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para la
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y la
Alimentación

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Twenty-first Session

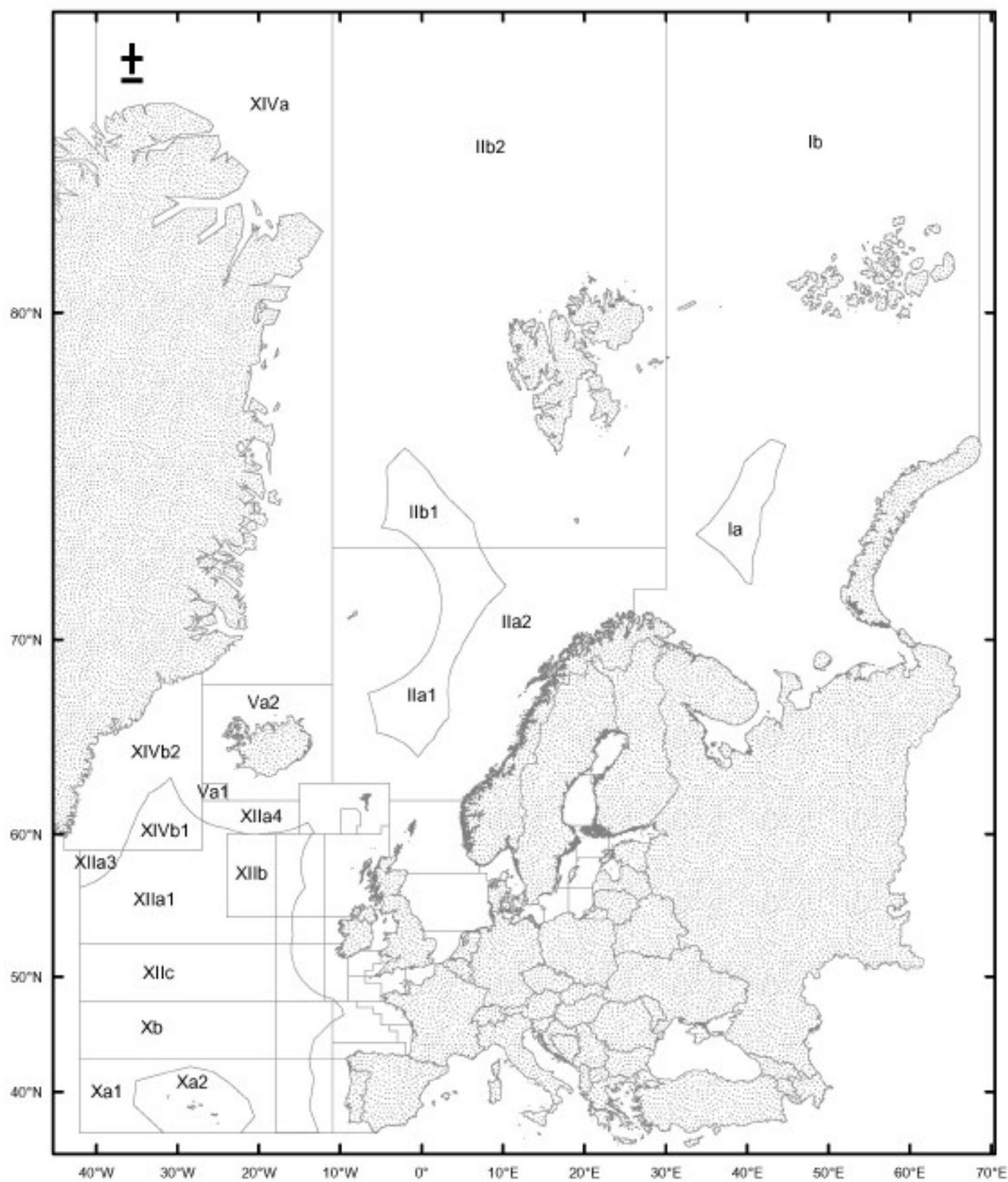
Copenhagen, Denmark. 1-4 March 2005

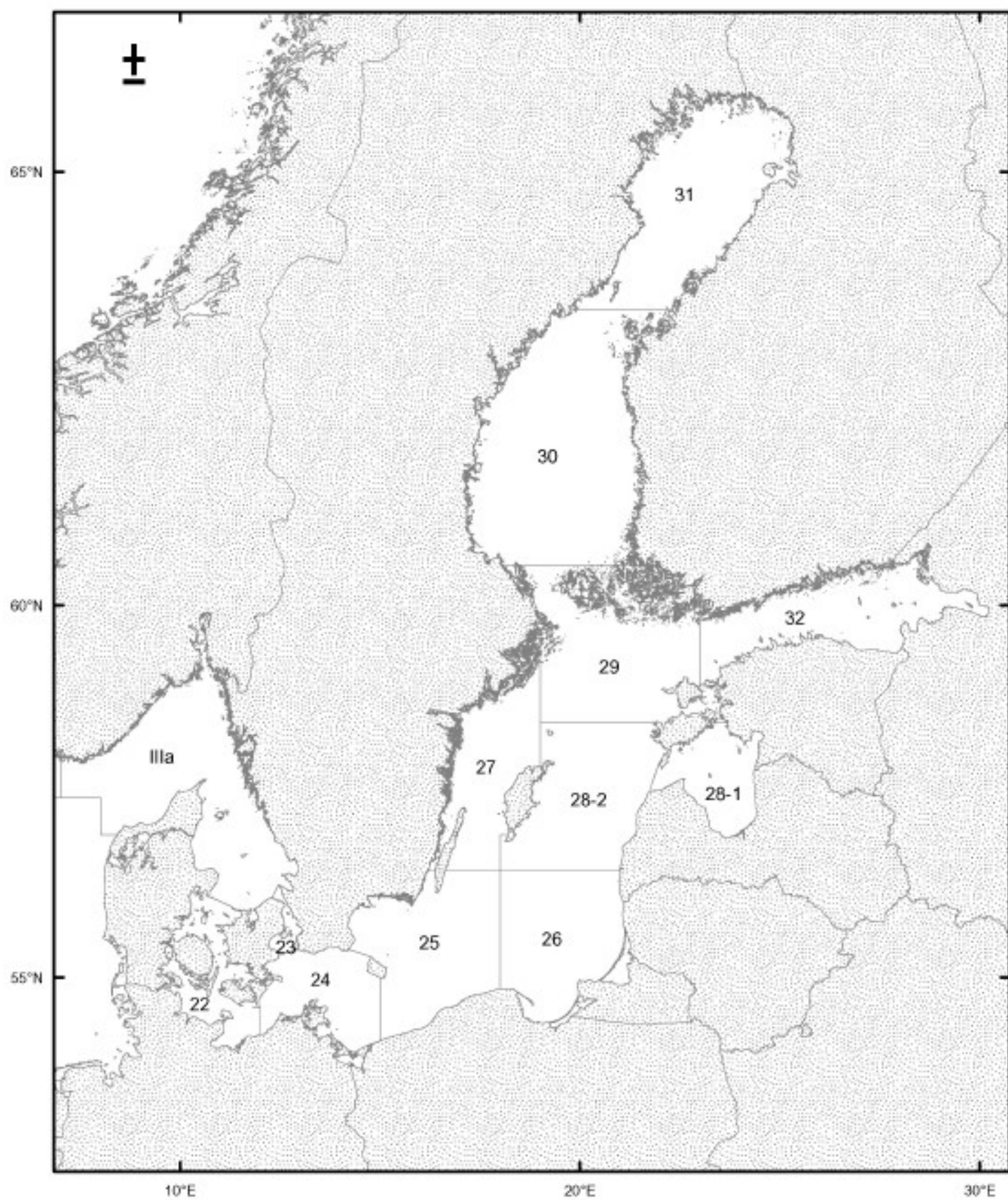
Report by ICES

CWP-21 (1-4 March 2005)
Status Report for ICES

ICES Fisheries Statistical Programme 2003-2005

1. Eurostat and ICES signed a partnership agreement in 2003. This partnership agreement allows Eurostat and ICES to supplement each other and hold a common database with STATLANT data for area 27. This arrangement has now worked since 2004 and seems to function smoothly. Eurostat and ICES hold an annual joint meeting and the secretariats meet once each year to review progress and discuss common problems;
2. The database holding fisheries statistics for area 27 resides with Eurostat. ICES maintains contact with those countries that do not, through EU membership or EEA arrangements, report data to Eurostat. These countries include Faeroe Islands, Greenland, and Russia;
3. Eurostat, IBSFC, NEAFC and ICES have revised the division/subdivision split of Area 27. The existing divisions are split and all old areas can be reconstructed as aggregates of the new areas. In the Northeast Atlantic the NEAFC convention area can now be identified as a set of divisions and subdivisions. Some subdivisions were introduced as a result of a need for more detailed statistics for deep water fisheries (mainly on the continental shelf) and in the Baltic Sea the Gulf of Riga is now identified as a separate subdivision. The system of divisions and subdivisions are shown on three maps attached and the annexed paper shows the definitions of the new areas;
