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منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

**Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture
and Fisheries Subject Groups –
Joint Session**

**Seventh Meeting of the Aquaculture Subject Group (AS)
and
Twenty-eighth meeting of the Fisheries Subject Group (FS)**

2 – 5 November 2021

**Terms of Reference of the CWP ad-hoc Task Group
on “catch concepts” (TG-catch)**

CWP ad-hoc Task Group on “catch concepts” (TG-catch)

Terms of Reference Version 1.0

1. Background/Context

The overall purpose of statistics on catch and landings is to report on the contributions of capture fisheries to national economies, to the provision of food (subsistence) and on the total removal of fish and other organisms from their environment. These statistics often underpin advice on the sustainable development and management of capture fisheries. Catch statistics are generally reported as nominal catch which refers to the landed weight of fishery products converted to a live weight basis. However, the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem goes beyond the landed fish and includes other organisms which interact with, or are impacted by, the fishing gear. This may include organisms which are brought on deck and subsequently discarded, either dead or alive. CWP has described the various components of the catch using a catch concepts diagram and associated definitions. These components of the catch may be important in the collation of comprehensive statistics used in developing fishery assessment and management advice. The CWP catch concepts diagram and definitions are published in the CWP Handbook, and some definitions were recently revised by CWP and its Fishery Subject Group (FAO, 2019a). The current working version of the catch concepts diagram including three definitions revised by CWP-26 are appended below (Appendixes 1 and 2).

Catch and landings statistics are for many purposes required as detailed data (e.g. broken down by fishing fleet, gear, season, target species and geographic area or fishing zone) and national and regional fisheries organizations publish catch statistics in various forms. With the growing importance of environmental considerations in capture fisheries, including the impact of fishing on the ecosystem, organizations worldwide are progressively developing capacities to measure cryptic, non-targeted or unwanted components of the catch. In this evolving context, the identification and definition of certain components of the catch such as escapement, discarded catch and bycatch may differ between organizations, and various catch components may be under-reported or not reported in some fisheries. As a result, the compilation of catch statistics may differ at national or regional levels and such differences may limit the compatibility of catch statistics and the exchange and wider use of these data in regional and global contexts.

The 26th session of CWP (CWP-26) established five ad-hoc task groups (TGs) to develop its work during the 2019-2022 intersessional period (FAO, 2019a). The membership of these TGs is open to all CWP parties, and CWP-26 identified a lead organization for each TG to convene and lead that TG with support from the CWP Secretariat. Three of these TGs involve capture fisheries:

- TG on catch concepts (TG-catch)
- TG on fishing effort concepts (TG-effort)
- TG on reference harmonization standard (TG-RH2).

CWP-26 identified FAO as the lead organization for TG-catch and FAO has advised that James Geehan is available to convene that TG with support from the CWP Secretariat. Draft terms of reference (ToRs) for TG-catch were developed in consultation with the TG Convener and are elaborated below (Section 2. Objectives, tasks and timeframe and Section 3. Organization of work).

2. Objectives, tasks and timeframe

The objectives of TG-catch are to:

- Review, revise and where necessary further develop CWP catch concepts and associated definitions including the components ‘retained catch’, ‘bycatch’ and ‘intended catch’
- Review and develop the application of catch concepts to the broader context of recreational, small-scale, artisanal, commercial, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries.

As part of this work, TG-catch may also consider revisions to the catch concepts and associated diagram which were proposed by the technical workshop on global harmonization of tuna fisheries statistics (Appendix 7, FAO, 2019b). In addition, CWP Fishery Subject Group requested that further consideration be given to a definition and use of the term ‘fish’ in the context of the catch concepts (FAO, 2019a).

It is anticipated that the work of TG-catch will be reviewed and further developed during a CWP intersessional meeting (IS) in the second half of 2021 and subsequently presented to CWP-27 in 2022 for consideration. Some outputs from TG-catch may have implications for the work of TG-effort and TG-RH2 and vice-versa, and collaboration between TGs may be required to ensure overall consistency in advice to CWP. In addition, some outputs of TG-catch may be implemented in the CWP Handbook section on catch and landings. Proposed tasks and timeframe for the work of TG-catch are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed tasks and timeframe for the work of TG-catch

	Task	Timeframe
0.	Develop draft ToRs and work plan in consultation with TG Convener and circulate to members for validation. Call for TG participations and their contact details.	Feb 2021
1.	Finalise ToRs and establish TG membership	March 2021
2.	Review and develop the catch concepts and diagram, including consideration of revisions proposed by the tuna technical workshop and broader application of the concepts to recreational, small-scale, artisanal, commercial, semi-industrial and industrial fisheries	June 2021
3.	Concurrently with 2, review, revise and where necessary further develop the catch concepts definitions	June 2021
4.	Circulate first draft of the revised catch concepts, diagram and definitions	July 2021
5.	Consider further development to the catch concepts, diagram and definitions	Prior to Intersessional meeting (IS)
6.	Concurrently with 5, consider implications of the revised catch concepts and definitions in the work of TG-effort and TG-RH2	Prior to IS
7.	Present advanced version of revised catch concepts, diagram and definitions at the intersessional meeting (IS)	IS Sept/Oct 2021
8.	Consider further developments including intersessional meeting feedback and enlarging the scope of contributions to other CWP parties	Post IS
9.	Incorporate relevant outputs of TG-effort and TG-RH2	Post IS

