

STATISTICAL EDITOR'S REPORT

1. Incidentals to last year's meeting

In accordance with the Committee's recommendations, 1938 has been replaced by 1962 as basis year for the introductory Tables B and C in "Bulletin Statistique". Attention is drawn to the fact that one more year may be included in the series shown in those tables, if the column for 1962 is deleted.

All data from years before 1962, which are not comparable with the later ones, have been dropped from the introductory tables. Table J is kept unchanged, except that Canada has been added, and grand totals are given. These show that in all, 55.9% of the member countries' catches came from the ICES Statistical Area (North) in 1966.

The "old" Table 1 has been replaced by the "old" Table 2, and a new Table 2 has been added, giving corresponding data for catches of shellfish. After this, there remain no value statistics in "Bulletin Statistique".

In Table 3, the three North Sea divisions have been united, while they are shown separately (but with no species totals for each division) in Table 4. The total catch of non-member countries has been added to Table 3.

In Table 4^a, "Southern Waters" have been defined as identical with the FAO area "Eastern Central Atlantic", and a map of that area has been included.

A chart of the North Atlantic, showing the ICES, ICNAF and NEAFC divisions has been included, and the Editor will welcome comments as to improvements.

The old Tables 7 and 7^a have been deleted and replaced by a new Table 7, showing the total catches by species of fish and shellfish in the NEAFC regions. Proof-prints of that Table were made available to the NEAFC meeting in May, where they were welcomed. Corresponding proof-prints will be made available in future years, until the Bulletin itself will appear in time for the NEAFC meeting.

The General Secretary was asked to prepare for the present meeting a possible tabular scheme, showing long-term series for important species in the Council's area. It was clear that this would involve considerable preparatory work, and it is regretted that due to other commitments in the past year, it has not been possible to meet the Committee's request. It is hoped, however, that a document on this question will be available at the next meeting.

Although there are no improvements to the hake statistics in the present volume of "Bulletin Statistique", there are indications that better data may be available for 1967.

The General Secretary was also asked to make an appraisal of the completeness of the present statistical coverage in the ICES Statistical Area (North) and report to the present meeting. It is regretted that this is also among the tasks, which it was not possible to fulfil during the past year.

Considerable discussions have taken place during the year concerning the statistical problems in the "southern area", mainly at the meeting of the ACMRR/ICES Working Party on Fishery Resources of the Eastern Central Atlantic and the South-East Atlantic (Tenerife, April 1968) (see Doc. C.M.1968/G:4). These discussions, in which the General Secretary of the CWP and the General Secretary of ICES took part led to a recommendation for a new sub-division of the two areas for statistical purposes (see Doc. C.M.1968/D:9) as well as to a proposed grouping of species for statistical purposes.

A supplement to the List of Fishing Vessels, presented to the last meeting, is available as Doc. C.M.1968/D:7 this year. It is believed that the two Lists, together with the ICNAF List, give a reasonably complete picture of the fleet of fishing vessels above 150 GRT fishing in the North Atlantic in 1966/1967.

The plan for changing the name and composition of CWP has been under discussion during the past year and has led to the following results, on which general agreement seems likely (cp. C.M.1968/D:3):

- a) the name to be: Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics, and
- b) CWP to be composed of experts, of whom FAO, ICES and ICNAF will each appoint up to four, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

These proposals were accepted by the Bureau in May on behalf of the Council, and by ICNAF in June. As far as FAO is concerned, the proposals were accepted by COFI in April, and the final decision will presumably be taken by the FAO Council, when it meets early in October.

The 6th Session of the CWP has been postponed and is now tentatively scheduled to take place at Charlottenlund, 3rd to 7th February 1969.

2. Publications

In spite of several changes in the set-up of tables, and an unusually heavy workload on the Secretariat during the past year, it was possible to issue the "Bulletin Statistique" for 1966 in August, slightly earlier than last year. This was partly due to the deletion of the old Tables 7 and 7^a.

An advance release of Tables 1 to 4 was issued in October, thanks to the help of FAO.

The four regular issues of the "Statistical News Letters" were also issued a little earlier than last year, and there seems to be room for some future improvements. The coverage has varied somewhat, but there is a trend towards improvement.

3. Co-operation with other organisations

In addition to what is mentioned above, Mr. Kowalewski of ICNAF visited the ICES Secretariat for two days in June and had useful discussions with the General Secretary and the staff of the Statistical Office.

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