



PROGRESS REPORT

by

ICES Statistician

1. Bulletin Statistique

General

- 1.1. Volume 59 of the "Bulletin Statistique des Pêches Maritimes" containing the 1974 data was published in August 1977. The lay-out, contents and method of processing data for this volume were practically unchanged in comparison with the previous Volume 58 (for 1973), published in January 1976.
- 1.2. Following the Council's decisions, Tables 1-5 in Volumes 58 and 59 of Bulletin Statistique were produced by ADP methods using part of the ICES FISHDAT System (batch programmes prepared by the Danish Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research). Following the Council's decision at the 63rd Statutory Meeting to separate catches between Divisions VIIId and VIIe (C.Res.1975/1:14), the computer programme for Table 5 was changed accordingly, and the modified programme was used both for the Advance Release of Bulletin Statistique, Volume 60 (for 1975), published in September 1976, and for the present Volume of Bulletin Statistique. However, since the 1974 catch figures for the English Channel have not yet been split between the Eastern and Western Divisions, the figures given for Division VIIId include catches in Division VIIe.
- 1.3. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Statistics Committee, having considered the ADP Working Group report, agreed that if separation of the ICES Sub-area XIV into Divisions makes continued production of Table 5 of Bulletin Statistique in its current form impossible because of space limit, the 3-letter ICES country code should be used in that table, and CWP should be requested to consider the feasibility of adopting 3-letter species code, corresponding to the Bulletin Statistique item numbers, as shown in C.M. Doc. 1975/D:7. However, the technical and space reasons required ICES three-alpha country abbreviations to be introduced in Volume 59 of Bulletin Statistique. This was done in the last column on the right-hand side, whereas in the first column on the left-hand side of Table 5 the countries' names were retained in full.
- 1.4. At the 62nd Statutory Meeting, the Statistics Committee agreed that the inclusion of Manx (the Isle of Man) data as a separate entry in Bulletin Statistique should be a permanent feature from that time onwards, and at the 63rd Statutory Meeting the Consultative Committee confirmed that understanding by deciding that one should in the future seek to present sub-totals in Bulletin Statistique for the four reporting agencies in the United Kingdom. Therefore, in both Volumes 58 and 59 of Bulletin Statistique there were separate entries for

^{*)} General Secretary,
ICES,
Charlottenlund Slot,
2920 Charlottenlund, DENMARK

"England and Wales", "Isle of Man", "Northern Ireland" and "Scotland". In 1976, ICES also started to receive separate statistics for the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which are included in the figures for "England and Wales" in the Advance Release.

- 1.5. At the 60th Statutory Meeting, the Statistics Committee, having considered the report of the November 1971 Meeting of the CWP Study Group on ADP, adopted the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) with some modifications proposed by the Gear and Behaviour Committee. It was agreed to dispense with the sub-division of reported catch and effort data into "side and stern", "small and large meshed" and "method of propulsion". However, a need for a transitional period was recognised in order to make full use of additional details available in some national returns. Accordingly, some intermediate changes have been made to the sub-headings in Table 7 in Volume 59 of Bulletin Statistique.
- 1.6. In order to eliminate some discrepancies in the total in Table 10 resulting from the rounding-up of figures, all figures in that table in Volume 59 were given in metric ton units.
- 1.7. The Advance Release of Tables 1-5 of Bulletin Statistique, Volume 61 (for 1976), is submitted as C.M. Doc. 1977/Gen:4, reproduced from the original computer print-outs prepared by the ICES Systems Analyst. As indicated in the introduction, the French data were received too late for inclusion, and the ICES Secretariat has received no STATLANT 27A returns from Norway and Spain.
- 1.8. Computer print-outs of Tables 1-5 of Volume 60 of Bulletin Statistique, incorporating the latest amendments, have been prepared by the ICES Secretariat, and work is progressing on the introductory and auxiliary tables. However, the work on finalising Tables 10 and 11, and preparing Table 7, is hampered by the absence of STATLANT 27B returns from some countries. In accordance with the recommendations of the ICES ADP Working Group (C.M. Doc. 1977/D:4), the format of major tables in Volume 60 is unchanged, except for incorporating some earlier decisions of the Council, while changes in future volumes are to be discussed at the present Statutory Meeting. Provided that the missing returns are obtained soon, the publication of Volume 60 of Bulletin Statistique is expected early in 1978, and with the same proviso it is expected that Volume 61 (for 1976), incorporating some changes to be agreed upon at the Meeting, will follow in the same year.

