

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 1992

Report to the CWP on NAFO Statistical Program,

Publications and ADP

by

Assistant Executive Secretary

1. The appended text (Appendix I) was prepared, in accordance with NAFO's commitment as a participating agency of the CWP (Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics), for presentation at the 15th Session of the CWP.
2. As agreed to by the Scientific Council, the 15th Session of the CWP will be hosted by NAFO (NAFO Sci. Coun. Rep., 1991, page 114), and the meeting is being held at NAFO Headquarters, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 8-14 July 1992.
3. The provisional agenda for the 15th Session of the CWP is given in Appendix II (an annotation to the provisional agenda is available on request from the Assistant Executive Secretary).
4. In addition to the representation of NAFO at the 15th Session by the Assistant Executive Secretary and the Chairman of STACREC, the Scientific Council recommended that a USSR (now Russia) delegate attend the meeting. The Scientific Council also saw no reason why representatives from other Contracting Parties could not attend the meeting.

Report of NAFO Fishing Statistical Program, Publication and ADP

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A. ACQUISITION OF FISHERY STATISTICS

The Scientific Council of NAFO continues to support the acquisition of fishery statistics for the Northwest Atlantic (FAO Fishing Area 21) through the STATLANT system, which is coordinated by the CWP. The system, which was inherited by NAFO in 1979 when it replaced ICNAF (one of the founding members of the CWP in 1960), involves basically the distribution for NAFO of STATLANT 21A and 21B forms and notes by the CWP Secretary (appointed by FAO) to the statistical offices of all countries known to have fished in the region.

STATLANT 21A data form the basis of the provisional inventory of nominal catches in the Northwest Atlantic by species and division. These data are compiled and tabulated on the computer usually in time for the June Meeting of the Scientific Council. STATLANT 21B with the more detailed catch and effort data usually become available several months later and these are finalized and published in the Statistical Bulletin.

1. STATLANT 21A (Annual Catch Summary)

These provisional data represent the initial inventory of nominal catches by species and NAFO division for review and use by the Standing Committee on Fishery Science (STACFIS) for fish stock assessments at the June Meeting of the Scientific Council. The submission date for these data is 15 April of each year for the preceding year's data. The early deadline was intended to provide the Secretariat sufficient time to prepare the preceding year's nominal catch inventory before the June Meeting.

Recently the Scientific Council developed a scheme where Designated Experts were assigned the task of preparing preliminary assessments before the June Meeting, to save valuable meeting time. This required that Designated Experts be able to access statistics well in advance of the meeting. However, this has not always been achievable due to late submissions of STATLANT 21A reports by a few countries. In some years the production of only a partial inventory was possible during the June Meeting. Consequently, the "Fishery Trends" reports could not be completed for the meeting. In 1989 the provisional catch document was prepared during the June Meeting with an addendum for the French data issued during the September Meeting. In 1990, the document was again prepared during June with the absence of French data but the data for France are still outstanding, 1 year later.

2. STATLANT 21B (Detailed Catch and Effort Data)

These data represent the final catch and effort statistics from member states of Contracting Parties and other countries fishing in the region, which are used in the publication of the *NAFO Statistical Bulletin* and the annual updating of statistics for assessment purposes. Although the deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports has remained 30 June for the preceding year's data, significant delays in data submission have delayed the publication of the Bulletin significantly.

a) Reports for 1989

Deadline for submission of STATLANT 21B reports for 1989 was 30 June 1990. As of June 1992, data were still outstanding from at least 4 countries. These data are long overdue and publication of *NAFO Statistical Bulletin*, Vol. 39, has been significantly delayed.

b) Reports for 1990

Deadline for submission of provisional statistics in STATLANT 21B reports for 1990 was 30 June 1991. As of June 1992, data were outstanding from 9 member countries (components). Once again there is a significant delay to the publication of the Bulletin (*NAFO Statistical Bulletin*, Vol. 40).

c) Reports for 1991

Deadline for submission of provisional statistics in STATLANT 21A reports for 1991 was 15 April 1992. This is in order to provide sufficient time for the Secretariat to tabulate the data for the June Meeting of the Scientific Council. Timely submission of these provisional data are necessary for stock assessments carried out by the Scientific Council at the June Meeting. As of June 1992, data were received from 12 countries but outstanding from 11 countries.

