

PUBLICATION OF BULLETIN STATISTIQUE. POSSIBILITIES FOR SAVING

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1. At the Statutory Meeting in 1974, it was agreed that Bulletin Statistique, from Volume 58 onwards, should be produced by computer, and that a possible saving on the budgetted amounts for "Statistical News Letters" could be used for that purpose. At the same time, it was agreed that publication of this issue of "Statistical News Letters", which contain Nominal Catches and Fishing Effort by Months as Reported on STATLANT Forms, should be produced by computer from 1975/76 onwards, and be incorporated in the Bulletin Statistique; and further, that the series "Statistical News Letters" should be discontinued.
2. The following table shows the growth in the volumes in recent years:

<u>Volume</u>	<u>Total No. of pages</u>	<u>Tables 7 + 10</u>	<u>Rest of volume</u>
57	85	21 + 3 = 24	61
58	163	89 + 7 = 96	67
59	159	88 + 5 = 93	66
60	175	87 + 5 = 92	83
61	303	197 + 22 = 219	84
62	329	223 + 20 = 243	86

The last issue of Statistical News Letters contained 82 pages.

3. It was hoped that the decisions made in 1974 would lead to some saving expenses. This also seemed to be the case for the first years. There was also a significant saving in the workload on the Secretariat after the Statistical News Letters had been terminated.

However, with the dramatic increase in volume of Tables 7 and 10, there has also been a rapid increase in the expenses. The printing cost for Volume 62 was D.Kr.92,524.00. The major part of this concerned the actual cost of the printing operation (cost of plates, printing operation and paper), since most of the programming, etc. had been done earlier.

4. The question arises about how one may achieve some savings. There seems to be two possibilities:
 - (i) To delete Tables 7 and 10, or at least Table 7, from the volumes. The question here is: how much are they needed? There is no doubt that the catch statistics part of the Bulletin (at present about 85 pages) is also widely used outside ICES circles, and it is quite clear that it should continue to be published. The catch/effort statistics, however, may mainly be used 'inside' ICES by Working Group members and by national laboratories. In addition, they have sometimes been used for estimation of distribution of fishing effort for other purposes (laying of pipelines or buoys, consideration of site for incineration of waste). For all such purposes, however, it would be sufficient to have the data available within the Secretariat in such form that they can be made available rapidly on request, for instance in the form of computer printouts. It seems worthwhile to ask the Statistics Committee, the Fish Committees and the Chairmen of Assessment Working Groups about their present need for having these tables printed annually in Bulletin Statistique. In this connection, one should perhaps also take into consideration that

publication of a Bulletin without these tables would be more rapid, and the volumes would be issued with less delay. For the users of the catch statistics, this is probably quite important.

(ii) By in-house printing. Photo-ready copies of the pages will still have to be made by an outside firm, but plate-making and printing could be done in-house, provided the printing shop had sufficient capacity for this work. This will require a new printing machine, and that question is considered together with the Budget for 1980/81. Based on the cost of printing of Volume 61, the cash savings may be estimated to be about D.Kr.40,000 - 45,000 for a volume of that size. If Tables 7 and 10, or at least Table 7, are deleted, the cost (and then also the savings per volume) will be reduced to 1/3.

5. The information quoted above was considered by the Bureau when it met on 19-20 May 1980. In presenting the information, the General Secretary said that he felt that before one could decide about a possible deletion of Tables 7 and 10, more information would be needed about the use made of them, and if eventual needs could be met by making the information contained in them available by cheaper means. The Bureau agreed, and asked him to make an enquiry by a circular letter to the Chairmen of the Assessment Working Groups and members of ACFM. It was also agreed to obtain the views of the Statistics Committee before a decision is made.
6. The question about saving by in-house printing has been taken up in a wider context, as a budgetary matter.
7. The question was discussed by the Statistics Committee Liaison Working Group on 19-20 May (C.M.1980/D:3, p.9). From the discussion, it appears that the data contained in Table 7 are useful, and used. However, a magnetic tape or a computer printout would meet the purpose.

Some concern was expressed that the cessation of the publication of Table 7 would unfavourably affect the inflow of the relevant national data. It was also noted that other organisations, members of CWP, continue to publish the corresponding data in their statistical bulletins.