Introductory Tables

- 1.9. Introductory tables in Volume 60 are being changed in accordance with the agreement reached by the Statistics Committee at the 64th Statutory Meeting on the basis of the ADP Working Group proposals.
- 1.10. Volume 60 of Bulletin Statistique (for 1975) includes the following introductory tables:
 - Table A - Percentage of total nominal fish catch taken by each country;
 - Table B - Percentage ratio to the nominal fish catch in 1962 (= 100);
 - Table C - Nominal catches of some fish species compared with 1962 (= 100);
 - Table D - Nominal catches of some species as percentages of the total nominal fish catch (species included in Tables C and D became the same and their composition was changed);
 - Table E - Percentage of the total nominal catch of some species taken by different countries (species composition in the Table was extended);

Table F - Percentage of nominal fish catches from the most important fishing grounds;

Table G - Nominal catches of different species in principal fishing areas as percentages of total fishing area catch (only catches of more than 10 000 metric tons);

In Tables A - G, values are given for 1962 and the last four years.

Table H - Nominal catches of the most important fish in the different countries, 1975 (only catches of more than 0.1%);

(Absolute catches for each species during the last year are omitted, but totals for each country in '000 MT are placed at the opening of each section of the table.)

Table J - Member countries' catches, including invertebrates in the ICES Statistical Area and their total catches in 1962 and the last three years (in '000 MT);

Table K - The title of Table K, first introduced in Volume 57 of Bulletin Statistique (for 1972), is changed to read:

"Nominal catches (in metric tons) of those species which, although reported as individual items on the STATLANT forms submitted by member countries, are grouped together in the "Various" categories in Table 5.

("Category total" signifies that the quantity refers to a group of species such as Gadoids and Macruroids. "N.e.i" means "not elsewhere included". "*" indicates that the area distribution is the same as that given in Table 5 for the grouped category.)"

Table L - Nominal catch (in metric tons) by non-member countries in the ICES Statistical Area in 1975 (not included elsewhere in Bulletin Statistique);

(The Table includes catches as reported by Sub-areas, Divisions and Sub-divisions.)

- 1.11. The only further modification in the introductory tables the Statistician believes feasible to suggest in response to the Statistics Committee request from the 64th Statutory Meeting, is the inclusion of catches of only more than 1%, as a cut-off point, in Tables E and H (for the most recent year catches). The other suggestion, on re-instating the introductory commentary, was made by the ADP Working Group (C.M. Doc. 1977/D:4).

New Format of Table 7

- 1.12. Proposals on a new format of Table 7 of Bulletin Statistique (following C.Res. 1976/1:20) are submitted in C.M. Doc. 1977/D:7.

New Format of Table 10

- 1.13. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Council decided (C.Res. 1976/1:21) that:

"Table 10 of Bulletin Statistique, commencing with the 1976 data, should be extended to include monthly nominal catch data for the twelve species, asterisked on the STATLANT 27B Form, not only for the North Sea, but for each of the ICES statistical divisions, in the same way as herring data

currently appear in Table 11. Table 11 will then disappear, since it will be absorbed in the new Table 10."