4. ICES will cease to publish fisheries statistical data on a CD and instead refer users to the Eurostat website;
5. ICES initiated in 2004 a project aimed at converting the fisheries statistical data prior to 1973 to electronic form. In that process ICES is also revising the data. This revision has proven to be a very tedious task and in some cases it is clear that issues cannot be resolved now about 35 years later. Examples of inconsistent reporting include that a country provides detailed information for one year while in the following year only summary information is provided. Such inconsistencies will remain in the database and future users needs to be careful when using these older data. The data will be included in the Eurostat database year by year starting with the most recent years and working backwards. The earliest data that exist in the ICES database are for 1903;
6. ICES has continued its programme by reporting preliminary data for selected species. These data are required for fish stock assessment purposes;
7. There is much interest in compiling fisheries catch and effort data on a detailed geographical scale (e.g. statistical rectangles). However, so far these initiatives have not resulted in actual data compilations;
8. The ICES secretariat was thoroughly reorganized in 2004 and all data handling including the that of the fisheries statistics is now under a single unit, the Data Centre. Julie Gillin is heading this group. Support for the advisory groups was also assigned to a single group (Advisory Programme, Head is Hans Lassen) and this group provides the scientific support for the Data Centre.
9. The ICES secretariat is revising its database holding fish stock assessment data in 2005. These data are related to but are not part of the fisheries statistics.







Annex 1: Changes in ICES Fisheries Areas for Statistical Purposes

Delegates are asked to approve a revision of the ICES fishing areas for statistical purposes. The revisions are shown in the attached charts. The revision will be published by Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP) (FAO) as part of the Handbook on Fisheries Statistics Standards is attached. The chart will be available through the ICES website.

The proposal follows the procedure approved by the Council in 1983, and comes in response to a request from NEAFC that the ICES fishing areas should accommodate the needs to record fisheries statistics either side of the EEZ boundaries.

The proposal follows the NEAFC practise for recording statistics and effort on either side of the EEZ line and is to be used for statistical purposes only.

The proposal has been developed in cooperation with Eurostat and includes input from, in particular, the ICES WG on deepwater fisheries. Also the Gulf of Riga has been isolated as a separate subdivision in the revised system in response to changes in the management units of the Baltic Sea which were introduced by IBSFC in 2003. The change in statistical boundaries was considered at the recent IBSFC meeting and approved.

Eurostat's working "Fisheries Statistics" and the ICES group WGSTAL met in May 2004 and considered the proposal. The EU member states representatives to Eurostat subsequently approved this proposal in May 2004.

NEAFC is expected to consider this proposal at its annual meeting in November 2004 with a view to adopting it.