



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Twenty-fourth Session

Rome, Italy, 05-08 February 2013

Intersessional Fishery Group Meeting – 2011
(Rome, Italy, 14-16 December 2011)

Report

1. Opening of the meeting

The CWP Secretary, Sachiko Tsuji, opened the Meeting and welcomed participants (Attachment 1). Fourteen experts participated from 8 Member Organizations (CCAMLR, EUROSTAT, FAO, IATTC, ICES, NAFO, SEAFDEC, SPC).

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Election of Group Coordinator(s) and other administrative arrangement of Fishery Group

The meeting briefly reviewed the “Operational guidelines corresponding to the establishment of two subject groups” (Appendix 5 of the CWP-23 Report). Taking into account the large overlap of activities and interests between the Fishery Group and CWP’s main body, the meeting selected the current CWP Chair, Mr David Ramm (CCAMLR), as the Coordinator of the Fishery Group, and agreed to apply the basic principles and work plans approved at CWP Sessions. The meeting confirmed that this intersessional meeting of the Fishery Group would be devoted to reviewing progress in updating and revising the CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistics. The agenda was adopted without change Attachment 2.

3. Review of progress since CWP-23

The CWP Secretary summarized the activities since the CWP-23, which included:

- Two specialized groups, Fishery Group and Aquaculture Group, had been established within CWP and the Aquaculture Group had its first meeting on 2 October 2010 in Phuket, Thailand.
- The meeting of the ad hoc group for developing the draft revision of CWP gear classification was held 19-21 October, 2010 in Rome, Italy, with participation of 5 CWP Member Organizations (FAO, GFCM, IATTC, ICES, SEAFDEC) and experts from

ICES/FAO Working group on Fish Technology and Fish Behaviour (WGFTFB). The meeting was chaired by Mr Hans Lassen (ICES) and had agreed to a revised proposal of ISSCFG. The report is available at CWP wiki for CWP Member Organizations. The revisions to ISSCFG were considered during the Revision of the CWP Handbook (Section 4, below). The FAO Technical Report that provides detailed description and illustration of individual gears will be disseminated once the new ISSCFG is considered at CWP-24 and approved by the CWP.

- Mr Hans Lassen was hired as a consultant to lead and coordinate the revision of the CWP Handbook. In order to share the information, the Secretary set up a wiki page (<http://km.fao.org/FIGISwiki/index.php/CWP>).
- The Secretary contacted several regional organizations involved in the management of inland water bodies without strong positive feedbacks of their interests in joining the CWP.
- The progress in revising the Rules of Procedure has been slow and the Secretary would take further action in 2012.

Each Member Organisation reported on progress since CWP-23 (Attachment 3).

4. Revision of the CWP Handbook

The chair introduced agenda 5 on the revision of the CWP Handbook, noting that the discussion would include three elements: (1) a review of each item that should be part of the handbook, (2) identification of new items that should be part of the revised Handbook, or existing items that could be deleted, and (3) review of the work plan and time table.

The meeting confirmed the following principles for revising the Handbook:

- The Handbook will be a web-based document with continuous/timely updates and internal and external links to relevant information, e.g. FAO Technical Reports
- For those issues beyond the CWP's expertise, the Handbook would follow UN or other authoritative sources for concepts and introduce such issues in a way suitable for fishery and aquaculture application
- All updates to the Handbook will be approved by CWP.

The meeting reviewed the existing Handbook and identified issues required further clarification, modification and enhancements. The issues considered and decisions taken during the meeting are summarised in Attachment 4.

Overall, the meeting agreed that the Handbook should contain the following six main components:

- General introduction including a presentation of the capture fisheries Chapter and the aquaculture Chapter
- General concepts applicable to all relevant statistics (mainly following FAO policy)
- Capture fisheries – specific concepts
- Aquaculture – specific concepts
- Socio-economic data for the catching sector, aquaculture and fish processing
- Other matters.

An outline of the contents of each section is provided in Attachment 5.