- 1.14. At the same Meeting, the Statistics Committee agreed that "the Statistician should request the national reporting offices of the member countries to submit all the monthly catch data required. Should any country fail to report its monthly statistics, the corresponding yearly figure should be entered into the "total" column". Accordingly, a circular letter on the subject was sent on 17 January 1977, and a draft form of Table 10 submitted to the ADP Working Group Meeting in February 1977.
- 1.15. The ADP Working Group, however, felt that both yearly countries' totals and monthly totals should be excluded everywhere from the Table, and recommended accordingly (see paragraph 3.3.1 of C.M. Doc. 1977/D:4).

2. STATLANT Forms

2.1. Notwithstanding the fact that by its Resolution 1975/4:17 the Council had drawn the attention of member countries to the importance of the STATLANT statistical system and to the urgent need for all member countries to recognise the high priority which should be given to their obligations under the STATLANT programme with regard to the timely reporting of accurate and comprehensive annual catch and fishing effort statistics, the situation as to submission of the 1976 data worsened. Whereas in 1976 10 countries out of 21* submitted STATLANT 27A forms (with data for 1975) to ICES before 10 June, in 1977 their number fell to 7 (as was the case in 1975) and no 1976 data have yet been submitted by Norway and Spain (returns from France were received on 29 August 1977, i.e., too late for inclusion into Advance Release). Submission of STATLANT 27B forms improved only marginally in 1976, but fell to the level of 1975 in 1977, i.e., only 7 countries have submitted their returns for 1976 as at 31 August 1977, as indicated in the text table below.

2.2. Returns of STATLANT Forms

Country	STATLANT 27A		STATLANT 27B	
	1975 data	1976 data	1975 data	1976 data
	(deadline: 31 May) Date received:		(deadline: 31 August) Date received	
Belgium	3 Jun	31 May	20 Sep	20 Jul
Denmark:			10 Sep	-
(Mainland)	25 Aug	5 Jul	19 Sep	-
(Faroe Isl.)	16 Jul	15 Aug	-	-
(Greenland)	28 May	24 May	4 Sep	-
Finland	10 Jun	8 Aug	25 Nov	-
France	27 Oct	29 Aug	-	-
German Dem.Rep.	5 Jun	20 Jun	21 Aug	-
Germany, Fed.Rep. of	17 Jul	14 Jul	18 Oct	16 Aug
Iceland	17 Jul	27 May	16 Aug	8 Jul
Ireland	20 Jul	22 Aug	-	-
Netherlands	25 May	21 Apr	25 May	23 May
Norway	17 Jul	-	14 Dec	-
Poland	8 Jun	6 Jun	6 Sep	23 Aug
Portugal	5 Aug	22 Aug	-	-
Spain	12 Jul	-	-	-
Sweden	4 Oct	11 Aug	-	-
United Kingdom: (England & Wales)	2 Jun	20 May	2 Sep	15 Aug

/Cont'd.

* The term "country" signifies here the statistical entity for which catch data are reported and published separately (e.g., the constituent parts of the United Kingdom are treated as four "countries").

Table (Continued).

Country	STATLANT 27A		STATLANT 27B	
	1975 data	1976 data	1975 data	1976 data
	(deadline: 31 May) Date received:		(deadline: 31 August) Date received:	
United Kingdom (Isle of Man)	17 May	4 Aug	-	-
(N. Ireland)	17 May	25 Apr	19 Aug	23 Aug
(Scotland)	28 Jun	20 Jun	16 Sep	-
USSR	2 Jun	15 Aug	31 Aug	-

(STATLANT 27A forms for 1975 were received from Bulgaria on 8 June 1976 and from Romania on 31 May, and STATLANT 27B forms - on 16 August from Bulgaria and on 15 July from Romania. STATLANT 27B for 1976 was received from Bulgaria on 6 July 1977.)

