

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS (CWP)
Inter-Sessional Meeting of CWP Agencies
Madrid, Spain 14 and 15 February 2006
Report

1. Opening of Session and the Welcome Address

The CWP Chair, Hans Lassen, opened the Inter-sessional Meeting of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) and welcomed participants (Attachment 1).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and adopted (Attachment 2)

3. Review of progress/plans for follow-up to recommendations of CWP-21

ENHANCEMENT OF RFBs AND THE FISHCODE-STF PARTNERSHIP [83, 84]

FAO gave a brief summary of the background and recent progress of the FishCode-STF project with an emphasis on collaboration with RFBs. The FishCode-STF has planned and organized a series of regional workshops in collaboration with relevant RFBs, SEAFDEC in South East Asia, OSPESCA in Central America, SPC for Pacific region and IATTC for small scale tuna fisheries in Latin America. The FishCode-STF is also developing a database on statistical methodologies and processes that will be key interest for CWP.

ICCAT reported on their two ongoing projects for data improvement with possible scope for collaboration with FAO and the FishCode-STF project. FIRMS informed the meeting of the 'Improved Scientific Advice for Fisheries Management' initiative, a European project that have activities similar to some of those of FishCode-STF. It was suggested that these projects could report to CWP.

AQUACULTURE STATISTICS

The meeting generally felt that CWP needs to keep this issue under review.

Formation of advisory body by CWP interested subgroup [87]

Eurostat reported on its current efforts to revise the existing EU legislation on aquaculture statistics. It is intended that this revision would extend the coverage to include value of the production and structural information. This work is being coordinated with FAO's proposal for a revision of the FISHSTAT AQ questionnaire and is also taking into account of the proposed revision of the EU legislation on data collection to include the fish processing industry and the aquaculture sector. The importance of the latter is demonstrated by the fact that aquaculture production is currently about 33% of the EU's total fisheries production.

Discussions within Eurostat's Working Group "Fishery statistics" have demonstrated certain problems with the concepts and definitions used in aquaculture statistics and, as a result, Eurostat feels that there is a need for a body to advise on aquaculture statistics. However it also felt that the CWP is not necessarily the correct forum since the current member agencies are not greatly concerned with this topic.

FAO suggested that an informal working group could be set up, outside the CWP, including also the Network for Aquaculture Centers in Asia and Pacific (NACA) who is a major player in aquaculture research and development.

The meeting agreed that aquaculture should be kept on the agenda for CWP-22. In the meantime, FAO would initiate contacts to identify interested party to be involved in setting a CWP-type body for aquaculture statistics. The result will be reported and reviewed at the CWP-22.

Guideline for capture-based aquaculture [90]

Although the concept of obtaining separate data for the input and output to capture-based aquaculture is accepted, the input to the cages from wild stocks is often difficult to collect. However the importance of this information to the management of wild stocks was stressed. It was further noted that although the concept of capture-based aquaculture is currently applied primarily to "tuna fattening", the same concept should also be applied to the rearing of other species. Certain difficulties would exist, for example in eel culture where the input was high in numbers, relatively high in value but low in mass.

ISSUES RELATED TO VESSELS AND PORTS

Further communication on a common format for vessel records [104] and revision of vessel related information in relevant documents [93, 94]

FAO presented the final draft of new International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV). While recognising that a decision on this revision was made in CWP-21, FAO now has some concerns on simplifying codes when data requirement on vessels rapidly increasing as well as influences of changes to the current code users. Moreover, the last Ministerial Conference of FAO asked the Fisheries Department to develop a global database of fishing vessels on the high sea. It was explicitly specified that information on transport vessels should be included, though this category was agreed to eliminate from the ISSCFV.

The meeting discussed to what extent vessel type is in fact used by different organisations and it appeared to be limited; gear type and vessel size are more commonly used as classification basis. It was agreed to compile a summary table showing what data are collected on gear and vessel types and how they are used, through questionnaire to RFBs and national authorities. The revision will be on hold until the overall situation to be re-evaluated.

Inter-sessional electronic working group for consideration on NAF format as international standards for VMS position and catch reporting

NAFO presented a paper compiling information relevant to the discussion of the North Atlantic Format (NAF) as a standard for real time reporting by fishing vessels through Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). In Particular, CWP was interested in the possible use of such reports for assessment and scientific purposes. Instead of continuing the electronic discussion group that had been set up on the recommendation of CWP-21, NAFO suggested that a

smaller group agreed to prepare a more substantial report for others to consider. NEAFC informed the meeting that their Advisory Group for Data Communications is working on NAF and offered that the group report to CWP.

The meeting discussed various aspects of systems combining VMS and electronic logbook transmissions and reporting. It was noted that MCS is not a primary interest of CWP but that this type of data collection and reporting might become a principle measure in near future. The Meeting felt it necessary to keep careful review on progress, although the CWP would not put any inputs in the meantime. NAFO and other members should continue to report to CWP on relevant developments.

Consideration of UN-LOCODE (fishing ports code system) [106]

FAO presented a brief overview of the UN-LOCODE as a potential code for fishing ports in fishery statistics. The results were encouraging though substantial adjustments would be needed to make the system fully applicable for fishing vessels monitoring.

The meeting concluded that such a coding system would be primarily useful for management and monitoring. The existence of the UN-LOCODE should be noted and to be examined when a port code system is required.

Progress by RFBs on MCS issues to identify the need for developing standardised/harmonised formats for MCS-type of data [108]

And

Contact to MCS Network with the aim to conduct a joint workshop.

In accordance with the recommendations of CWP-21, NAFO had contacted and met with the MCS Network. MCS Network is an international organisation of government agencies concerned with MCS issues: The goal of the Network is “to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among national organizations and institutions responsible for fisheries-related MCS” (from MCS Network information leaflet).