The meeting identified the following new points that should be addressed in the Handbook:

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- Green accounting and changes to the national accounting system including resource ownership
 - Socio-economic data
 - Ecosystem approach and ecosystem data
 - Automatic data transmissions
 - Small-scale fisheries
 - GIS standards including text on use of fine-scale rectangles and geo-referencing.

The meeting agreed to the following time table for the development of the Handbook, linked to CWP-24 which would be held in February 2013:

- April 2012: First draft from the consultant to be circulated to CWP members for comment
- April-June 2012: Comments from CWP members
- July 2012: Final draft circulated to CWP members
- August-October 2012: Comments from CWP members
- November 2012: Final comments from CWP members
- December 2012: Final draft circulated to CWP members
- February 2013: CWP-24 Consideration of revisions and adoption of the Handbook

5. Other business

FAO made a presentation on recent software and database developments relevant to fishery statistics, including tools to assist with the re-allocation of historic catches to EEZs in selected regions, Integrated Catch Information System, Vessel Record Management Framework and FishStatJ.

6. Report adoption

The meeting adopted the report. The Chair closed the meeting.

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Attachment 2 Agenda

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Election of Group Coordinator(s) and other administrative arrangement of Fishery Group**
- 4. Review of progress since CWP-23**

The Secretariat and participating organizations briefly report major activities and changes occurred since the CWP-22.

 - 4.1. Review of progress in recommendations of CWP-23 and other activities of CWP**
 - 4.2. Review of activities by participating organizations**
- 5. Revision of the CWP Handbook**

Participating organizations responsible for individual section will report the progress made, remaining issues and plan for 2012 for general review, discussion and feedbacks from the meeting.

 - 5.1. Catch/Effort related component (IATTC)**
 - 5.2. Vessels/Gear related component (ICES)**
 - 5.3. Social and Economic component (Eurostat)**
 - 5.4. Ecosystem monitoring, impacts on ecosystem (CCAMLR)**
 - 5.5. Overall structure**
- 6. Other business**
- 7. Report adoption**
- 8. Close of the meeting**

Attachment 3 Progress of Intersessional period

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR recently conducted an independent review of its data management systems as part of the on-going work of CCAMLR to ensure that its information assets are appropriately managed and that data and information are made available in accordance with CCAMLR's rules for data access and use, and in an efficient manner to authorised parties. The review focused on determining risks that are relevant to the organisation's information assets, assessing system controls, and mitigating identified risks using an appropriate international standard as a benchmark. The review recommended changes to the Secretariat's organisational structure, the development of IT and data strategies, the further development of procedures for data processing and quality assurance, improvements to application systems including the CCAMLR website, and upgrades to the Secretariat's IT infrastructure and services.

The recommendations from the review will be implemented as part of the CCAMLR Secretariat's Strategic Plan and through ten specific projects. Three of these projects were initiated in 2011: redevelopment of the document archive; development of an Enterprise Data Model; and redevelopment of the CCAMLR Website. Other projects, scheduled for implementation over the next three years include: Development of CCAMLR's VME database; development of an enhanced data registry system; implementation of web-based forms for the submission of data; extension of the current work relating to quality assurance; and use of virtual servers.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO has concentrated its efforts in establishing harmonization of concepts utilized in fishery and aquaculture statistics and those in broader cross-sectoral statistics. [Text to be inserted]

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

Mr Carlos Palma, Biostatistician of ICCAT, presented a brief description of the progress made by ICCAT in the fishery statistics field over the recent years.

ICCAT database management system (ICCAT-DB) status

The ICCAT-DB is in constant evolution. Nowadays, it manages all the information coming from nearly a hundred data request specifications (SCRS related statistical data and Commission related compliance data), as also some additional administrative and publications related information. In total, it covers about 30 databases (nearly 600 tables) managed by a MS-SQL 2008 R2 database server. All the system occupies about 40 GB of physical space and is managed by the IT Research and Statistics Department of ICCAT. The VMS framework, given its proper specificities (real time, confidentiality, etc.) is kept in a separate database server (ORACLE). The Secretariat, is currently working on the full documentation of the ICCAT-DB system (User Guides and Reference Manuals), its consolidation, optimisation, and adaptation to the 2012 data requirements. The long-term goals includes the improvement of the data reporting system (excel forms) by adopting/develop a "WebForm" framework.

