

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1982

Report of the Ad-Hoc Inter-Agency Consultation of Atlantic Fishery Statistics,
3 and 4 October 1981, Woods Hole, USA¹

by

CWP Secretary

1. The meetings of this inter-secretariat ad hoc consultation took place on the 3rd and 4th of October 1981 in the Whitman Building, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA. As CWP Secretary, Mr. L. P. D. Gertenbach, opened the consultation and was elected Chairman.
2. The participants in the meetings are listed in Annex C.
3. The draft agenda was presented and adopted (see Annex A).
4. The list of documents discussed at the consultation is given as Annex B.
5. The EUROSTAT participant reported on the administrative arrangements for the CWP's Eleventh Session contained in the draft document AHIC-AFS/81/4. A revised version of the document will be issued as CWP-11/7 by February 1982.
6. The participants approved the draft (Document AHIC-AFS/81/11) of the proposed first edition of the "STATLANT Bulletin". Certain revisions and additions were suggested. It was decided that two editions should be produced before the Eleventh Session of the CWP (21-28 July 1982), the first around November 1981.
7. It was noted that by now more than the required four participating agencies (secretariats) had approved the future structure of the CWP as formulated in Appendix 12 of the Report of the Tenth Session of the CWP and it was agreed at the Consultation that the Eleventh Session of the CWP in Luxembourg, 21-28 July 1982, would be organized following this new format and organization.
8. Agency-secretariat representation at the Eleventh Session was discussed. Since it might be likely that no expert from an EC member state would be on the secretariat, delegations from any of the regional agencies, the EUROSTAT participant expressed his intention to request the participation of an expert from an EC member State. It was proposed that OECD, through its Committee for Fisheries, should invite the participation of an expert from the USA.
9. The consultation reviewed the proposed draft agenda for the Eleventh Session of the CWP and prepared the "Provisional Agenda" and the accompanying version with annotations. These are shown in Annexes D and E respectively to this Report and will be issued as Document CWP-11/2 and CWP-11/3 before February 1982.
10. The only significant change in the agenda proposals (presented in Document AHIC-AFS/81/7) was the omission of "Statistics on discards" as a topic for consideration during the CWP's Eleventh Session. The participants felt, in view of the enormous difficulties experienced by regional agencies in collecting from national offices, data on discards that the maintenance of tabulations for regular publication would be impossible at this stage.

¹ CWP Doc. 11/9 for CWP Session, 21-28 July 1982.

11. During its review of the annotations under each of the provisional agenda items for the Eleventh Session, the consultation also identified the required documents. The responsibility for the preparation and distribution of each document was allocated among the Secretariats of the participating agencies. These are listed in Annex F which will be distributed as CWP-11/4 by the CWP Secretary as soon as possible together with a note giving details on preparation, format, distribution, etc.
12. The EUROSTAT representative reported on the development of a computerized system for detecting discrepancies in statistics held by secretariat agencies participating in the STATLANT programmes through the CWP (see Documents AHIC-AFS/81/5 and /12). The next stage would be for EUROSTAT to contact FAO, NAFO, ICES, ICSEAF, ICCAT, etc., for details of the format of their data bases.
13. It was found that although all the agencies welcomed the use of a harmonized system of 3-alpha identifiers for country entries in their statistical publications, several secretariats experienced difficulties introducing some of the 3-alpha identifiers designated in the standards formulated by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It was agreed that the CWP Secretary should continue his search for solutions of these difficulties and to advise the ISO of the current problems in some of the agencies participating in CWP activities.
14. The Consultation reviewed the draft computer-printed tabulations FAO intends to use for the conversion factor programme. It proposed certain additions with regard to local names of products and the insertion of the year in which each factor was nationally updated together with an asterisk against the year indicating the time of the technical examination. It was also recommended that the Major Fishing Area and any relevant sub-area should also appear on the form - FISHSTAT CFI.
15. Progress on the implementation of the proposals and recommendations (see Appendix 13 of the Report of the Tenth Session of the CWP) was reviewed. Although in general good progress has been made the participants regretted that FAO has decided not to produce the technical document containing descriptions and illustrations of fishing vessel types as a guide to the vessel-type classification. There is a demand for such a publication from national bodies and the participants hoped that FAO would reconsider its decision and produce this valuable document before the Eleventh Session of the CWP.

