

Data sharing and streamline reporting between FAO and its partners

The SEAFDEC, CWP and EUROSTAT examples

SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC Council at its 37th Meeting in 2005 agreed that reporting of fishery statistics by ASEAN Member States for ASEAN, SEAFDEC and FAO should also be streamlined using harmonized questionnaires shared by SEAFDEC and FAO in order to reduce the burden of countries in submission of data. Based on the new Fishery Statistics Framework and the Streamlined Reporting System using set of questionnaires shared by SEAFDEC and FAO, SEAFDEC has been compiling fishery statistics from 10 ASEAN Member Countries from 2008 and onwards.

In December 2007 the Member Countries also agreed to adopt the new and improved framework as it contains the minimum requirements for collection and production of fishery statistics. The new Framework, which includes major changes in the “area of coverage” and “statistical usage” to be consistent with SEAFDEC’s areas of competence as well as on the “standard definitions and classifications” to be consistent with the current regional requirements, has also been harmonized with the international standards. The new Framework is envisaged as a regional collaborative framework on fishery statistics to facilitate wider sharing of data and information, which will also be used as inputs in the compilation of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia produced by SEAFDEC in the future.

To streamline reporting of statistics to SEAFDEC and FAO, Member Countries are requested to provide fishery statistics based on two sets of questionnaires: 1) Questionnaires shared by SEAFDEC and FAO; and 2) Questionnaires for additional information required by SEAFDEC. The set of questionnaires comprises 11 forms developed by SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO, which correspond to the Regional Framework of Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia, and the “Note of Completion” to facilitate the Member Countries understanding on the provision of inputs to the questionnaire.

The set of questionnaires are as follows:

Item	Questionnaire title	Questionnaire issued by	Questionnaire returned to
Q1	Fishery Production by Sub-sector	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q2	STAT-SEAFDEC Capture Production by Species and SEAFDEC Sub-areas	FAO	FAO and SEAFDEC
Q3	Producer Prices for Capture Production by Species	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q4	Marine Capture Production by Type of Fishing Gear and by Species	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q5	Inland Capture Production by Water Bodies	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q6	Number of Fishing Boats by Type and Tonnage	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC

Q7	Number of Fishing Units by Size of Boat	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q8	AQ-NS1 and 9 Forms for Reporting Statistics on Aquaculture of Fish, Crustacean, Molluscs (NS1), and Aquatic Plans (NS9) by Species, Production, Environment and Fishing Area	FAO	FAO (later shared with SEAFDEC)
Q9	Aquaculture Production of Ornamental Fish	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q10	Seed Production from Aquaculture	SEAFDEC	SEAFDEC
Q11	FISHSTAT FM: Fishers	FAO	FAO (later shared with SEAFDEC)

The agreed timeframe for reporting of fishery statistics from the Countries in Southeast Asia to SEAFDEC and FAO are:

- End of April: Dispatch of paper and electronic questionnaires (if e-mail address is available);
- 31st August: Deadline to return data to FAO and SEAFDEC; send reminders and contacts with countries which have not submitted their data;
- Beginning of March: Production of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia

CWP

The CWP Member Organizations' main instrument for the collection of fishery data from the national authorities is the STATLANT system of questionnaires. The essential feature of this system is that the questionnaires are in a standard format and use harmonised concepts, definitions and codes. On any one topic the national statistical authorities are requested to complete a single questionnaire, providing copies to all interested agencies. This procedure also largely reduces the possibility of discrepancies between different databases.

The STATLANT reporting system of questionnaires is a long-standing standardized statistical inquiry developed by the CWP for the submission of national catch data to international fisheries agencies by national reporting offices. Although the species and fishing areas for which data are requested vary from region to region, the questionnaires are of a standardized format and employ harmonized concepts, classifications and definitions.

The STATLANT A type questionnaires cover the reporting of annual catch data, requesting a breakdown of the catches by species and statistical sub-divisions of the relevant FAO major fishing area, coinciding as appropriate with the existing fishery management and conservation body, member of the CWP.

The STATLANT A questionnaires currently in use are the following: 08A, 21A, 27A, 34A, 37A, 41A, 47A and 51A.

The STATLANT B type questionnaire covers the reporting of the annual data on catches and the associated fishing effort, requesting a breakdown by species, statistical sub-division of the FAO major fishing area, by month of capture, by fishing gear, by size class of fishing vessel and by target

species. Currently only the STATLANT 21B and STATLANT 08B questionnaires are in use, for the reporting of data on the Northwest Atlantic to NAFO, and data on the Antarctic to CCAMLR.

The STATPAC reporting system of questionnaires are intended to cover areas in the Pacific restricted at present to one only: Southeast Pacific with STATPAC 87A.

Eurostat

While in previous years the FAO catch questionnaire (under STATLANT) was sent to all countries, including EU countries, this is no longer the case. The EU now sends its member countries Eurostat questionnaires, which, although different in format, are even more detailed than the STATLANT questionnaires, therefore meeting the agreed minimum data requirements set between the EU and FAO. Member countries then upload their completed questionnaires in Eurostat, and the programme automatically notifies FAO. On occasion, member countries (usually from Eastern Europe) send the forms to FAO instead of uploading them in Eurostat, FAO will notify and share the data with the EU commission. Data processing is carried out separately and indignantly by the two organisations. By agreement, the EU is the body responsible for contacting the country with questions regarding their data submission. However, as their system is automated, it can happen that issues with the data are overlooked, and are instead picked up by FAO (where data is processed manually), which then contacts the country directly (keeping the EU in copy).

In data sharing agreements, it is important to include the data processing phase. If this is carried out before the data is shared between partners, it should be understood no further processing can be carried out by partners. If the data is shared before processing, the agreement should indicate which party is responsible for the processing, and if both are, then an agreement should be reached on which party is responsible for contacting the data providers, to avoid countries receiving duplicate communication on the same issue.