3. Delinquency in National Reporting of Fishery Statistics

The Scientific Council continues to be greatly concerned about the delinquency in the national reporting of fishery statistics through the STATLANT System. Although the problem had been usually with submission of STATLANT 21B reports, since 1989 there have been exceptional delays in STATLANT 21A submissions. These delays have affected both stock assessment work as well as publication of the Bulletin.

The Secretariat, in its customary role, regularly sends reminders to the statistical offices and sometimes to national representatives of Contracting Parties. The Scientific Council has also brought this matter to the attention of the Contracting Parties through the Fisheries Commission. This process, however, does not necessarily bring adequate results. There are new initiatives being considered by both the Scientific Council and the Secretariat to ensure data are submitted on time.

B. STATISTICAL DATA-PROCESSING

1. Computer Facilities

The Secretariat replaced the IBM Mainframe with an IBM Compatible PC in May 1988. With the installation of the new PC system, the data treatment did not change significantly. The major contributors of data (Canada and USA) continue to provide fishery statistics in digital STATLANT 21B form on computer diskettes. Several countries with comparatively small amounts of data, submit computer printouts or the STATLANT forms filled out. A detailed account of how data are transferred and collated was described for the 14th Session of the CWP (CWP 14/5.G).

2. Treatment of STATLANT 21 Statistics

Annual nominal catch statistics by species and division are transcribed from the STATLANT 21A forms to standard 80-column coding sheets and thence to computer diskettes. Data are temporarily stored on a hard disk until they are finalized and stored permanently after STATLANT 21B reports are received. Approximately 2 500 records are involved.

The detailed catch and effort statistics, reported on STATLANT 21B forms, are transcribed to 80 column coding sheets and subsequently input and verified on computer diskettes. Approximately 15 000 records are involved and the tabulated data are archived on hard disks.

Expansion of the computerized database of Northwest Atlantic fishery statistics from before 1972 has progressed well and the updated database now includes data for all years back to 1960. The data are available to users in the form of one diskette per year of data. Similarly all above data are made available to users in computer diskettes.

C. HIGH SEAS FISHERY STATISTICS

1. Separate Statistics from the NAFO Regulatory Area

A request from FAO in 1990 that NAFO Scientific Council look into the possibility of keeping separate statistics for the Regulatory Area generated much discussion at the June 1991 Meeting. It was felt that the means of providing a separate breakdown could already exist in the databases of some Coastal States. Much of the Canadian logbook and Observer data has this information, and in recent years many

other countries have been restricted to the Regulatory Area. For some areas, the distinction maybe difficult because of disputed boundaries, however where defined boundaries exist there should be no problem.

In general, the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) saw no problem in adopting this measure. To implement the reporting of catches and effort inside and outside the Regulatory Area, STACREC stated that the statistics offices of all components for each reporting party should be contacted and requested to provide this information where possible under a separate cover with STATLANT 21B statistics due to be submitted by June 30 1992. STACREC felt this time frame would permit the statistics offices to implement procedures to collect these data and report them on revised STATLANT 21B forms to be provided for June 1993. STACREC recommended that *the issue of statistics from inside and outside the national EEZ's be raised at the upcoming CWP Meeting.* It was agreed that this should be only the first step in a process that should lead to NAFO statistics being collected on a finer geographic scale. It was felt that the problem of obtaining statistics for management of some stocks on a finer scale was becoming more and more of an issue.

2. High Seas Fishery by Non-Contracting Parties of NAFO

NAFO for some time has recognized a significant problem of non-Contracting Parties fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Estimations show non-member fishing amounts to approximately 40% of the total NAFO groundfish quotas in the Regulatory Area. This particular problem has been a major concern of NAFO, and has resulted in the establishment of the Standing Committee on Fishing Activities of Non-Contracting Parties in the Regulatory Area (STACFAC). The Committee's terms of reference is to examine, on the basis of the best available information, options to cause non-Contracting Parties to withdraw from fishing activities contrary to NAFO Conservation Measures in the Regulatory Area. The Committee makes recommendations to that effect to the General Council.

STACFAC has met on many occasions since its inception at the 12th Annual Meeting of NAFO and has initiated activities on improving the database on non-Contracting Party fishing, diplomatic persuasion and other measures to dissuade non-Contracting Party fishing in the Regulatory Area.

