

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS (CWP)
Intersessional Meeting of CWP Agencies
Rome, Italy, 3 and 5 February 2004
Report
Author: CWP Secretariat

Opening of Session and the Welcome Address

The participants (see Attachment 1) were welcomed to the meeting by the CWP Chairperson, Hans Lassen who chaired the Intersessional meeting of CWP agencies.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and modified with additions to *Any Other Business* (see Attachment 2)

2. Review of progress/plans for follow-up to recommendations of CWP-20

FIELD GUIDES FOR SPECIES IDENTIFICATION [30]

FAO noted that it is in the continuing process of developing and updating *Field Guides*. The following guides are in preparation:

- Sharks of the Red Sea and Gulf of Oman
- Sharks of the Mediterranean Sea
- Sharks of the World – a catalogue in three volumes will be completed by the end of 2004.

FAO also informed that all catalogues, regional guides and field guides would be accessible and available on the FAO website in electronic format. These would be freely and publicly available and can be quoted, as long as the request for FAO source attribution is honoured.

NATIONAL STATISTICAL METHODOLOGICAL DESCRIPTIONS [35]

FAO reported that methodological descriptions for fishery statistics collection had been prepared for Palau and the Marshall Islands. FAO also noted that it was considering developing a framework for standard methodological descriptions as part of the project to implement the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy–STF).

Eurostat noted that there is a standard embedded in the EU's Data Collection Regulation and Eurostat also has developed such a framework. These models may serve as a basis for FAO's considerations.

It was mentioned that the Expert Consultation on Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture (Rome, 20-23 January 2004) had identified a possible need for a similar framework on aquaculture, in particular concerning tuna fattening which is also an issue for capture fishery statistics. CWP would be a suitable group to assist in the development of such a framework.

SEAFDEC reported that it had also developed a guideline on collection of fisheries statistics in coastal and inland waters. This guideline is to be introduced and applied in the ASEAN region.

IOTC reported that it is conducting a workshop in March 2004 which will review 10 member country reports that describe the national tuna fisheries statistical methodologies. In addition, the workshop will further develop the assistance programme to IOTC members being undertaken by OFCF within the IOTC Secretariat.

It was agreed that this would be an appropriate topic for consideration at CWP-21.

FISHSTAT+ VERSION 3.0 [36, 37]

IOTC and SPC noted that there is some urgency for the development of the next version of Fishstat+ to enable improvements to the facility for data import.

Eurostat has been effectively loading Eurostat, CCAMLR, ICCAT, ICES and NAFO data into Fishstat+ version 2 and this has been disseminated free of charge on the Internet. It has found version 2 of Fishstat+ satisfactory.

FAO stated that the FIGIS development is headed towards web-based data exchange for the purposes of basic fishery statistics and that Fishstat+ version 3 will have at least all the functionality of version 2 and be able to export and import in FiStatXML format. It was confirmed that the Fishstat+ version 2 format and a conversion facility will be supported for some time after the release of version 3.

FAO/SEAFDEC STATISTICS HARMONIZATION [38]

The meeting was informed that SEAFDEC will further investigate and prepare a proposal on fisheries statistical harmonization in the ASEAN region. SEAFDEC will deliver the proposal for its Council Meeting in April 2004. It will be following up on the outcome of the Council Meeting and approaching FAO for assistance and collaboration later in 2004.

At the same Council meeting, SEAFDEC's proposed membership of the CWP and the FIRMS Partnership will be presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

FISHERY DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS WORKSHOP [42]

The meeting noted the various developments of fishery data collection and processing systems, which have national implementation. The intention is to hold a workshop during 2004 to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different systems for various situations and make them widely available. It was clarified that the workshop will only consider systems that have been designed for general purpose usage (e.g. Artfish, WinTuna).

PLANS FOR WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY–STF [45, 72, 74]

The participants agreed that there is a clear role for CWP in implementation of some elements of the Strategy–STF and confirmed the recommendation from CWP-20 that, to assist in mobilising CWP mechanisms in support of the Strategy, a workshop should be held in direct association with the forthcoming CWP meeting in Copenhagen in 2005. The workshop is planned to last for 1.5 days on 28 February and 1 March 2005 and will be organized by FAO. The background and topics to be discussed were drafted and are included in Attachment 3.

TRADE DOCUMENT INFORMATION [57]

The meeting noted that the exchange of trade document information and catch certification will be discussed in the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade at its 9th Session in February 2004.