3. Preliminary Annual Catch Statistics

3.1. Since for assessment purposes it is necessary to have at least preliminary catch statistics early in the year, NEAFC at its XI Annual Meeting in 1973 approved Recommendation 12, in accordance with which member countries shall submit to the ICES Secretariat on a standard form their annual nominal catch data on 14 commercially important species, not later than 1 February of the year following that to which the data apply. Under the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Recommendation, ICES, at the 62nd Statutory Meeting, resolved (C.Res.1974/3:1) that these data should be reported by the member countries by the statistical Sub-areas, Divisions and Sub-divisions by which each country normally reports its catch on the STATLANT 27A form. In view of the poor response to the above-mentioned resolution, the Council (by C.Res.1976/4:30) again urged the member countries to submit such data for 1976 by 1 February 1977.

3.2. The 1976 Council resolution improved the situation somewhat in 1977, in that 15 countries returned completed Recommendation 12 forms (in 1975 and 1976, there were only 9 countries). Of these, however, only 10 countries did so on time (namely: Belgium, Faroe Islands, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, UK (Northern Ireland), UK (Scotland) and USSR). No forms were received from France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and UK (England and Wales). Some of the latter, notably UK (England and Wales) and to a lesser extent France, did provide preliminary 1976 data to the ICES Assessment Working Groups.

4. Monthly Catch Submissions

4.1. Submission of preliminary monthly catch statistics is now the well established practice in NEAFC. However, some of the December 1976 returns were not received until early in April 1977, and, besides that, the NEAFC form does not cover all stocks or areas of concern. Therefore, at the 1976 Statutory Meeting the Council adopted a resolution (C.Res.1976/4:9) specifying additional stocks, monthly catches from which should be reported by the member countries to the ICES Secretariat on a standard ICES Data Form 5, with a time-lag of one month.

- 4.2. The information on Form 5 (as well as data reported on Recommendation 12 form, referred to above) is intended for assessment purposes and does not replace any data currently reported under the STATLANT programme. Therefore, the guidelines for data security approved by the Council (C.Res.1975/4:29) in relation to the establishment of the ICES FISHDAT System are also applicable to such data, i.e., that it is the responsibility of the General Secretary and the Secretariat to see that if such data had been submitted with certain qualifications ("footnotes"), then these qualifications would be attached to them whenever they were extracted, whether for internal use or for exchange purposes.
- 4.3. At the time of writing, the following completed returns on ICES Data Form 5 for 1977 were available at the ICES Secretariat: June inclusive - from Belgium, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and Sweden; May inclusive - from Denmark (including the Faroe Islands), Ireland, Norway and UK (Scotland); April inclusive - from Iceland and the Netherlands.

5. Collection of Data by Statistical Rectangles

- 5.1. At the 62nd Statutory Meeting, the Council resolved (C.Res.1974/4:8) that the routine reporting of statistical and biological data by statistical rectangles (initiated by the Council in 1956) should be made in accordance with the rectangle coding system described in C.M. Doc. 1974/D:11, commencing with the 1974 data. In accordance with this resolution, the ICES Statistician informed members of the Statistics and all "Fish" Committees, as well as the Chairmen of relevant Working Groups (circular letter dated 6 December 1974), of the uniform coding system together with its description and three charts on which the system was superimposed.
- 5.2. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Council urged (C.Res.1976/4:10) the member countries to provide statistical and biological data by ICES statistical rectangles, taking into account the importance of this reporting for the future requirements arising from changes in the fishery jurisdiction, as well as for the Assessment Working Groups and the ICES FISHDAT System. Due to incoming requests for charts covering the whole ICES Statistical Area with the ICES rectangle network superimposed on them, the ICES Secretariat prepared such charts with a brief introductory description as C.M. Doc. 1977/Gen:3. Since some offices might have been in need of those charts before the Meeting, the document was given advance circulation to Delegates, members of the Statistics Committee, national statistical offices and cooperating institutions and organisations (circular letter dated 21 March 1977).
- 5.3. Following another resolution (C.Res.1976/1:18) of the Council, inventories of data for 1976 previously incorporated in the Statistical News Letters have been published as Appendixes to the Advance Release of Tables 1-5 of Bulletin Statistique, Vol.61, 1976 (C.M. Doc. 1977/Gen:4). As can be seen from Appendix I: "Inventory of Data on Nominal Catch and Fishing Effort by Months (or Quarters) and by ICES Statistical Rectangles for 1976 available at ICES Secretariat", reporting in 1977 was poor. The only reporting countries were Belgium - on herring, cod, haddock, plaice, sole and redfish; the Netherlands - on herring; Norway - on mackerel (by national statistical areas along the coast); Poland - on herring; UK (England and Wales) - on herring and mackerel; and UK (Scotland) - on cod, haddock and whiting. Inventory of similar data for 1973-75, as available at ICES Secretariat as of 1 February 1977, was published as Annex II to the Liaison Committee Report (Part II) to the XV Annual Meeting of NEAFC.

