

October 2004



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**EXPERT CONSULTATION ON DATA FORMATS AND PROCEDURES  
FOR MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE**

**BERGEN, NORWAY  
25 to 27 OCTOBER 2004**

**USE OF DATA SETS FROM THE COORDINATED WORKING PARTY  
ON FISHERIES STATISTICS**

1. The collection of data by as many entities and for as many purposes as required in the fisheries industry requires a substantial backdrop of norms and standards to underpin the collection and exchange of that data. Rather than developing such a scheme from the ground up, it makes greater sense to align the needs of MCS in data collection with the structure developed over the years by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP).
2. The CWP, supported by the participating organizations, has served since 1960 as the premier international and inter-organization forum for agreeing common definitions, classifications and standards for the collection of fishery statistics. It has developed common procedures for statistics collation which have streamlined the collation process and reduced the burden on national fisheries statistical offices. It has provided technical advice on fishery statistical matters to participating organizations and has facilitated the publication of methodological and reference documents. In the process it has shaped the statistical programs of all participating organizations to some extent, and those of FAO in particular, while leaving organizations with complete autonomy in their area of responsibility.
3. The objectives of the CWP are to: (a) keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics, including aquaculture, for the purposes of research, policy-making and management, taking into account inter alia their purpose, usefulness, cost, burden in collection and collation, timeliness, quality, confidentiality needs and regional differences; (b) agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics; and (c) make proposals and recommendations for action in relation to the collection, collation and dissemination of fishery statistics, recognizing the need to coordinate activities so as to avoid duplication.
4. The CWP has developed definitions and standards, or designated existing definitions and standards in the following areas: catch and landings, nationality, country or areas, time units, currencies and funds, fishing areas (general), fishing areas (for statistical purposes), conversion factors from landed to nominal weight, aquaculture, fishers, fishery fleet, fishing gear classification, fishing effort, logbooks, supply balance sheets on consumption

of fish and fishery products, methodology, fishery commodities classification and identifiers for aquatic animals and plants.

5. Full details on the CWP definitions and standards are available on the FAO website at the following address:

[http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=ontology/cwp/index.xml&xp\\_banner=fi](http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=ontology/cwp/index.xml&xp_banner=fi)

6. The CWP definitions and standards now cover virtually every data set required for MCS, with the exception of a method for coding identifiers for ports. There is currently a program underway at the European Commission to fill this gap for European ports, and this could provide the backbone for a more extensive effort on a world-wide basis
7. As an alternative, the CWP may consider using UN/LOCODE 2002-2, the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations, which is maintained by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business. The database contains more than 42 000 locations in 237 countries and comprises several ISO standards. UN/LOCODE 2004-2 can be found at the following address:

<http://www.unece.org/cefact/locode/service/main.htm>