CATCH TERMINOLOGY AND CWP HANDBOOK OF FISHERY STATISTICAL STANDARDS [63, 87]

FAO pointed out that the terminology for catch will be extended in the CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards which is available on the FAO website, but still as a draft. It is planned to finalize it in 2004.

VESSEL DATA EXCHANGE FORMATS [69]

It was noted that high seas vessel authorization records are now required following the entry into force of the FAO Compliance Agreement and these data are currently being updated in HSVAR in consultation with countries. HSVAR vessel identifiers will be utilized as the unique identifier for these vessels and for other vessels for which data are exchanged by regional fishery bodies.

Standard vessel registry formats are being developed and are currently being discussed with national agencies and RFBs. The meeting recognised that this process should accelerate to enable the proper participation by all stakeholders.

STATISTICAL BOUNDARIES [78]

The issue was raised of the changes to the FAO statistical boundaries which may be needed following the establishment of the new South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), both in the north in its boundary with CECAF and in the south in its boundary with the Indian Ocean. The SEAFO Secretariat has so far not responded to the FAO request for this information and follow-up action is required.

ISSCFV CLASSIFICATION [81]

This recommendation will be addressed by FAO in 2004, and presented to CWP-21.

3. Review of Draft Document on Fisheries Data Quality Indicators

David Evans introduced his paper. This paper is an overview of definitions, activities and results of studies that have been conducted mainly by the Regional Fishery Bodies. The paper also includes a proposal for the development of a framework for quality assurance for statistical systems. David Evans noted in his presentation that this should be seen as a background document that could assist CWP and FAO in the development of that particular issue as defined in the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (Strategy–STF). Richard Grainger supplemented this presentation with information on the context in which this report should be seen. FAO is preparing a project under the FishCode Programme for implementation of the Strategy–STF and has secured funds from some donors to support it.

The paper was welcomed and was found to be valuable to further the process. The paper should be reviewed and edited before being published in the FAO Fisheries Circular series. The author noted comments made during this meeting and invited further comments from the participants, e.g. by e-mail.

The discussion considered the proposal for a data quality element in the implementation of the Strategy–STF. The participants agreed that CWP has a role in promoting implementation of elements of the Strategy–STF relating to statistics and that for many of the topics mentioned in Part 5 (*Required Actions*) of the Strategy–STF, CWP agencies would be an entry to a wealth of expertise and knowledge. The meeting considered that the CWP input would be technical and that any endorsement and other formal approval of the implementation would have to be done in a separate process outside CWP.

The meeting was eager to pursue the development of a framework for data quality but realised that it could not define the most appropriate process at this time. Elements would certainly include the definition of the framework in which to work through involvement of a small group of experts working in personal capacity, the development of a draft implementation strategy, review and possibly adoption of the proposal by CWP. FAO indicated that it would seek to progress such that there might be an early draft available for the workshop to be held immediately prior to CWP-21. It was realised that the implementation document could not be completed at that time and a process to be agreed at CWP-21 would follow.

The meeting recognised the need to convince policy-makers of the necessity to improve data quality from all perspectives. The discussion clearly revealed a definite need for documents and activities to raise the awareness in this regard. The meeting was more uncertain what role CWP could play, and probably the approach would differ among the regions. The meeting agreed that CWP should be involved with the development of effective guidelines for quality assurance of data collection systems, and felt that there should be further considerations at the workshop on the implementation of the Strategy–STF to be held in conjunction with CWP-21 in February-March 2005.

4. CWP-21

- **Provisional agenda:** The issues that would be addressed under agenda of the next CWP meeting were discussed and a draft agenda was prepared (See Attachment 3).
- **Arrangements:** It was agreed that the CWP 21 would be held in Copenhagen, hosted by ICES, for 3.5 days during 1-4 March 2005.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The following introduced items were briefly discussed:

- The **CWP Newsletter** which has been developed and managed by David Cross (Eurostat) would need new assistance during 2004 because of his imminent retirement. CWP thanked Mr Cross for his efforts in bringing this information together and asked FAO to consider the continuation of the Newsletter on the CWP website where each CWP agency would maintain a page containing relevant information.
- Mr Cross also noted his attention to the development of the **Integrated Atlantic Fisheries File (IAFF)** implemented in Fishstat+, which would need further work. He pointed out that if, following his retirement it were not possible for Eurostat or another Atlantic agency to continue maintaining this data set, a compromise solution would be to use Eurostat's Cronos database which contains all of the data with the exception of replacing FAO data with those of ICCAT. FAO, Eurostat and ICES will during the coming months investigate how this information can best be maintained and updated in the future and they welcomed the possibility of using the datafile suggested by Mr Cross.
- **NAFO Statlant decision.** It was noted that NAFO now excludes the tuna data requirements in the Statlant 21 document's national submissions of fisheries data.
- **Fishstat+2 XML Standards.** These were briefly discussed.
- **Erratum CWP20 meeting final report.** NAFO will issue an Erratum for a replacement of paragraph 50, page 40, of the published CWP 20 report.