8. The matter was also considered by the ADP Working Group at its meeting on 21-23 May 1980 (C.M.1980/D:11, pp.3-5). Their conclusion was very similar to that of the Statistics Committee Liaison Working Group in that they consider it necessary that the information presently contained in Tables 7 and 10 continues to be available, and that cessation of the publication of them could unfavourably affect the reporting of data. On balance, the group therefore hoped that funds would be available to continue printing Tables 7 and 10 in the Bulletin.
9. As requested by the Bureau, the General Secretary circulated to the members of ACFM and to the Chairmen of the Assessment Working Groups a circular letter with the following questions:
 - (i) Do you make use of Tables 7 and 10 as published in the volumes of Bulletin Statistique, or do you know of institutions or laboratories in your country using them?
 - (ii) If they are used, for what purpose?
 - (iii) If they are used, would it be satisfactory if the information was made available from the ICES Secretariat upon request?

It was stressed that the questions were only related to the publication of the material in the Bulletin, and that there was no proposal to discontinue the collection of information (through STATLANT 27B forms).

10. The ACFM discussed the matter at its meeting on 1-10 July 1980. The Committee indicated that it had no objection to deleting Tables 7 and 9 from Bulletin Statistique, but stressed the necessity of receiving continued and timely returns from member countries of STATLANT 27B forms. It was thought advisable to retain Table 10 in the Bulletin, and to enclose with each volume a note on catch/effort data available at the ICES Secretariat.

During the discussion, several members mentioned that they had never heard of an Assessment Working Group using the data as published in Table 7, and it was noted that such data, when relevant to assessments, were given in the reports of the Working Groups themselves. One member said that the data from Table 7 were sometimes used for modelling purposes, but that in such cases it would be more convenient to receive them on magnetic tape than in printed form.

11. The questions were sent to 23 Chairmen of 25 Assessment Working Groups (including groups concerned with shellfish assessments). Eight of the Chairmen were members of ACFM. Seven answers were received. They may be summarised as follows:

Question (i): Six Chairmen (7 Working Groups) said that the data in Tables 7 and 10 had never been used by their Working Groups. One Chairmen said that, "The data published in these tables are valuable and are used at Lowestoft." He added as an answer to Question (ii), "The data are used from time to time for routine research concerned with stock assessments. In addition, we are currently undertaking a study of the way catches of the various countries are divided between the various national fleet sectors. For this study, virtually all the annual (but not monthly) catch and effort data are being used." In relation to Question (iii), he added that, "For the major study referred to above, we have obtained magnetic tape copies of the data and this is by far the most satisfactory way to handle (them)." In other cases, he finds a tabulation of the data much easier to work with.

Three other Chairmen state that it would be satisfactory if the material was available upon request.

One Chairman said that he felt that the data as at present published in Tables 7 and 10 cannot be rightly interpreted without an extensive knowledge of the fisheries involved. He therefore favoured the discontinuation of the publication of them. Furthermore, in order to prevent abuse of them, he suggests that they should only be made available from the Secretariat after consultation with the national authorities that provided them.

One Chairman, who favoured deletion of Table 7, stressed the need for continued publication of Table 10, since it was widely used for the analyses of the seasonality of the fisheries over a series of years, and thereby in preparation of fishing plans.

12. The General Secretary draws the following conclusion from the results of the enquiry:
 - a) There is a continued need for collection of the data through STATLANT 27B, and the Secretariat should include them in their data bank, so that they can be made available at short notice, either in the form of magnetic tape or as printouts. If this is done, there is no

need to continue the publication of Table 7 in Bulletin Statistique, but each volume should contain an inventory of the available data.

- b) One should continue to publish Table 10 in the volumes of Bulletin Statistique. Since Table 10 is constructed from the same data as Table 7 (STATLANT 27B), its continued publication should meet the concern of some respondents, that the providers of the data should see in the Bulletin volumes that use is made of them.
- c) The question, raised by the ACFM, that Table 9 (numbers, gross tonnage and engine power of fishing vessels in the various countries) may also be deleted, has not been subjected to a wider enquiry, and a decision should not therefore be made at this time. (Table 9 covered 5 pages in Volume 62.)
- d) The question raised by one Chairman about the abuse of data, has previously been considered when the "Security Rules" for the data bank were agreed (C.Res.1975/4:29).