO definition

AMENDMENTS TO THE ISSCFG  
proposed by Mr. C. Nédélec, FAO Fishery Industries Officer  
(Gear and Fishing Technology)

Gear Categories	Standard Abbrevia- tion	ISSCFG Code
<b>SURROUNDING NETS</b>		
With purse lines ( <i>purse seines</i> )	PS	01.0.0
- one boat <i>operated purse seines</i>	PS1	01.1.0
- two boat <i>operated purse seines</i>	PS2	01.1.1
Without purse lines ( <i>lampara</i> )	LA	01.1.2
<b>SEINE NETS</b>		
Beach seines	SB	02.0.0
Boat or vessel seines	SV	02.1.0
- Danish seines	SDN	02.2.0
- Scottish seines	SSC	02.2.1
- Pair seines	SPR	02.2.2
Seine nets, not specified	* SX	02.2.3
<b>TRAWLS</b>		
Bottom trawls (general)	TB	03.0.0
- beam trawls	TBB	03.1.0
- otter trawls (side or stern not specified)	OTB	03.1.1
- otter trawls (side)	OTB-1	03.1.2
- otter trawls (stern)	OTB-2	03.1.2.1
- pair trawls	PTP	03.1.2.2
Midwater trawls (general)	TM	03.1.3
- otter trawls (side or stern not specified)	OTM	03.2.0
- otter trawls (side)	OTM-1	03.2.1
- otter trawls (stern)	OTM-2	03.2.1.1
- pair trawls	PTM	03.2.1.2
Other trawls (not specified)	OT	03.2.2
Pair trawls (not specified)	PT	03.3.0
Other trawls	TX	03.4.0
- shrimp trawls	* TXS	03.5.0
- nephrops trawls	* TXN	03.5.1
<b>DREDGES</b>		
Boat dredges	DRB	04.0.0
Hand dredges	DRH	04.1.0
<b>LIFT NETS</b>		
Portable lift nets	* LNP	04.2.0
Boat <i>operated</i> lift nets	* LNB	05.0.0
Shore <i>operated</i> stationary lift nets	* LNS	05.1.0
<b>FALLING GEAR</b>		
* Cast nets	FCN	05.2.0
* Other gears (not specified)	FON	05.3.0
<b>* GILLNETS, TRAMMEL NETS AND ENTANGLING NETS</b>		
<i>Bottom set gillnets</i>	GNS	07.0.0
<i>Drifting gillnets (driftnets)</i>	GND	07.1.0
<i>Encircling gillnets</i>	GNC	07.2.0
Fixed gillnets ( <i>e.g. on stakes</i> )	* GNF	07.3.0
Gillnets (not specified)	* GNX	07.4.0
* Trammel nets	TN	07.5.0
* Combined gillnets - trammel nets	GTN	07.6.0
* Entangling nets (not specified)	EN	07.7.0
		07.8.0

NOTE: Amendments are typed in italics

Gear Categories	Standard Abbrevia- tion	ISSCFG Code
TRAPS		08.0.0
Stationary uncovered pound-nets	FPN	08.1.0
* Pots and fyke nets	FPF	08.2.0
* Pots	FPO	08.2.1
* Fyke nets	FYK	08.2.2
Stow-nets	FSN	08.3.0
Barriers, fences, weirs, etc.	FWR	08.4.0
Aerial traps	FAR	08.5.0
Traps (not specified)	FIX	08.9.0
HOOKS AND LINES		09.0.0
Hand-lines and pole-lines ( <i>hand operated</i> )	LHP	09.1.0
Hand-lines and pole-lines ( <i>mechanized</i> )	LHM	09.2.0
<i>Bottom set longlines</i>	LLS	09.3.0
<i>Drifting longlines</i>	LLD	09.4.0
Longlines (not specified)	LL	09.5.0
<i>Trolling lines</i>	LTL	09.6.0
<i>Jigging lines</i>	LJ	09.7.0
<i>Hand operated</i>	LJH	09.7.1
<i>Mechanized</i>	LJM	09.7.2
Dory operated line gears	LDV	09.8.0
Hand and other lines	LHO	09.9.0
Hooks and lines (not specified)	LX	09.9.9
GRAPPLING AND WOUNDING		10.0.0
Harpoons	HAR	10.1.0
HARVESTING MACHINES		11.0.0
Pumps	HMP	11.1.0
Mechanized dredges	HMD	11.2.0
Other appliances	HMX	11.3.0
MISCELLANEOUS GEAR		20.0.0
Hand and landing nets	* MHL	20.1.0
<i>Drive-in-nets</i>	* MDN	20.2.0
Gathering by hand with simple hand implements with or without diving equipment	* MHI	20.3.0
<i>Poisons and explosives</i>	* MPE	20.4.0
Trained animals	* MTA	20.5.0
<i>Electrical fishing</i>	* MEF	20.6.0
RECREATIONAL FISHING GEAR	RG	25.0.0
GEAR NOT KNOWN OR NOT SPECIFIED	NK	30.0.0