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Proposals for Amendments in the Representation on the  
Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics  
in the North Atlantic Area

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CWP

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## PREPARATION OF THIS CIRCULAR

This paper consists of extracts from the following documents:

- Paras. 1-17: FAO Committee on Fisheries; document COFI/68/15 (with para. 14 amended)
- Paras. 18-21: Report of the Third Session of the Committee on Fisheries, 24-30 April 1968; FAO Fisheries Report No. 58.
- Para. 22: Report of the ICNAF Statistics and Sampling Subcommittee, June 1968.
- Para. 23: Letter from the Secretary-General of ICES dated 27 June 1968.
- Paras. 24-25: FAO Council, 51st Session, 7-25 October 1968; document CL 51/24.

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PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CWP

A. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONTINUING WORKING PARTY (CWP)

1. The Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, organized by FAO, co-sponsored by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), and held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-29 September 1959, recommended the formation by FAO, ICES and ICNAF of a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area. Paragraph 91 B of the report of this expert meeting reads as follows:

" On the completion of the proceedings the following conclusions were agreed by the Meeting:

- (i) The Meeting invites the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, and ICES, ICNAF and FAO to appoint one expert each to form a continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic area with the power to coopt additional members to help them in their tasks.
- (ii) The Working Party should keep under continuous review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting, consult with the officers of governments and of international organizations with respect to difficulties encountered and, keeping in mind the actual state of fishery statistical services in the different countries, make suggestions for further national and international action in its field to governments and international organizations as appropriate.
- (iii) The Meeting requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to arrange for its Fisheries Division to function as Secretariat for the meetings of this Working Party. "

2. The report of this expert meeting was presented to the Tenth Session of the FAO Conference, 1959, which adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. 23/59

"THE CONFERENCE

"Notes with satisfaction that the Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, organized by FAO, co-sponsored by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, and held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-30 September 1959, has agreed on recommendations to governments and international organizations designed to improve and considerably simplify the collection and reporting of fishery statistics in the North Atlantic area .....

"Welcomes the suggestion of the meeting for the establishment of a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area, to keep under continuous review the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the meeting, consult with the officers of governments and of international organizations with respect to difficulties encountered and, keeping in mind the actual state of fishery statistical services in different countries, make suggestions for further national and international action in its field to governments and international organizations as appropriate.

"Agrees that the Working Party should consist of one governmental expert each nominated by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, one expert each nominated by the Secretary-General of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, one expert nominated by the Director-General of FAO, and such additional experts as may be nominated by the Working Party itself; and

"Authorizes and requests the Director-General to establish the Working Party in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution and to arrange, as requested by the meeting, for the FAO Fisheries Division to function as secretariat for the Working Party."

B. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CONTINUING WORKING PARTY

3. The following five Sessions have taken place during the eight years 1960-1967:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Report</u>
First	Bergen, Norway	25-26 May 1960	) Fisheries Circular No. 37
Second	Washington, D.C.	6 - 8 June 1961	
Third	Rome	18-22 March 1963	FAO Fish. Rep., (7)
Fourth	Rome	9 -12 March 1965	FAO Fish. Rep., (21)
Fifth	Aberdeen, Scotland	10-14 April 1967	FAO Fish. Rep., (45)

It is proposed to hold the Sixth Session in 1968 and the Seventh in 1969. The Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference, November 1967, approved the proposals for holding the Sixth and Seventh Sessions.

