

Information on the system used for collecting and processing
statistical information regarding the Polish sea fishery

by
A. Ropelewski^{x)}



The system of collecting and processing of statistical data, functioning presently in the Polish sea fishery as regards the size of catch and fishing effort of the Polish deep sea fishing fleet was introduced in 1961.

The system is of a two-step structure and bases itself on the following components :

- 1) daily reports of the fishing vessels sent by radio to their ship-owners;
- 2) monthly accounting of the effects of the fishing vessels calculated on the basis of the periodical reports of the fish processing technologist of the vessel.

The daily report dispatched by the captain of the fishing vessel contains estimated quantity and qualitative composition of the catch as a whole as well as the data concerning the size and the localisation of the engaged fishing effort. Apart from being sent over to the ship owner the report is dispatched also to the Fisheries Central Board and the Sea Fisheries Institute so that the information there contained could be used for operational fish scouting.

A detailed accounting of the catch obtained by the fishing vessels is prepared on the basis of the periodical reports of the fish processing technologist, thus is prepared with the use of the technological coefficients of conversion. This accounting is made on special forms and contains the following monthly information :

- 1) type of the fishing vessel and the fishing gear used;
- 2) size of the catch and its composition;
- 3) size of the fishing effort, in particular :
 - days on the sea
 - days on the fishing ground
 - days fished
 - hours of trawling.

^{x)} Sea Fisheries Institute
Aleja Zjednoczenia 1
81-345 Gdynia
POLAND

- 4) Localisation of the place of fishing and the fishing effort in the divisions and regions of a given statistical area projected on the FAO statistical grid.

These forms are filled in by every deep sea fishing enterprise and then transmitted to the Fisheries Central Board and Sea Fisheries Institute. The results of the activity of the fishing fleet compiled in the above-mentioned forms constitute the final source of information on fishing and fishing effort of the Polish deep sea fishing fleet and are used for internal reporting in the fishing industry and to prepare material for international organisations and fishing conventions.

As to the statistical data required by these organisations and conventions, from the member states, till 1974 they were limited in principle to an obligatory procurement of yearly reports on fishing and fishing effort within the framework of the programme "STATLANT". Since 1975 growing requirements of some of the fishing conventions caused the necessity to provide monthly information on fishing activities of the Polish fishing fleet in the region covered by a given convention, and the localisation of actual fishing and the fishing effort projected on the new system of sub-areas, regions and divisions became insufficient.

In connection with the above, work has been undertaken to modernise the actually existing system of collecting statistical data. The Sea Fisheries Institute in close cooperation with the Polish fishing administrative authorities worked out a new type of ship's log-book for all vessels of the deep sea fishing fleet.

This document will provide the sole source of the primary information on the activity of the Polish fishing fleet. It has been arranged in such a way as to make it possible to utilise the contained information for processing by a computerised system and thus to obtain a highly precise and detailed localisation of fishing and fishing effort of the Polish fishing fleet.

The abstracts from the log-book entitled "daily report of the ship" (24-hours report) will be sent by radio to the ship's owners and the Sea Fisheries Institute, and the copy of the right side entry of the ship's log-book will serve as the basic statistical document.

The first part of the ship's log-book has already been delivered on a trial basis to the fishing fleet operating in the North West Atlantic off the Canadian coast. The new log-books will be introduced on all fishing vessels during 1977-78.