

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COORDINATING WORK PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS REPORT BY THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

In addition to the routine addition of data to the NAFO's STATLANT 21 database, the following actions have been undertaken to improve the quality of fisheries statistics in the Northwest Atlantic area.

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC CATCH ESTIMATES

Discrepancies between catch estimates used for scientific purposes and those reported through official channels are a common problem in many fisheries. This is particularly problematic when a fishery is constrained by a management plan where scientists and managers recognize different levels of catches. In 2012, NAFO took steps to reduce the scale of this problem. One of the recommendations of the NAFO Performance Assessment was to hold an independent review into this catch discrepancy. Three experts were appointed to an ad hoc panel and tasked with this review. The terms of reference for the first phase were to examine the methodology used to produce scientific catch estimates. The group presented a progress report in September 2012 and made a number of recommendations regarding improving the quality of data used within NAFO and suggesting future lines of work.

COMPARISON OF CONVERSION FACTORS

Independently of this review, the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) commenced an initiative to conduct scientific based, independent, and structured sampling of catches and product types. The intent is to establish a recommendation for standard conversion factors for the primary species harvested. The methodology and framework for the project are currently under development. It is expected that they will be presented at the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting in May 2013.

VESSEL TRANSMITTED INFORMATION

NAFO has made progress in the way in which it uses real-time information received from vessels. It has clarified the distinction between "Vessel Monitoring System" (VMS) and "Vessel Transmitted Information" (VTI). VTI encapsulates all transmitted information beyond the VMS requirements (position, speed, and heading), such as the daily catch reports which vessels fishing in the NAFO regulatory area are required to submit to the Secretariat. These catch reports are used in quota monitoring for the fisheries which NAFO regulates. Steps have also been taken to make this data more accessible in summary form to the various bodies of NAFO to allow them to better perform their mandated tasks. The requirement is now for positional data (VMS) to be transmitted to the Secretariat on an hourly basis, and for catch and other information to be sent on a daily basis (the CAT report). In 2012, NAFO adopted a requirement for haul by haul data to be recorded in logbooks and while this is not submitted to the Secretariat, nor is it available for scientific or compliance purposes, it is hoped that this improves data quality further in the future.

PRODUCT REPORTING STANDARDS

In 2010, it was noted that there were no minimum standards for product labelling in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). The lack of a standard was felt to have resulted in labels having information that was not legible, labels falling off the packaging or the original date of capture label being covered with an additional label. The mislabelling of catch had resulted in catch being misallocated, particularly in the case of the Grand Bank and Flemish Cap Shrimp fisheries, where the date of capture was required. To ensure that product can be inspected properly, enabling NAFO inspectors to reconcile catch in the hold with what is recorded by the Master; standards were specified in the NCEM.

Labels are now required to be securely affixed, stamped or written on packaging and be of a size that can be clearly read by inspectors in the normal course of their duties, clearly marked in ink on a contrasting background. Packages are required to contain no more than one product category. In the case of shrimps harvested in Divisions 3L and 3M and Greenland halibut harvested in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO each package shall only contain one stock area, and in the case of shrimps only, each package shall only contain one date of capture. Catches and product labelled in accordance with Article 27 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall be accurately recorded in the daily production logbook and the daily fishing logbook.

Species:
Product
Code:
Division of Capture:
Date of Capture:
Other Info:

In 2011, it was further noted that the existing list of product codes in NAFO's Conservation and Enforcement Measures was not exhaustive enough to cover all the fish products being landed by vessels fishing in the NAFO regulatory area. NAFO has therefore updated the list of product form presentation codes to be more in line with the 3-Alpha codes currently in use elsewhere.