Achievements

4. During the eight years of its existence, the CWP has become the principal instrument for the coordination of fishery statistics of the North Atlantic by FAO, ICES and ICNAF in consultation with experts from member countries of the agencies served and with observers from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC).
5. By integrating and coordinating the statistical programmes of FAO, ICES and ICNAF relating to the fishery statistics of the North Atlantic Area, the CWP has made possible the standardization of statistical reporting systems, resulting in the elimination of many individual reporting forms and the adoption of a limited number of standard statistical questionnaires. The standard classification of species, vessels and fishing gear, together with the adoption of standard definitions of fishing effort, has greatly facilitated the work in the national offices of reporting North Atlantic fishery statistics to the three agencies represented on the CWP. For the same reason, the work of the CWP has brought about the improvement of both the quantity and quality of fishery statistics and has facilitated the timely submission of statistical data from national offices to the three agencies served. At the same time, the work of the secretariats of the international agencies which established the CWP has also been significantly facilitated (e.g. instead of each agency submitting individual statistical requests to national offices, single requests are made on behalf of these agencies by the Secretary of the CWP). In brief, the overall result of the work of the CWP has been that more and better statistics have been obtained through less effort, and much greater comparability of fishery data published by FAO, ICES and ICNAF has been achieved.
6. While the CWP has confined its attention to the development and improvement of fishery statistics relating to the North Atlantic, the benefits have not accrued solely to countries fishing in that area. The statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic have, in fact, served as models for application in fishing areas elsewhere. The results attained are being extended to other parts of the world, especially to areas where other bodies have been or are being established within the framework of FAO.
7. Specialized fishery statistics, especially those relating to catch and effort, which national offices are collecting for ICES and ICNAF and which are also used by the Fish Stock Evaluation Branch of FAO, are subject to constant refinement and improvement. This is so because of the changes which are taking place both in the fishing industry and in the techniques applied in stock evaluation. It is for this reason that the CWP continues to play an important role in coordinating fishery statistical programmes and in keeping under continuous review the concepts, definitions, classifications and techniques of data collection and processing in use in an area as important as the North Atlantic.

C. PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REPRESENTATION ON THE CONTINUING WORKING PARTY

Action by the CWP

8. In paragraph (16.4) of the Report of the Fifth Session held in Aberdeen, Scotland, 10-14 April 1967, the CWP recommended for consideration by ICES, ICNAF and FAO:

- "(a) that ICNAF, ICES and FAO should continue to be represented in the Continuing Working Party by two members and that observers from other interested agencies, e.g. the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Statistical Office of the European Communities, continue to be invited to attend the Continuing Working Party's sessions as in the past;
- "(b) that the number of national representatives in the Continuing Working Party should stay the same, i.e. a total of four, but that beginning in 1967 and each year thereafter, ICNAF and ICES should each nominate one country for membership for a period of two years; that for this purpose Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany could be considered to have been nominated by ICNAF, and the United Kingdom and Iceland by ICES, when the Continuing Working Party was established in 1960, and one of each pair of members could be replaced or renominated at the 1967 meetings of ICNAF and ICES;
- "(c) that as far as possible the national representatives should be chosen so as to cover between them all the fields of interest of the Continuing Working Party - administration, biology, economics, technology, etc.;
- "(d) that the terms of reference remain the same, although the desirability of a review at the Sixth Session would possibly arise;
- "(e) that the name of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area be changed to Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic, and that this body be established on an inter-agency basis."

Action by ICNAF

9. The Report of the Fifth Session of the CWP was reviewed by ICNAF at its annual meeting in May-June 1967, and the following has been extracted from its report:

"Representation on the CWP

At its fifth session, the CWP considered its terms of reference; the continuing need for such a group; its name; and possible changes in representation on the CWP. The subcommittee supported the conclusions reached by the CWP to rename the group the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic. The subcommittee agreed that one country from North America should be included in national representation on the CWP. For immediate action, it was agreed that the Federal Republic of Germany should be replaced, preferably by Denmark. After the 1968 meeting of the CWP it is expected that the USA will replace Canada."

Action by ICES in 1967

10. The report of the CWP and the action taken by ICNAF was also reviewed by ICES at its annual meeting in October 1967, and the following is extracted from the report of ICES:

"The Committee considered the recommendations of the CWP regarding its future composition, terms of reference, title and status. It endorsed the CWP's view that despite the growing importance of fishing activities in areas other than the North Atlantic, it should continue to concentrate its activities, for the time being, on the statistical problems in the North Atlantic, with special reference to improving the quality of catch and effort statistics, but also to the development and improvement in "economic" statistics (e.g. products, prices, fishing fleets, etc.)