Use and data dissemination policy

Fishery statistics information of tuna, tuna-like, and sharks species, collected in the ICCAT convention area, is used primarily for scientific advice to the Commission. Data dissemination is made through the ICCAT Statistical Bulletin yearly series (www.iccat.int/en/pubs_sbull.htm). Fishery statistics datasets are also available on the website (www.iccat.int/en/accesingdb.htm) in various formats.

In 2010 ICCAT Commission adopted a Data Confidentiality Policy. This instrument allows cooperating parties to provide much more detailed information of fisheries and research information to the SCRS for improving its scientific advice.

Standards, concepts and codes

ICCAT maintains its commitment to adopt the CWP recommendations on the adoption of standard coding systems whenever possible. The most important changes recently adopted include:

- The adoption of the ISSCFG and ISSCFV standards in the various ICCAT records of authorised vessels.
- Task-I nominal catch (live/round weight) defined by the SCRS as the best scientific estimates of the total “wild” biomass removals, are now discriminated into: landings (L), dead discards (DD), live catch for farming/fatting (FA), and post mortality estimates of live releases (DM). The SCRS recommends that ICCAT CPCs report live discards (DL). By default, LD are excluded from the overall nominal catch estimates.
- Task-I nominal catch is now requested by the species based stocks and/or managements units further discriminated by the respective biological sampling areas (detailed maps at: <http://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCATMaps2011.pdf>). This new approach will improve Task-I nominal catch estimations by quarter and 5° by 5° squares (CATDIS). Among many uses, CATDIS is also used to reallocate the ICCAT catches into FAO geographical areas/divisions.
- Task-II catch and effort statistics have now minimum quality reporting standards: report all the species catch composition by month with a geographical discrimination of at least 5° by 5° square grid for longline fisheries, and, 1° by 1° square grid for other surface gears.
- The official ICCAT species has been expanded. Besides tunas, tuna like species, and sharks, the species list includes now seabirds, sea turtles, and sea mammals, to monitor and follow up the interactions of tuna fisheries with non-targeted and bycatch species. This is a first step towards an Ecological Management Approach Policy endorsed by tuna-RFMOS.

Other matters

The implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme (eBCD) has been approved by the Commission in substitution of the current catch documentation system (BCD). The development and testing process will cover all 2012 and it is expected to be fully operational

by the 2013 fishing season. This is part of a set of monitoring and control measures that follow the implementation of the “*recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation on “establish a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 06–05]”*”.

ICCAT has discontinued (last version published on March, 2010) the update of the FISHSTAT+ dataset available on the web (low demand for this dataset). The Secretariat will study the possibility of publishing the data sources for the new version under development: “FishstatJ”.

ICCAT continues to be very active in developing capacity building and assisting developing member States in the improvement of data collection and reporting systems.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

In the intersessional period NAFO continues to collaborate with CCAMLR in the development of the chapter on ecosystem monitoring, impacts on the ecosystem chapter for the CWP handbook.

As mentioned in the CWP-23, NAFO would continue to work on the user-friendliness in the access to STATLANT 21 in the NAFO Website. NAFO has now made the improvement in this regard. A STATLANT 21A extraction tool has been developed and provides users access to the data in a user friendly way. Users can choose a "basic query" or an "advanced query". The advanced query allows individual selections of country, division, species and year. The tool allows for the output of data in comma-separated values and pdf formats.