Old Codes

Code	Product Form
A	Round – Frozen
B	Round – Frozen (Cooked)
C	Gutted Head On – Frozen

Code	Product Form
D	Gutted Head Off – Frozen
E	Gutted Head Off – Frozen (Trimmed)
F	Skinless Fillets – Frozen (Bone In)
G	Skinless Fillets – Frozen (Boneless)
H	Skin On Fillets – Frozen (Bone In)
I	Skin On Fillets – Frozen (Boneless)
J	Salted Fish
K	Pickled Fish
L	Canned Products
M	Oil
N	Meal (Round Fish)
O	Meal (Offal)
P	Other (Specify)

Updated Codes

Code	Product Form	Notes
CBF	Cod butterfly (escalado)	HEA with skin on, spine on, tail on
CLA	Claws	Claws only
DWT	ICCAT code	Gilled, gutted, part of the head off, fins off
FIL	Filletted	HEA + GUT + TLD + bones off
FIS	Filletted and skinned	FIL+SKI
FSB	Filletted with skin and bones	Filletted with skin and bones on
FSP	Filletted, skinned with pinbones	Filletted with skin removed and pinbones on
GHT	Gutted, headed and tailed	GUH + TLD
GUG	Gutted and gilled	Guts and gills removed
GUH	Gutted and headed	Guts and head removed
GUL	Gutted, liver in	GUT without removing liver parts
GUS	Gutted, headed and skinned	GUH + SKI
GUT	Gutted	All guts removed
HEA	Headed	Heads off
HET	Headed and tailed	Heads and tails off
JAP	Japanese cut	Transversal cut removing all parts from head to belly
JAT	Japanese cut and tailed	Japanese cut with tail removed
LAP	Lappen cut	Double fillet, HEA, skin, tail and fins on
LVR	Livers	Livers only
OTH	Other	Any other presentation
ROE	Roe(s)	Roe only
SAD	Salted and dried	Headed with skin on, spine on, tail on, and salted dry

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Code	Product Form	Notes
SAL	Salted wet light	CBF + salted
SGH	Salted, gutted and headed	GUH + salted
SGT	Salted and gutted	GUT + salted
SKI	Skinned	Skin off
SUR	Surimi	Surimi
TAL	Tail	Tails only
TLD	Tails off	Tails off
TNG	Tongue	Tongue only
TUB	Tubes only	Tube only (Squids)
WHL	Whole	No processing
WNG	Wings only	Wings only

FISHING VESSEL CODES

In 2012, three main vessel types and their corresponding codes were inserted in the NAFO list of Main Vessel Types: Support Vessel = VOS; Bunker = VOB; and Other Non-Fishing Vessel = VOX.

NAFO updated list of Main Vessel Types and their codes (Annex II.I.A. of NCEM)

A. Main Vessel Types

FAO Code	Type of vessel	FAO Code	Type of vessel
BO	Protection vessel	NOX	Lift netter NEI
CO	Fish training vessel	PO	Vessel using pumps
DB	Dredger non continuous	SN	Seine netter
DM	Dredger continuous	SO	Seiner
DO	Beamer	SOX	Seiner NEI
DOX	Dredger NEI	SP	Purse seiner
FO	Fish carrier	SPE	Purse seiner (European)
FX	Fishing vessel NEI	SPT	Tuna purse seiner
GO	Gill netter	TO	Trawler
HOX	Mother ship NEI	TOX	Trawlers NEI
HSF	Factory mother ship	TS	Side trawler
KO	Hospital ship	TSF	Side trawler freezer
LH	Hand liner	TSW	Side trawler wetfish
LL	Long liner	TT	Stern trawler
LO	Liner	TTF	Stern trawler freezer
LP	Pole and line vessel	TTP	Stern trawler factory
LT	Troller	TU	Outrigger trawlers
MO	Multipurpose vessels	WO	Trap setter
MSN	Seiner hand liner	WOP	Pot vessels
MTG	Trawler drifter	WOX	Trap setters NEI
MTS	Trawler purse seiner	ZO	Fish research vessel
ZOT	Temporary Fish Research Vessel	NB	Lift netter tender
DRN	Driftnetter	NO	Lift netter
VOS	Support vessel	VOB	Bunker
VOX	Other non-fishing vessels		

NEI = Not Elsewhere Identified