"The Committee also recommends (B(5))

"(a) that the CWP's proposals regarding its future composition be approved by ICES, and that France be invited to replace Iceland in the Committee for the next two years;

"(b) that the Council approve the new name of the Working Party as the "Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic";

"(c) that the Working Party be established on an inter-agency basis. "

D. PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

11. It is now necessary to consider what action might be recommended to FAO's governing bodies respecting the future status of the CWP.
12. An urgent question which requires consideration is that of the composition of the CWP. In accordance with Resolution 23/59, the CWP has heretofore been composed of seven experts, one designated by each of four specified Governments, and one each by the Executive Heads of FAO, ICNAF and ICES. In addition, Resolution 23/59 also provides that additional experts may be appointed by the CWP itself.
13. In order to facilitate the rotation of the Governments which might be invited to nominate experts, it would seem desirable not to designate the Governments by name. In this way, no action would be required of the governing bodies of the three organizations which established the CWP every time that different Governments were invited to nominate experts. Moreover, it would be desirable for the three organizations to retain full authority to appoint members of the CWP and not to allow the latter to appoint additional members. This would conform to FAO's normal procedures.
14. It is therefore suggested that, in order not to restrict the membership of the CWP unduly, FAO, ICNAF and ICES should each appoint up to four experts. Each organization would follow its own constitutional procedures with respect to the nomination of these experts. As far as FAO is concerned, a recommendation might be made to the Council to the effect that the Director-General should continue to appoint individuals acting in their personal capacity to participate on behalf of FAO, and to continue providing the secretariat services of the CWP. FAO would continue to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES.
15. The title of the CWP might also be changed to "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics".
16. If the Committee endorses the suggestion made in this paper, it may wish to recommend appropriate action by the Council at its next session in October 1968. Such an opportunity might also be taken to make it clear, as far as FAO is concerned, that the CWP was established as a joint FAO/ICES/ICNAF inter-agency Working Party of Experts under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the FAO Constitution. It should be noted that this is an inter-agency body to coordinate statistical programmes and that members of the secretariats of the agencies would play an important part in its work. As far as FAO is concerned these FAO staff members would be designated by the Director-General.
17. The Council is carrying out a review of FAO's statutory bodies, and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) stressed in paragraph 23 of the report of its Seventeenth Session that it would be desirable to specify the precise authority and provisions under which statutory bodies were established. These clarifications would serve to eliminate any doubt which might arise under the terms of Resolution 23/59 as to the composition and membership of the CWP.

**E. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, APRIL 1968**

18. The Committee was informed that the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area (CWP) as well as ICES and ICNAF who participated with FAO in the CWP, had suggested certain changes in its composition and its title.
19. The Committee accordingly decided to recommend to the Council to take steps to have the statutes of CWP amended so that it would be composed of experts of whom FAO, ICNAF and ICES would each appoint up to four, each organization following its own constitutional procedures;
- (1) its title would henceforth be "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics"; and
  - (2) it would be made clear that as far as FAO was concerned the CWP was established as a joint working party of experts under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Constitution and that the Director-General would continue to appoint to it individuals in their personal capacity to participate on behalf of FAO.
20. The Committee, noting the usefulness of the work of the CWP, further recommended that FAO should continue to provide the secretariat services of the CWP, to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES.
21. In recommending the new title of this body, the Committee noted that the statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic area were valuable in relation to other areas in the Atlantic Ocean, and that opportunity should be taken, whenever it arose, to apply these procedures and concepts in other parts of this Ocean.

**F. ACTION TAKEN BY ICNAF, MAY/JUNE 1968, LONDON**

22. The Subcommittee reviewed reports submitted by the ICNAF Secretariat and by ICES, FAO and the CWP Secretary. It expressed its great satisfaction with the continued cooperation between all the agencies concerned with North Atlantic statistics.

The Subcommittee noted that in the field of Fishery statistics it is becoming obvious that an Atlantic-wide, if not a world-wide, approach is becoming necessary; the work of the national offices and reporting to the different fishery bodies can only be kept to a minimum if all these agencies coordinate and standardize their regularly-made requests to these national offices.

The Subcommittee

recommends

- (i) that the ICNAF Secretariat continue the existing close collaboration with the CWP Secretariat;
- (ii) that the Assistant Executive Secretary and the CWP Secretary revise, where necessary, the Notes for the Completion of the STANA 1W and 2 Forms before these are distributed in January 1969;
- (iii) that ICNAF accepts the proposed changes in (a) the name of the CWP from "Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area" to "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics" and in (b) the representation on the inter-agency CWP as proposed by the Third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Rome, 24-30 April 1968, and as endorsed by the ICES Bureau at its meeting in May 1968;
- (iv) that ICNAF continues to participate in all future sessions of the CWP whenever such sessions deal with matters of direct and significant concern to the North Atlantic.