6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report of the meeting was adopted on 5 February 2004.

Attachment 1 – List of Participants

Chairperson *Hans Lassen*
Rapporteurs *David Evans and Richard Grainger*

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION (IATTC)

Robin ALLEN
Director
IATTC
8604 La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037-1508
U.S.A.
Phone: +1 (858) 546 7100
Fax: +1 (858) 546 7133
Email: rallen@iattc.org

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

Victor RESTREPO
Assistant Executive Secretary
ICCAT
C/ Corazón de María, 8, 6th Fl.
28002 Madrid
Spain
Phone: +34 91 416 5600
Fax: +34 91 4152612
Email: victor.restrepo@iccat.es

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)

Hans LASSEN
Fisheries Adviser
ICES
Palaegade 2-4,
Copenhagen 1261, Denmark
Denmark
Phone: +45 33 38 67 00 (Switchboard) +45 33 38 67 22 (Direct)
Fax: +45 33934215
Email: hans@ices.dk

INDIAN OCEAN TUNA COMMISSION (IOTC)

David ARDILL
Executive Secretary
IOTC
P.O. Box 1011
Victoria
Seychelles
Phone: +248 225494
Fax: +248 224364
Email: david.ardill@iotc.org

COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

David RAMM
Data Manager
CCAMLR
P.O. Box 213
North Hobart
Tasmania
7002 Australia
Phone: +61 3 62310556
Fax: +61 3 62349965
Email: david@ccamlr.org

EUROSTAT

David CROSS
Head of Sector Fisheries
Unit E3: Fisheries, Rural development and Forestry Statistics,
Directorate E: Agriculture, Fisheries, Structural Funds and Environmental Statistics
Batiment Jean Monnet
BP 1907
Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)
Phone: +352 430 137249
Fax: +352 430 130049
Email: David.Cross@cec.eu.int

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

Johanne FISCHER
Executive Secretary
NAFO
P.O. Box 638
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Canada B2Y 3Y9
Phone: +1 902 468 6582
Fax: +1 902 468 5538
Email: jfischer@nafo.int

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SEAFDEC)

Pouchamarn WONGSANGA
Information Program Coordinator
SEAFDEC Secretariat
P.O. Box 1046 Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Phone: +662 955 1601, 940 6326 to 29
Fax: +662 940 6336
Email: pouch@seafdec.org

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY (SPC)

Timothy LAWSON
Fisheries Statistician
Oceanic Fisheries Programme
SPC
P.O. Box D5
Noumea
New Caledonia
Phone: +687 260149
Fax: +687 263818
Email: timl@spc.int

FAO FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

CWP Secretary

Richard GRAINGER

Senior Fishery Statistician

Adele Crispoldi

Fishery Statistician (Capture Fisheries)

Luca Garibaldi

FIGIS Officer

Marc TACONET

FIDI Consultant

David EVANS

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS (CWP)

**Intersessional Meeting of CWP Agencies
Rome, Italy, 3 and 5 February 2004**

AGENDA

Note: numbers in square brackets refer to the paragraph numbers in the Report of CWP-20

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Review of progress/plans for follow-up to recommendations of CWP-20
 - Field guides for species identification [30]
 - National statistical methodological descriptions [35]
 - Fishstat+ version 3.0 [36, 37]
 - FAO/SEAFDEC statistics harmonization [38]
 - Fishery data processing systems workshop [42]
 - Plans for workshop on implementation of the Strategy–STF [45, 72, 74]
 - Trade document information [57]
 - Catch terminology and CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards [63, 87]
 - Vessel data exchange formats [69]
 - Statistical boundaries [78]
 - ISSCFV classification [81]
3. Review of draft document Fisheries Data Quality Indicators following presentation by the author, D. Evans
4. CWP-21
 - Provisional agenda¹
 - Arrangements
5. Any other business
 - CWP Newsletter
 - Integrated Atlantic Fisheries file
 - NAFO Statlant decision
 - FishStat2 XML Standards
 - Erratum CWP20 meeting final report

¹ Including proposal from IATTC for definition of Length Overall for fishing vessels.