6. Modifications in ISSCFV

6.1. At the 1975 Statutory Meeting, the Council adopted the following resolution (C.Res.1975/1:15):

"It was decided that:

- (i) member countries should use the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV) when reporting fleet and effort data by tonnage categories, and that these tonnage categories should be incorporated in Tables 7 and 9 of Bulletin Statistique;
- (ii) the ISSCFV should be used for fleet and effort statistics for 1975 data onwards."

6.2. However, as was indicated in the "Progress Report" submitted to the 64th Statutory Meeting (1976) of ICES, most of the 1975 national data for Table 9 - "Number, Type, Tonnage and Engine Capacity of Fishing Vessels in the Various Countries" - were still based on the previously applied classification. In order to remedy the situation, the Statistics Committee requested the ICES Statistician to prepare and distribute to national statistical offices a new form for submitting fleet data by tonnage categories in accordance with the ISSCFV. Since that time, FAO suggested that ICES take over the entire preparation and distribute the form among the members of the fleet and fishermen, because FAO ceased, for the time being, to collect such data for its own purposes.

This has been agreed upon, and accordingly the entire form "Fishing craft and fishermen" which is headed "ICES Data Form 6" was sent to national statistical offices for completion with the 1975 and 1976 data, together with the accompanying notes based on the FAO Fisheries Circulars No. 429 (Rev. 2) and 443 (Rev. 1), by a circular letter dated 22 February 1977.

6.3. At the Joint Consultation on Fishing Fleet Statistics between EUROSTAT, FAO and OECD, held in the autumn of 1976 in Paris, extension of groupings within and above tonnage and HP categories used previously by ICES and incorporated in the ISSCFV was discussed. The Secretary of the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (CWP), Mr L.P.D. Gertenbach, included the revised ISSCFV by tonnage categories into the FAO Fisheries Circular 429 (Rev.2), and kindly supplied the ICES Secretariat with the proposed extension of HP categories above 500 HP. Since, in accordance with the recommendation of the Statistics Committee, the issue of new fleet categories had to be discussed at the Ninth Session of the CWP, a draft form incorporating the changes mentioned above was submitted to national statistical offices and members of the Statistics Committee for comments on its feasibility by the same circular letter.

6.4. The actual difference between ICES Data Form 6 and the draft form was that in the latter the previous GRT Division "5" (150-499.9) was broken into two Divisions: "05" (150-249.9 GRT) and "06" (250-499.9 GRT), and the HP category "501 and above" broken down as follows: 501-1000 HP, 1001-2000 HP, 2001-3000 HP, 3001-5000 HP, 5001 and above. Returns so far received from national offices contained no indications of negative attitudes towards the draft form. When the subject matter was discussed at the February 1977 Meeting of the ADP Working Group, some concern was expressed that the new groupings, particularly of the GRT categories, involved further changes in the category codes. The general feeling, however, was in favour of additional horse-power categories.

6.5. At its Ninth Session, the CWP considered amendments to ISSCFV by GRT and HP proposed by various regional bodies, and agreed to recommend for implementation uniform revised lists (see Appendixes 6 and 7 to C.M. Doc. 1977/D:9*, also section 6). It also proposed amendments in ISSCFV (see section 6, and Appendix 8 to the above).