ANNEX A

AGENDA

- 1 Procedural arrangements
- 2 Administrative arrangements for CWP-11
- 3 Progress reports on the implementation of CWP-10 proposals and recommendations
- 4 The introduction of a periodically published STATLANT Bulletin
- 5 Agency representation at CWP-11
- 6 The provisional agenda for CWP-11 with annotations
- 7 Allocation, preparation and distribution of CWP-11 documents
- 8 Any other business

ANNEX B

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| AHIC-AFS/81/1 | General announcement |
| /2 | Provisional agenda |
| /3 | List of documents |
| /4 | Preliminary general information for participants attending the Eleventh Session of the CWP |
| /5 | Elimination of discrepancies in catch data reported to CWP member agencies |
| /6 | Proposed provisional agenda for the CWP-11 |
| /7 | Proposed provisional agenda for the CWP-11 with annotations |
| /8 | Allocation, preparation and distribution of CWP-11 documents |
| /9 | Future programme of the CWP: proposals made by the OECD Secretariat |
| /10 | Report of the Tenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, Madrid, 22-29 July 1980 |
| /11 | Proposals for a "STATLANT Bulletin" |
| /12 | Comparison of catch data held by international organizations: a function analysis |

ANNEX C

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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a/ Chairman and Secretary

PROVISIONAL AGENDA: ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CWP

Agenda item

- 1 Procedural matters
- 2 Agency programmes and publications presenting Atlantic fishery statistics
- 3 Review of recommendations and proposals from CWP-10 and progress
- 4 Discrepancies in statistics held in data bases
- 5 Fishing areas for statistical purposes
- 6 Classifications and identifiers of countries, fishing gear and fishing effort for statistical purposes
- 7 Statistics on fishermen and fishing fleets
- 8 Catch statistics: species identification
- 9 Catch and landings statistics: nationality issues
- 10 Landings statistics: quantities and values
- 11 Conversion factors
- 12 Statistics on aquaculture
- 13 Fishing logbooks
- 14 A glossary of fishery statistics
- 15 The introduction of a "STATLANT Bulletin"
- 16 Future programme of the CWP
- 17 Time and place of Twelfth Session of the CWP
- 18 Any other business
- 19 Adoption of the Report of the Eleventh Session of the CWP
- 20 Close of the Eleventh Session

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA: ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CWP

1: Procedural matters

Annotations:

- Opening of the Eleventh Session by the CWP Secretary
- Welcoming address
- Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- Adoption of agenda and schedule of work
- Appointment of rapporteurs
- General and administrative announcements

Documents: CWP-11/1, /2, /3, /4, /5, /6, and /7.

2: Agency programmes and publications presenting Atlantic fishery statistics

Annotations:

The principal participants from each participating agency (FAO, NAFO, ICSEAF, EUROSTAT, OECD, etc.) will present the report on its statistical programme, publications and ADP processing. These verbal presentations should be limited to approximately 15 minutes as it is assumed that all other participants will have access to the details in the documents. Each document will contain a one-page summary, which will be part of the draft of the CWP-11 Report.

Documents: CWP-11/10, /11, /12, /13, /14, /15, /16, and /17.

3: Review of recommendations and proposals from CWP-10 and progress

Annotations:

The Secretary will review current developments under the aegis of the CWP since the Tenth Session, Madrid, 1980. Particular attention will be given to the implementation by the participating agencies of the recommendations and proposals summarized in Appendix 13 of the CWP-10 Report.

Documents: CWP-11/8, /9, /10, /11, /12, /13, /14, /15, /16, and /18.

4: Discrepancies in statistics held in data bases

Annotations:

Significant discrepancies in the statistics made available to the participating agencies by national reporting offices are becoming apparent. It is suggested that computer programmes be prepared to identify and highlight these discrepancies.

Documents: CWP-11/19

5: Fishing areas for statistical purposes

Annotations:

The CWP Secretary will report on any changes made in the boundaries of the Major Fishing Areas. Representatives from the participating agencies could refer to the identification of changes listed in their reports. Particular emphasis will be laid on the problems of demarcation between major inland and major marine fishing areas.

Documents: CWP-11/20

6: Classification and identifiers of countries, fishing gear and fishing effort for statistical purposes

Annotations:

It is not expected that the CWP's Eleventh Session will devote an appreciable amount of time to detailed discussions on classification and identification of countries, fishing gear and fishing effort statistics. These topics have been reviewed in detail at previous sessions. At the Eleventh Session the CWP participants would receive a brief statement on any developments in these fields with respect to publications and other recommendations on identifiers and classifications made in past years.

Documents: CWP-11/21

7: Statistics on fishermen and fishing fleets

Annotations:

The CWP will review the present status and quality of statistics on fishermen and fishing fleets and will review the related International Standard Classifications and consider the possibility to obtain regularly, detailed statistics from national reporting offices.

Documents: CWP-11/15 and /22.

8: Catch Statistics: species identification

Annotations:

It is not expected that there will be any need for the CWP to devote detailed attention to the identification of species. It will receive a report on current procedures, introduced by the CWP Secretary, to issue quarterly global lists of the descriptors for species items used in statistics. The CWP will review the experience with these during 1980 - 1982. If necessary it should indicate improvements.

Documents: -

9: Catch and landings statistics: nationality issues

Annotations:

The use of flags of convenience, joint ventures, cooperative agreements, agreements on the fishing of EEZ 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 two Sessions. It is obvious that this matter will again require further discussion and elaboration.