The address to access this page is <http://www.nafo.int/fisheries/frames/fishery-stats.html> and click on the link.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC)

SEAFDEC reported the activities undertaken during the intersessional period that SEAFDEC had finished the development of its new regional fishery statistics framework by harmonizing the standards, definition and classification of fishery statistics with those of the CWP. The Fishery Statistics reported by the Southeast Asian countries to SEAFDEC from 2008 onwards have been based on this new statistics framework; and a new database system has also been developed for statistics of 2008 and onwards, separately from previous statistics data. Process for reporting of statistics from countries to SEAFDEC and FAO was also harmonized through the development of harmonized questionnaires, with some questionnaires shared by both organizations, and the streamlined submission process.

SEAFDEC co-hosted the CWP First Intersessional Aquaculture Group Meeting on 2 October 2010 in Phuket, Thailand; and during that time was elected as the group coordinator. However, SEAFDEC expressed difficulties in continue serving as the group coordinator as the organizational competence in aquaculture focuses mainly on the development of technologies to support sustainable development of aquaculture, rather than in aquaculture statistics and information.

Attachment 4 Sections of Handbook

1. General introduction including a presentation of the capture fisheries Chapter and the Aquaculture Chapter

- Introduction:
 - To enhance description on issues relevant to aquaculture. The same should be done for CWP web-site. If the Handbook would be disseminated in conjunction with CWP web-site, the Handbook part may not need an introduction.
- Introduction Capture Fisheries statistics
- Introduction Aquaculture Statistics
- Description of the data collection systems
 - (T. STATLANT, STATPAC, FISHSTAT SYSTEM OF QUESTIONNAIRES
 - Methodology (surveys, census,
 - Small scale operators (Capture + aquaculture)
 - Communication of data (SDMX)
- Confidentiality
- Reference to FIGIS/FIRMS

2. General concepts applicable to all relevant statistics (FAO policy)

- [C. NATIONALITY](#)
- [D. COUNTRY OR AREAS](#)
- [E. TIME UNITS](#)
- [F. CURRENCIES AND FUNDS](#)
- [G. FISHING AREAS - GENERAL](#) (The Fisheries area section should be split into two with a new section on GIS applications)
- [S. IDENTIFIERS FOR AQUATIC ANIMALS AND PLANTS](#)
- GIS applications – Lift rectangle text from fisheries areas

3. Capture fisheries – specific concepts

- [B. CATCH AND LANDINGS](#)
- [H. FISHING AREAS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES](#)
- [K. FISHERS](#)
- [L. FISHERY FLEET](#)
- [M. FISHING GEAR CLASSIFICATION](#)
- [N. FISHING EFFORT](#)
- Q. METHODOLOGY – Estimation of fisheries data and indicators
 - [CONVERSION FACTORS FROM LANDED TO NOMINAL WEIGHT](#)
 - [LOGBOOKS](#) and VMS (methods of data collection)
- Ecosystem Approach
 - Database on VMEs There are data requirements to populate this database
- Recreational fishing Small scale (Artisinal) fishing (?)

4. Aquaculture – specific concepts

- [J. AQUACULTURE](#)

5. Socio-economic data (See Franco's note) Economic data for the catching sector, aquaculture and fish processing

- Green Accounting - Resource ownership (Valuation of ecosystem service)
- [P. SUPPLY BALANCE SHEETS ON APPARENT CONSUMPTION](#)
- [R. FISHERY COMMODITIES CLASSIFICATION](#)

6. Any other business

- [U. LIST OF FAO YEARBOOKS OF FISHERY STATISTICS](#)
- [V. ACRONYMS](#)

Attachment 5 Summary note on points raised for Handbook

General information on CWP

A. Fisheries group (Can remain largely unchanged)

- a. Aquaculture culture. Aquaculture to introduce its own tasks (CWP Aquaculture Chair, NACA)
- b. The diagram explaining the link between aquaculture and capture fisheries to be included

B. Catch and landings:

General agreement of value of catch process diagram but modifications needed. Proposal to include live catch retention/landings in concepts. ICCAT and FAO would come out with proposed change tomorrow morning. Concentrate on catch process and remove a part after landings from diagram. Make a connection with diagram indicating aquaculture and fishing activities and their products (see **) developed by Aquaculture Group.