3. Contracting Party Vessel Activities in NAFO Regulatory Area

The Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) under the Conservation and Enforcement Measures has developed a Hail System whereby Contracting Party vessels activity in the Regulatory Area may be monitored. The close monitoring of Contracting Party vessel activities (inclusion of daily catch reports and also having onboard observers is under consideration) is another positive step taken by NAFO in its efforts to fulfil its objectives of conservation and optimum utilization of the fishery resources.

D. RESEARCH AND STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. Publications (January 1990-December 1991)

- a) NAFO Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 37 for 1987 (Apr 1990)
" " " Vol. 38 for 1988 (Feb 1991)
- b) Scientific Council Reports, 1990 (Dec 1990)
" " " 1991 (Dec 1991)
- c) Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Vol. 10 (Dec 1990)
" " " " " Vol. 11 (Feb 1991)
" " " " " Vol. 12 (Jan 1992)
- d) NAFO Scientific Council Studies, No. 14 (May 1990)
" " " No. 15 (May 1991)
" " " No. 16 (Nov 1991)
- e) NAFO Index of Research & Summary Documents, 1985-89 (Dec 1991)
Prov. Index of Research & Summary Documents, 1990 (Jun 1991)
" " " " " 1991 (May 1992)

- f) List of Fishing Vessels, 1986 (Jul 1988)
" " " 1989 (Jan 1992)
- g) Inventory of Sampling Data, 1979-84 (Apr 1989)
" " " 1985-89 (in progress)

2. Meeting Documents Relevant to Statistics (January 1990-May 1992)

- Historical catches of selected species by stock and country for the period 1978-88 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/1, 38 pages)
- List of biological sampling data for 1988 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/9, 44 pages)
- Notes on statistical activities and publications since June 1989 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/10, 2 pages)
- Tagging activities reported for the Northwest Atlantic in 1989 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/11, 6 pages)
- Report to the CWP on NAFO statistical program, publications and ADP (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/18, 14 pages)
- Report of the 14th Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic fishery statistics (CWP), February 1990 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/19, 45 pages)
- Provisional nominal catches in the Northwest Atlantic, 1989 (NAFO SCS Doc. 90/21, 44 pages + addendum)
- Historical catches of selected species by stock and country for the period 1979-89 (NAFO SCS Doc. 91/1, 38 pages)
- Tagging activities reported for the Northwest Atlantic in 1990 (NAFO SCS Doc. 91/7, 3 pages)
- Notes on statistical activities and publications since June 1990 (NAFO SCS Doc. 91/9, 2 pages)
- List of biological sampling data for 1989 (NAFO SCS Doc. 91/10, 45 pages)
- Provisional nominal catches in the Northwest Atlantic, 1990 (NAFO SCS Doc. 91/2, 43 pages)
- Historical catches of selected species by stock and country for the period 1980-90 (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/5, 38 pages)
- List of biological sampling data for 1990 (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/6, ? pages)
- Notes on statistical activities and publications since June 1991 (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/7, 2 pages)
- Tagging activities reported for the Northwest Atlantic in 1991 (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/8, 3 pages)

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON ATLANTIC FISHERY STATISTICS

Fifteenth Session

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
8-14 July 1992

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Review of the Recommendations and Proposals from CWP-14 and Progress
3. Agency Programmes and Publications presenting Atlantic Fishery Statistics
4. High Seas Fisheries Statistics
5. Elimination of Discrepancies in Agency Databases
6. Quantities and Values of Landings
7. STATLANT Catch Questionnaires
8. STATLANT 27B Questionnaires
9. Misreporting/Non-Reporting of Data
10. Inland Fisheries Concepts and Definitions
11. Aquaculture Statistics:
 - (a) separation of aquaculture data from catch data
 - (b) definition of aquaculture
 - (c) hatchery data
12. Recreational Fisheries
13. Conversion Factors
14. Data Transmission using Electronic and Magnetic Media
15. Use of ICCAT Tuna Data by Regional Agencies
16. (a) Fishing Vessel Statistics & (b) World Register of Tuna Vessels
17. Food Balance Sheets
18. Handbook of Fishery Statistics
19. STATLANT Newsletter
20. Country and Nationality Issues
21. Species Concepts and Definitions
22. The CWP and Functions
23. Any Other Business
24. Date and Place of 16th Session of the CWP
25. Adoption of the CWP-15 Report