10.	Present final version of the revised catch concepts, diagram and definitions to CWP-27 for consideration and, if appropriate, adoption	First half of 2022
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3. Organization of work

3.1. Convener

CWP-26 identified FAO as the lead organization for TG-catch and FAO has advised that James Geehan is available to convene the TG with support from the CWP Secretariat. Meetings will be called by the Convener and supported by the CWP Secretariat which will also ensure the progress of work and development of outputs, as stipulated by the CWP work plan and TG-catch ToRs.

3.2. Membership

TG-catch is open to all CWP parties and those interested in this work are encouraged to actively contribute. At CWP-26, the following parties indicated initial interest in participating in the TG: ICES, NAFO, IOTC, ICCAT, SEAFDEC, GFCM, WECAFC and FAO.

Interested CWP parties are requested to provide the name of the person(s) who will be actively involved in the work of TG-catch. As far as possible, if a member of the TG is unable to attend a meeting, she/he will nominate a substitute to participate in the meeting, and inform the convener of this substitution prior to the scheduled meeting.

3.3. Role of group members

TG-catch will make decisions in the spirit of consensus and cooperation. TG members will decide on the detailed work plan and may propose revisions of the ToRs for approval by the Coordinator of the CWP Fisheries Subject Group and the CWP Secretariat.

Each TG participant is encouraged to engage actively in the work of the TG, including by:

- Attending all web calls and meetings
- Sharing knowledge and practical examples to illustrate CWP needs
- Reviewing working documents co-prepared by the TG.

As a whole, the TG will develop the documents fulfilling its objectives including recommendations for presentation, discussion and decision at the CWP intersessional and session meetings.

3.4. Meeting agenda items

Meeting agendas, with attached meeting material, will be distributed at least five working days prior to a scheduled meeting, in coordination with the CWP Secretariat. At the end of each meeting, the TG will consider requirements for any follow-up meeting and, if required, identify draft agenda items to be addressed at that meeting together with a proposed meeting schedule (date, time, duration).

3.5. Minutes and meeting papers

The minutes of each meeting will be prepared by the Convener with support from the CWP Secretariat, or any other member on a voluntary basis, and shared with the TG members no later than ten working days following each meeting.

3.6. Working conditions

Most TG activities will be conducted through email exchange and online meetings; however, face-to-face meetings may be held as appropriate if deemed necessary and upon available resources. The frequency of the meetings will be determined by the TG work and progress.

3.7. Collaboration with other TGs

Some outputs from TG-catch may have implications for the work of TG-effort and TG-RH2 and vice-versa, and collaboration between TGs may be required to ensure overall consistency in advice to CWP.

References

CWP. CWP Handbook. [Cited 1 January 2021, under revision]. <http://www.fao.org/cwp-on-fishery-statistics/handbook/introduction/en/>

FAO. 2019a. *Report of the twenty-sixth session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics. Rome, Italy, 15–18 May 2019.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1293. Rome, FAO. 51 pp. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca6684en/ca6684en.pdf>).

FAO. 2019b. *Report of the technical workshop on global harmonization of Tuna fisheries statistics. Rome, Italy, 19–22 March 2018.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Report No. 1239. Rome, FAO. 52 pp. (also available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3132en/ca3132en.pdf>).