Term “catch” is used loosely. Include text indicating suitable concepts corresponding to the purpose of statistics, e.g. gross catch to monitor resource impacts, retained catch for food security assessment and landings to monitor economic contribution.

Noted that the diagram is referred in bycatch definition and SEEAs.

Commercial .vs. small scale .vs. subsistent operations are raised but agreed that this should be considered in a context of estimation process, not as definition of catch and landings.

Country name should follow UN standards, with recognition that FAO has codes for both countries and territories, including for Taiwan. Need separation of attribute of catch (i.e. flag country) and ownership of resource (i.e. coastal country).

C. Nationality:

Country name should follow UN standards, with recognition that FAO has codes for both countries and territories, including for Taiwan. Need separation of attribute of catch (i.e. flag country) and ownership of resource (i.e. coastal country).

D. Country or areas

Luca’s draft uploaded to wiki. List of countries should include the years relevant, e.g. USSR. Include requirement of national data as fleet responsibility, preference in separate over-sea territories.

E. Time units

Luca’s draft uploaded to wiki. Remove reference to Myanmar that utilizes calendar year now.

F. Currencies and funds

Luca’s draft uploaded to wiki. Chapter is not helpful as it is. To be moved under social and economic component.

G. Fishing areas – general

Luca's draft uploaded to wiki. Expand reference on grid to incorporate new geo-reference systems.

H. Fishing areas for statistical purposes

Check with the accuracy with RFBs responsible for individual areas (FAO). Where appropriate, apply the same principle to inland water management bodies, and LME management bodies.

I. Conversion factors from landed to nominal weight

This section would be part of the new section on ESTIMATION. Currently it contains multiple types of conversion factors. Remove chapter but include into relevant methodology, estimation sections. CCAMLR, NAFO, ICCAT, Eurostat indicate some available information who should provide a link to Sec. Agreed that the provision of conversion factor is a responsibility of nations/regions and CWP would not be able to provide a standard conversion factor. Handbook should provide links to existing data.

J. Aquaculture

The Fishery Group would respect the outcome from Aquaculture Group. Secretary need to contact the Aquaculture group to provide a general introduction for Chapter 1.

Overall concepts were already well developed and agreed but modification in format would be needed to be consistent with other part of Handbook.

K. Fishers:

Need to check the consistency with UN standards (FAO). Include ISIC. Move under social-economic component. Full-time equivalent would be useful concepts

L. Fishery fleet:

Hans introduced new concept to define fleet, where fishing procedure only defined by gears. Vessels type only contains vessels for fishing operations, supporting vessels, carriers, etc. Tomorrow, further discussion.

M. Fishing gear classification:

Hans introduced ISSCFG WG outcomes. New ISSCFG defines gear based on mechanical process of entangling fish. The report is available on the CWP wiki site. FAO noted that the Technical report on gear classifications will be disseminated in conjunction with CWP approval of new ISSCFG.

N. Fishing effort:

In principle, no major changes.

Hans Lassen explained that within ICES it is becoming increasingly usual to use KW*Hrs as an effort measure and he asked if this measure had wider usage and therefore whether there

would be a need to amend the CWP handbook concerning effort measures. No other organisation had identified this measure as particularly useful and therefore this is seen – at this stage – as an internal ICES issue and should not be reflected in the Handbook as the Handbook has a global scope.

O. Logbooks:

P. Supply Balance sheets on apparent consumption

To be incorporated into social-economic component.

Q. Methodology:

Do not forget to include correction, e.g. due to non-reporting.

R. Fishery commodities classification:

To be incorporated into social-economic component.

S. Identifiers for aquatic animals and plants:

Inclusion of hybrid and ecologically related species are discussed, currently no criteria but trying to incorporate all requests. Different stage of one species, e.g. glass eel, should be distinguished by incorporating additional identification of stages.

T. STATLANT, STATPAC, FISHSTAT system of questionnaires

U. List of FAO Yearbooks of fishery statistics

V. Acronyms