Attachment 3.- Proposed Arrangements and Agenda for CWP 21

Dates and Venue of CWP-21 and Workshop

Venue: Copenhagen ICES HQ, H.C. Andersens Boulevard

Workshop on implementation of the Strategy – STF: 28 February and 1 March 2005

CWP-21: 1 March – 4 March 2005

Other relevant dates

Participants should note the following dates

- FIRMS FSC2, (ICES, Copenhagen), 25/2-26/2 2005,
- CWP-21 and workshop (ICES, Copenhagen), 28/2-4/3 2005
- COFI (FAO, Rome): 7/3 -11/3 2005
- Regional Fishery Bodies (FAO, Rome): 14-15/3 2005

Draft Agenda for CWP-21

1. Opening and Welcome, practical arrangements
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
4. Review of membership
5. Progress since CWP-20
 - a. Progress Report from each member organization [Reports to be distributed prior to the meeting]
 - b. Review of the development of FIGIS and FIRMS [for information]
 - c. CWP's advocacy role – The role played at COFI
 - d. Review of Progress with Recommendations from CWP-20. Number in [] refers to the relevant paragraph in the report of CWP-20
 - i. Field guides for species identifications [30]
 - ii. National Statistical Methodological Descriptions [35]
 - iii. Fishstat+ Version 3.0 [36, 37] – Introducing Fishstat+ version 3.0 as the standard version to be used by RFBs for dissemination of catch statistics
 - iv. FAO/SEAFDEC statistics harmonization [38]
 - v. Fishery data processing systems workshop planned for 2004 [42]
 - vi. Workshop on the implementation of the Strategy – STF [45, 72, 74], see point 9 below
 - vii. Trade document information [57]
 - viii. Development of the Handbook on Fishery Statistical Standards [87]
 1. Catch Terminology (“gross removal”) [63]
 2. ISSCFV classification [81]
 - ix. Vessel data exchange formats [69]
 - x. Statistical divisions and statistical boundaries in the SEAFO area [78]

- e. Topics from the Intersessional meeting February 2004
 - i. CWP Newsletter
 - ii. Integrated Atlantic Fisheries Statistics
 - iii. Tuna statistics reporting on STATLANT 21A
6. Vessel size measurement for statistical purposes (Vessel length, Loa, Lp-p,)
7. Aquaculture Statistics
 - a. The definition of aquaculture for statistical purposes – in particular the tuna fattening operation
 - b. Harmonization of Aquaculture statistics data
8. Fishery Data Quality Indicators
9. Report of the Workshop 28 February- 1 March on: Implementation of the Strategy – STF
10. Arrangements for CWP-22 (Time and Venue)
11. Any other business
12. Adoption of Report of CWP-21
13. Closing the meeting

Workshop 28 February- 1 March 2005 (1.5 day) on:

**How can CWP assist in the implementation of the
FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture
Fisheries**

Background:

The document FAO (Rome, 2003): Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries describes the Strategy which has been elaborated within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, as envisaged by Article 2 (d) and (e). The overall objective of the Strategy is to provide a framework, strategy and plan for Improving knowledge and understanding of fisheries status and trends as a basis for fisheries policy making and management for the conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources within ecosystems.

The required actions are described in Part 5 of the Strategy document. The actions are identified as capacity building in developing countries and the development of reliable data collection systems in small-scale fisheries and multispecies fisheries. Furthermore, the actions include the expansion of information on status and trends of fisheries, including the need to incorporate ecosystem consideration into fisheries management. Paragraphs 27 and 48 of the Strategy document identify the role of the regional Fishery Bodies in contributing to develop and adopt efficient and pragmatic standards and systems for data collection, which should be compatible with FAO systems.

The objective of the Workshop is to specify appropriate actions to be taken within CWP and supported by its member RFBs. The Workshop will be structured around the actions

identified in Part 5 in the Strategy and review how CWP and its agencies can play a role in the implementation of the Strategy.

The workshop aims to identify forms in which the implementation can draw on the experiences accessible through the CWP member organizations. The Workshop will consider if establishing a CWP Strategy project activities to be run under the umbrella of CWP and supported by its member RFBs would be a suitable way to contribute to the implement of the Strategy.

Topics (inter alia) to be discussed:

- Is there a need and requirement for a CWP project or a CWP element in another project?
- How to develop practical guidelines for fisheries statistics framework?
- Progress with the development of data quality indicators
- Relation with the OECD PARIS 21 Partnership for statistics for developing countries