Documents: CWP-11/23

10: Landings statistics: quantities and values

Annotations:

Noting the demand for information, not only on nominal catches, but also on the statistics on a landed weight basis, and the value of landings, it is essential that the CWP considers the possibility and the ways and means of improving statistics on (a) landed quantities, and (b) the value of such landings. Attention might be paid to whether it is advisable to extract aggregated landings from national publications or instead to collect price statistics for fishery commodities and relate these to the catch statistics already collected and published.

Documents: CWP-11/24

11: Conversion factors

Annotations:

Conversion factors have been regularly considered by the CWP at preceding Sessions. At the Eleventh Session the CWP will review the FAO computer-produced tabulations and make suggestions for their improvements and their triennial up-dating.

Documents: CWP-22/25

12: Statistics on aquaculture

Annotations:

The inadequacy of data on this growing sector of the fishing industries requires 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. Particular attention should be paid by the CWP to the questionnaires developed by ICES.

Documents: CWP-11/26

13: Fishing logbooks

Annotations:

At its Tenth Session a Task Force of the CWP studied in detail the various issues relating to fishing logbooks. At that Session it was proposed that FAO should prepare a manual outlining the procedures for implementing a logbook system. Recent meetings on monitoring and surveillance have indicated the need for standardization and harmonization of logbooks. It would be appropriate for the CWP to keep these developments under review.

Documents: CWP-11/27

14: A glossary of fishery statistics

Annotations:

The CWP at its Tenth Session recommended that FAO and EUROSTAT with, where necessary, the cooperation of other agencies, prepare a glossary of fishery statistics and report on progress to the Eleventh Session of the CWP. Such a document is being prepared by FAO and EUROSTAT and will be submitted for consideration and review by the CWP.

Documents: CWP-11/28

15. The introduction of a "STATLANT Bulletin"

Annotations:

The periodic preparation and distribution of a "STATLANT Bulletin" has been mooted and the first prototype discussed at the Ad hoc Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, 3 and 4 October 1981, Woods Hole, USA. Further refinements of this idea will be available for review and comment by the CWP.

Documents: CWP-11/29

16. Future programme of the CWP

Annotations:

To enable studies to be completed, papers prepared, etc., it might be advisable to establish some medium-term programme for the CWP and the STATLANT Programme. The past, present and future activities of the CWP should be reviewed.

Documents: -

17: Time and place of the Twelfth Session of the CWP

Annotations:

The CWP will be required to establish the most suitable dates for its Twelfth Session and to select the place where this should be organized.

Documents: CWP-11/30

18: Any other business

Annotations:

Any other business

Documents: -

19: Adoption of the Report of the Eleventh Session of the CWP

Annotations:

The CWP will review and amend where required the draft version of its Report and make suggestions on its publication and distribution.

Documents: CWP-11/Draft Report (to be issued in several parts)

20: Close of the Eleventh Session of the CWP

ANNEX F

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS: ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CWP

- CWP-11/1 General announcement
- /2 Provisional agenda: Eleventh Session of the CWP
 - /3 Provisional annotated agenda: Eleventh Session of the CWP
 - /4 Provisional list of documents: Eleventh Session of the CWP
 - /5 Provisional list of participants: Eleventh Session of the CWP
 - /6 Provisional schedule of work: Eleventh Session of the CWP
 - /7 General information for participants attending the Eleventh Session of the CWP

Annex F (concluded)

- CWP-11 /8 Report of the Tenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics; Madrid, 22-29 July 1980
- /9- Report of the Ad-Hoc Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, Woods Hole, USA, 3 and 4 October 1981
- /10 Report on the FAO fishery statistical programme and publications in general and specifically for the Atlantic and for WECAFC, CECAF, GFCM and CARPAS
- /11 Report on the NAFO statistical program, publications and ADP processing
- /12 Report on the ICES statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
- /13 Report on the ICCAT statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
- /14 Report on the ICSEAF statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
- /15 Report on the EUROSTAT fishery statistical programme, publications and ADP processing
- /16 Report on the OECD fishery statistical programme
- /17 Provisional list of selected acronyms and abbreviations: fisheries and statistics
- /18 Recommendations and proposals from CWP-10 and comments on progress
- /19 Procedures for the identification of discrepancies in catch data reported to CWP agencies
- /20 Fishing areas for statistical purposes
- /21 Classifications and identifiers of countries, fishing gear and fishing effort for statistical purposes
- /22 Statistics on fishermen and fishing fleets
- /23 Catch and landings: nationality issues
- /24 Landings statistics: quantities and values
- /25 Conversion factors in fishery statistics
- /26 Statistics on aquaculture
- /27 Fishing logbooks
- /28 A glossary on fishery statistics
- /29 The introduction of a "STATLANT Bulletin"
- /30 CWP Sessions: dates, places and reports