7. Three-Alpha Species Abbreviations

Following the request from the 1976 Meeting of the Statistics Committee, proposals on the ICES three-alpha code for species items (discussed at the Ninth Session of the CWP) are submitted in C.M. Doc. 1977/D:6.

8. Collection of Data on Discards

8.1. For assessment purposes, the importance of obtaining data on the quantities and the length and age composition of the species discards has for a long time been recognised by the Council. Accordingly, at the 1974-6 Statutory Meetings, resolutions to that effect were adopted, the latest (C.Res.1976/4:17) reading as follows:

"It was decided that:

in view of the poor response received so far to C.Res.1974/4:9 and C.Res.1975/4:22, member countries are urged to

a) collect data on the total weight and size composition of discards in fisheries, both for finfish and shellfish (especially crustacea and cephalopods), by species, for each fishery, for both:

(i) protected species separately for fish both above and below the minimum legal size and

(ii) species under quota regulation, for which the quota has already been filled;

b) research into the survival of discarded fish;

and to report their results to the Secretariat as soon as possible and to the 1977 Statutory Meeting."

8.2. Collection of data on discards was considered to be of such importance that the Council decided to approach its Contracting Parties at the diplomatic level on this matter. This was carried out by a letter from the President and the General Secretary on 28 February 1977.

8.3. The Statistics Committee referred the consideration of a standard form for reporting discards to the Ninth Session of the CWP. Since, however, the ICES Secretariat was already receiving requests for a suitable reporting form from national statistical offices, a provisional form was prepared and distributed (see Annex I) which was intended to facilitate the collection and submission of data on discards for 1977 and, if available, for the previous years. The first resolution (C.Res.1974/4:9) on the issue adopted by the Council in 1974 referred to the collection of statistics on discards for the Baltic, NEAFC and ICNAF areas. Since ICNAF is already using a "Discard Form (03/75)" incorporating entries on year, country, tonnage class, method used to obtain information, nominal catch and discards of 20 species or species' groups by statistical divisions, and sampling rate, the ICES provisional form is only applicable to the NEAFC and IBSFC areas, taking into account, furthermore, the somewhat different requirements stated in the latest ICES resolution.

8.4. Because it is desirable that the discard data should be identifiable with the catch data breakdown reported on the STATLANT forms, reporting offices were requested to use on the form the standard 3-letter abbreviations or 4-digit FAO codes when filling in the fishing gear category (a relevant extract from FIPS/C443 (Rev.1) was attached), and the ISSCFV code numbers indicated on ICES Data Form 6 when filling in the tonnage category (a relevant extract was also attached).