The Subcommittee noting that acceptance by ICNAF of the COFI proposals (which depends as far as FAO's participation is concerned on approval by the October 1968 session of the FAO Council) entitles ICNAF to appoint according to ICNAF's own constitutional procedures to the CWP up to four representatives,

recommends

- (i) that the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Statistics Subcommittee participate in future meetings of the CWP dealing with the North Atlantic;
- (ii) that Canada and Denmark be invited to participate in the Sixth Session of the CWP;
- (iii) that Denmark and the United States be invited to participate in that Session of the CWP, following the Sixth Session which would deal with the North Atlantic.

G. ACTION TAKEN BY THE BUREAU OF ICES, MAY 1968, REYKJAVIK

23. The Bureau of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at its recent meeting in Reykjavik accepted, on behalf of the Council, the proposals for reorganization of the CWP, including the change in its name, in the same form as they had earlier been endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries.

H. ACTION PROPOSED TO THE 51ST SESSION OF THE FAO COUNCIL, TO BE HELD FROM 7-25 OCTOBER 1968

24. The work of the CWP has brought about an improvement of both the quantity and quality of fishery statistics and has facilitated the timely submission of statistical data from national offices to the three agencies served. At the same time, the work of the secretariats of the international agencies which established the CWP has also been significantly facilitated. In brief, the overall result of the work of the CWP has been that more and better statistics have been obtained through less effort, and much greater comparability of fishery data published by FAO, ICES and ICNAF has been achieved.

While the CWP has confined its attention to the development and improvement of fishery statistics relating to the North Atlantic, the benefits have not accrued solely to countries fishing in that area. The statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic have, in fact, served as models for application in fishing areas elsewhere. The results attained are being extended to other parts of the world, especially to areas where other bodies have been or are being established within the framework of FAO.

25. Following discussions in the CWP, ICNAF and ICES on how to rotate and widen participation in the sessions of the CWP, the Committee on Fisheries, at its Third Session (see Report paras. 73-75), decided to recommend to the FAO Council to take steps to have the statutes of CWP amended so that it would be composed of experts of whom FAO, ICNAF and ICES would each appoint up to four, each organization following its own constitutional procedure; that its title would henceforth be "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics"; and that it would be made clear that as far as FAO was concerned the CWP was established as a joint working party of experts under paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Constitution.

Noting the usefulness of the work of the CWP, the Committee on Fisheries further recommended that FAO should continue to provide the secretariat services of the CWP, to be responsible for publishing reports of annual sessions of the CWP, and for sharing the cost of statistical forms, as in the past, with ICNAF and ICES.

In recommending the new title of this body, the Committee noted that the statistical procedures and concepts developed in the North Atlantic area were valuable in relation to other areas in the Atlantic Ocean, and that opportunity should be taken, whenever it arose, to apply these procedures and concepts in other parts of this Ocean.

The Bureau of ICES and the 18th Annual Meeting of ICNAF have since endorsed the recommendations of COFI.

If the Council agrees with these recommendations of COFI, it may wish to adopt the following draft resolution:

Resolution No.

THE COUNCIL

Noting that the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area was established by the Director-General, under the authority conferred on him by Resolution 23/59 adopted by the Conference at its Tenth Session, jointly with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF);

Considering the usefulness of this body to the participating agencies in connection with the establishment of standard concepts, classifications, definitions, reporting methods and forms relating to statistics on the Atlantic fisheries;

Noting that the Committee on Fisheries had made certain recommendations at its Third Session with regard to the modification of the Working Party's title and composition and that these recommendations had already been approved by ICES and ICNAF;

Endorsing the recommendations made by the Committee on Fisheries;

Decides that the title of the Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area shall henceforth be changed to "Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics";

Decides that the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics shall be composed of experts; FAO, ICES and ICNAF, each appointing up to four experts in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures;

Authorises the Director-General, in accordance with Article VI-3 of the Constitution, to determine the terms of reference of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics in agreement with ICES and ICNAF;

Authorises the Director-General to appoint the experts to be selected by FAO and to promulgate, after determination of the Working Party's terms of reference, amended statutes to reflect the contents of the present resolution;

Confirms that as far as FAO is concerned the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics is a working party of experts established under Article VI-2 of the Constitution;

Agrees that FAO continue to provide the secretariat services for the Working Party.