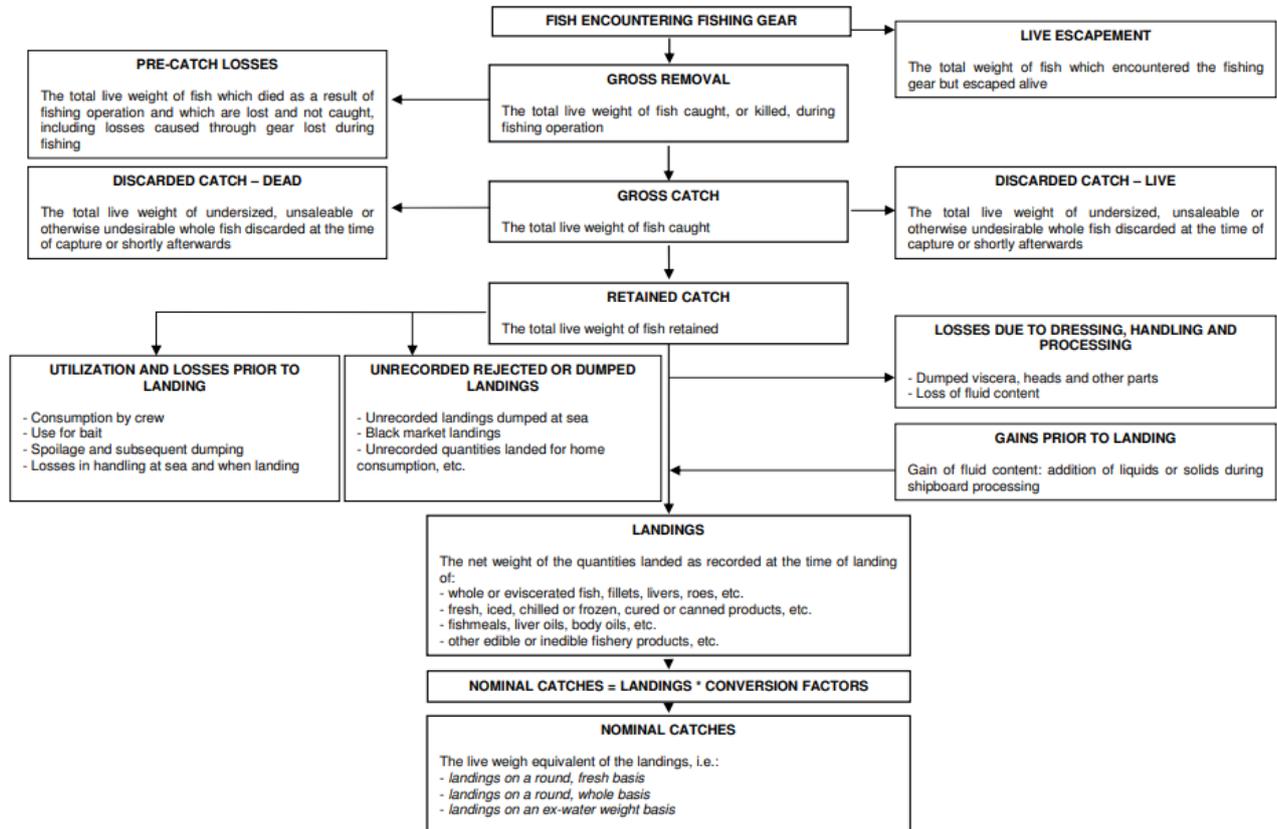
Appendix 1: CWP catch concepts (CWP Handbook, Annex B1)



Food and Agriculture
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Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)
Handbook of Fishery Statistics

Catch Concepts: Diagrammatic Presentation



Appendix 2: CWP catch definitions agreed by CWP-FS (FAO, 2019a)

The following definitions are provided for the purpose of collecting statistical data.

Live weight¹: Total weight of fish when captured, estimated as if it was alive and prior to processing.

Retained catch¹: Estimated component of the catch which is retained on board during a fishing trip (refer catch concept diagram). An estimate of the retained catch is reported as total live weight of fish retained and in some fisheries the number of individuals retained is also required to be reported. If a retained catch is intended for aquaculture, then for the purpose of fishery and aquaculture statistics that retained catch is required to be recorded as ‘unrecorded, rejected or dumped landings’ and any post-release mortality of that catch is required to be recorded as ‘discarded catch’.

Product weight: Weight of a fish product, often measured at-sea at the conclusion of processing. Information on product type, product homogeneity and conversion factors is also required in order to interpret product weight. As for landed weight, relevant when calculating the value of the catch.

Landed weight: Weight of a product at the time of landing, regardless of the state in which the product is landed. That is, the fish may be inter alia whole, gutted or filleted. Consequently, this measure is of limited use for further analysis except where information is available on product type and homogeneity. Where more detailed analysis of the data is required, the landed weight is generally converted to a more meaningful measure often by use of a conversion factor (refer conversion factors), the most frequently used measure being nominal catch (refer below). The landed weight is relevant in economic analysis being the one to which first-hand sales prices refer.

Nominal catch (also referred to as nominal landings): Landed weight converted to a live weight basis often by use of a conversion factor. Nominal catch is often referred to as the live weight equivalent of the landed weight or shortened to the live weight, and in some national publications it is also referred to as landings on a round, fresh basis, landings on a round, whole basis or landings on an ex-water basis. Care should be taken when referring to the nominal catch as the catch since in many situations the catch includes discarded components which are not landed (refer catch concept diagram). Often, in further processing the data, conversion factors are applied to the individual products (i.e. landed weight) which express the weight in a more homogenous way. Once verified, nominal catch is also in many cases the definitive declaration of what was caught and the amount which is applied against quotas or reported by a country.

Discarded catch¹: Estimated component of the catch which is the total live weight of undersized, unsaleable or otherwise undesirable whole fish and other aquatic organisms which are discarded at the time of the capture or shortly afterwards (refer catch concept diagram). Discarded catch refers to whole fish and other aquatic organisms discarded dead or alive, and may include species taken as bycatch. Discarding in some fisheries is prohibited.

Bycatch: Component of the catch which represents non-targeted fish associated with the catch of the target species or group towards which fishing effort is directed, or other aquatic organisms taken incidentally during the course of fishing (e.g. birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates). Some or all of the bycatch may be returned to the sea as discarded catch, either dead or alive. The catch taken incidentally is also referred to as incidental catch.

¹ revised by CWP-26