- 8.5. The box termed "Fishery" is separated into two parts. Under the "Mesh size group" heading, it should be indicated whether the fishery in question is regulated by a NEAFC Recommendation 1 mesh size (or an IBSFC Article 9 mesh size for cod and flatfish for the Baltic) or by a NEAFC Recommendation 2 mesh size (small-meshed codends). Under the "Kind of Fishery" heading, the main species or group of species fished should be indicated, and it should be stated whether it was an industrial fishery or a fishery for human consumption. The information within each of the blocks under the "Species" heading should be given by individual species separately (e.g., by those included in the NEAFC Recommendations 4 and 18 or the IBSFC Article 7 in the block termed "Species subject to minimum landing size regulations").
- 8.6. Additional available details on the length and age composition of discards were requested to be reported together with the form, and the reporting person and/or institution were requested to indicate themselves at the bottom of the form, in case of future correspondence.
- 8.7. Another resolution (C.Res.1976/5:7), adopted at the 1976 Statutory Meeting, called for submission to the 1977 Meeting of papers containing previously unpublished data on by-catches (including discards) from commercial fisheries on crustaceans and cephalopods and from research sampling. It was further recommended that, where necessary, member countries should give priority to organising future sampling programmes.
- 8.8. At the time of writing, the following information was received on discards:
 - a) a completed form from Greenland for 1976 indicating no discards in the cod and redfish 130-mm OTB fishery for human consumption with vessels of category 6 (500-999.9 GRT);
 - b) a letter from the Swedish Embassy in Denmark, indicating that information on discards for 1976 was available only for the Baltic area, where a log-book system for vessels above 12m in length has been introduced (with a provision for reporting discards), and that as of 1 July 1977 all Swedish fishing vessels, mainly those above 12m in length, shall report under the similar log-book system. It was also indicated in the letter that the importance of providing information on discards would be stressed in a covering letter to the fishermen, and that research into the survival of discarded fish should be undertaken by the Research Laboratory of the National Board of Fisheries;
 - c) a letter from Northern Ireland indicating that they are not in a position to complete the proposed ICES Form on Discards, since they did not have the facilities available to undertake a research programme on discarded fish, nor any method of determining the information necessary for the completion of the Form for the years 1975 and 1976.
- 8.9. Another relevant document is C.M.1977/D:3 on discards by English and Welsh vessels in 1976 (and C.M. Doc. 1977/G:12 and G:13, on discards off NW Africa). The following relevant documents were presented to the 64th Statutory Meeting: C.M.1976/D:4 (on discards by English and Welsh vessels in 1975); C.M.1976/P:5 (on discards of Baltic cod by vessels of the Federal Republic of Germany); C.M.1976/F:8 (on discards of cod, haddock and whiting in the North Sea by the Dutch fleet in 1958-75); C.M.1976/F:28 (on mortality of under-sized flatfish in the shrimp fishery of the Federal Republic of Germany) and C.M.1976/K:32 (on discards in the cephalopods fishery off West Africa).
- 8.10. At its Ninth Session, the CWP, following the request from the Statistics Committee, investigated the possibility of improving the degree of standardisation and harmonisation among the forms now used by ICES, ICNAF and ICSEAF for obtaining information on discards from national offices. It specified

some common requirements depending on priorities established for the reporting of data on discards (see sections 5.5 and 8.5 of C.M. Doc. 1977/D:9*).

9. Collection of Data on Seaweeds

- 9.1. Following the C.Res.1975/4:20 and the consideration of C.M. Doc. 1976/D:10 (on harvest of seaweeds and some marine animals in the ICES area) at the 64th Statutory Meeting by the Shellfish and Benthos and the Statistics Committees, several marine animals were added to the list of ICES species items and included on STATLANT 27A Forms. The Statistics Committee requested the CWP to study the feasibility of publishing data on seaweeds, during the Ninth Session.
- 9.2. The CWP considered the matter and concluded that further improvements in reported data on seaweeds were urgently required, and that they depended mainly on the efforts of national offices to collect and report on seaweed harvesting. The CWP recommended that all the Atlantic agencies should make a special effort from 1978 onwards to obtain from the member countries through the STATLANT System better and more complete annual seaweed production data by species on a wet-weight basis (see section 4.8. of C.M. Doc. 1977/D:9*).

10. ICES FISHDAT System

The Report of the Working Group on the Eventual Establishment of an ICES ADP System for Fishery Statistics, is found in C.M. Doc. 1977/D:4 (see C.Res. 1976/2:24).

11. Separation of Catch Statistics for Division XIVa and Division XIVb

- 11.1. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Council resolved (C.Res.1976/1:19), that:

- "(i) catch statistics for the East Greenland area (Sub-area XIV) should be reported and published separately for Division XIVa (North-East Greenland) and Division XIVb (South-East Greenland), commencing with the 1977 data;
- (ii) the Secretary of the CWP should be requested to include this change in the "Notes for Completion of STATLANT Forms" and in the STATLANT forms themselves;
- (iii) the boundary of Divisions XIVa and XIVb - the longitude 27°00'W from 68°00'N to the East Greenland coast at Cape Savary (68°30'N, 27°00'W) - should be included in the map of the ICES fishing areas;
- (iv) a description of Division XIVa and Division XIVb should be incorporated in the description of the ICES fishing areas already adopted by the Council (C.Res.1974/1:4 and C.Res.1975/1:14) and should also be published in Bulletin Statistique."

- 11.2. The matters referred to in items (ii) and (iii) of the above resolution have been agreed upon and implemented on STATLANT Forms and notes for their completion (along with those stemming from C.Res.1976/1:21) through the exchange of correspondence between the Secretary of the CWP, the Chairman of the ICES Statistics Committee and the ICES Statistician. Furthermore, the description referred to in item (iv) will be published in Volume 60 of Bulletin Statistique.

12. Requirements to Modified Catch Statistics for Previous Years

12.1. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Council resolved (C.Res.1976/1:17), that:

- "(i) member countries, which submit amendments or corrections to data published previously in Bulletin Statistique, should simultaneously provide the accompanying note on reasons for such modifications containing description of methods of recalculation;
- (ii) both such data and the accompanying note should be published as an Annex to the Advance Release;
- (iii) the Statistician should investigate the feasibility of further publication of such amended data for previous years in the Bulletin Statistique and should report to the 1977 Statutory Meeting."

12.2. The subject matter has also been considered at the Ninth Session of the CWP, and it was agreed (section 7.4 of C.M. Doc. 1977/D:9*), that where national authorities report time series of data which differ significantly from data previously reported to and published by regional agencies, such requests or reports should be thoroughly investigated before the data are formally accepted.

12.3. Some amended French statistics for 1971-75 are published as Annex III to the Advance Release, Vol.61 (C.M. Doc. 1977/Gen:4); however, no description of methods of recalculation was received.

12.4. Regarding item (iii) of the above resolution, there seem to be no technical difficulties in publishing amendments, say for 1970-74, as an Annex to Volume 60 of Bulletin Statistique. It might be feasible for the Assessment Working Groups meeting outside the ICES headquarters and for national (and regional) agencies creating computer files for back-years.

13. Review of National Sampling Procedures

13.1. At the 64th Statutory Meeting, the Statistics Committee, having considered the review (C.M. Doc. 1976/D:3) of national procedures based on contributions submitted in accordance with C.Res.1972/4:5 and C.Res.1973/4:8, agreed to urge the member countries to submit further papers on sampling theories or, at least, their methods of sampling (see also C.Res.1976/4:12). The Committee further urged France, Spain, Poland and USSR to provide descriptions of their national systems for collecting and compiling catch and effort statistics for submission to ICES on STATLANT forms.

13.2. The relevant documents submitted to the current Statutory Meeting are C.M.1977/D:2, D:8, D:11* and also C.M.1977/F:43 and F:38. At the July 1977 Meeting of the Eurostat Working Group on Fishery Statistics, it was agreed to request member countries of EEC to provide up-dated descriptions of their national systems on the basis of C.M. Doc. 1976/D:3.

14. Other Matters

At the recent NEAFC Meeting, Portugal requested ICES to consider splitting Sub-area IX into three divisions. A description of the proposal and its possible implications is given in C.M. Doc. 1977/D:10.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA

ANNUAL RETURN OF INFORMATION ON DISCARDS

(for reporting weights of whole fish thrown overboard at sea)

Year	Country	Fishing gear	Tonnage category (ISSCFV)	ICES Sub-div., Div. or Sub-area	Fishery	
					Mesh size group	Kind of fishery

Check (✓) method of obtaining information: Logbook Port interview
 Boat observer Other (specify)

Total Weight for Year by Species (metric tons round fresh)

Species	Above min. landing size	Below min. landing size	TOTAL
Species subject to min. landing size regulations			
Species not subject to min. landing size but under quota regulation			
Other species			
Composition unidentified			
GRAND TOTAL			