MCS Network expressed a general interest in cooperating with CWP but had not been able to identify any specific issue on which collaboration could be useful. Considering that the Network is more concerned with the practical implementation of fisheries enforcement, the meeting felt that it would not be useful to pursue the original idea of collaboration on MCS standards. However, if the Network in the future would be involved with the development of standards and approached CWP, this standpoint would be reconsidered.

The meeting recommended that a formal letter signed by Chair be sent to MCS Network informing them of CWP’s decision.

FISHERY DATA QUALITY INDICATORS

Status of final review and publication of CWP-21/7 [111]

FAO informed the meeting that the document is in principal ready for publication. It was suggested and agreed that CWP members be given a last possibility to update their data. The draft will be sent out to members within the next two weeks and inputs will be expected by April 2006.

Developing a draft of practical guidelines and organisation of an Expert Consultation [115, 116]

And

Inclusion of data transmission mechanisms and the issues related to ownership and the related property rights into a draft guideline [120-121]

FAO reminded the meeting that in CWP-21 it had been recommended that the first step in FAO's continued work on fishery data quality should be an Expert Consultation. Based on the recommendations of this consultation, guidelines would be developed. However, after having discussed this approach with the FishCode-STF project, it was felt that a better first inputs into the process would be the database on methodologies and processes that the FishCode-STF is establishing. Hence, no guidelines will be ready for presentation to CWP-22 but the work will be continued as recommended by CWP-21, although somewhat delayed.

The meeting acknowledged the importance of data quality and ICES reported that relevant work is ongoing in several working groups. When the Expert Consultation is eventually to be convened, ICES could contribute with suggestions for qualified participants as well as with relevant reports and articles on the matter.

OTHER AGREED AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Status of development of FISHSTAT [77-78]

FISHSTAT has not been further developed as yet. Instead, work has been carried out on the version 2.3 including bug fixing and a development of maintenance module to facilitate editing and update of FISHSTAT data sets. A training session for the use of this administrative module is scheduled in the period 4-12 April 2006 and CWP members are invited to participate. FAO will inform members on further details as they become available.

Data discrepancy

A discussion followed on the discrepancies in STATLANT that often exist between the data provided to FAO and FAO published statistics. NAFO reported on the discrepancies between their own data and those of FAO that had been discovered. It was suggested that an agenda item on technical solutions and database integration be included in the CWP-22 agenda.

Improvement of visibility of CWP [100, 101]

Although the meeting felt that there was no need for a "CWP marketing campaign", it would be desirable to make the working party more visible with regard to its role in fishery statistics of the CWP members. Clearer links to the CWP website, both from the FAO Fisheries Department website and from the websites of RFBs, were suggested as an example. NAFO offered to draft a more concrete proposal in this regard to be presented and discussed in CWP-22.

4. CWP-22

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Provisional Agenda for CWP-22 was developed as Attachment 3. This agenda will be annotated by the Secretariat and communicated to members.

ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that the CWP-22 would be held in Rome in the week before COFI, hosted by FAO, and in connection with the FIRMS Steering Committee meeting. The two meetings will be planned not to exceed a total of four working days, plus a session for adoption of reports.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ICES informed the meeting that the organisation had released a database presenting the catch data used for fish stock assessments. This database in principle has for each year, stock, country, and ICES division as key fields but in practice, this level of details is not always available. In particular, the database provides information where the assessment groups has added or subtracted an amount to account for mis- or non- reported data. The data are mostly, but not always in accordance with the official STATLANT data. Laboratories will in some cases present alternative data to those reported officially; data that are considered better to reflect removals from the sea. Also, an account of discards is given where these data are included in assessment; this is only done for a few cases. The database is available for free download from the ICES web-site in FishStatPlus format.

Eurostat raised the issue of the legal status of statistical area sub-divisions when used for VMS positions reporting and for management purposes. FAO will consult on legal status of statistical sub-divisions relating with GFCM and CECAFE.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

The report of the meeting was adopted on 15 February 2006.

Then meeting was closed.

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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS (CWP)

Intersessional Meeting of CWP Agencies
Madrid, Spain, 14-15 February 2006

AGENDA

Note: Numbers in square brackets refer to the paragraph numbers in the Report of CWP-21

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Welcoming the new member
3. Review of progress/plans for follow-up to recommendations of CWP-21
Members will report on progress made since CWP-21 and the CWP will review and identify areas which require further actions.
 - 3.1. Enhancement of RFBs and the FishCode-STF partnership [83,84]
The FishCode-STF team will report on progress made since CWP-21 with emphasis on matters of relevance to the CWP, noting the CWP-21 recommendation on the following points.
 - Assisting RFBs in increasing the awareness of the importance of the implementation of the STF Strategy.
 - Stressing the importance of and promoting actions on transparent and complete national data collection of fisheries.
 - Cooperation with RFBs on the carrying out of inventories of data collection systems and status of stocks, in particular in supporting their contribution to FIRMS.
 - Seeking collaboration with interested RFBs for development of monitoring systems for small-scale fisheries in developing countries.
 - Considering development of guidelines for the establishment of data exchange protocols based on the CWP handbook on fisheries statistical standards.
 - 3.2. Aquaculture statistics
The CWP will review progress in the following recommendations related with aquaculture statistics. A small group may be tasked with developing the issues and reporting to the plenary.
 - 3.2.1. Formation of advisory body by CWP interested subgroup [87]
(Identifying interested parties and developing TOR)
 - 3.2.2. Guideline for capture-based aquaculture [90]
 - 3.3. Issues related to vessels and ports
The Secretariat and Members will report on progress and the CWP will plan for future work of relevance to the CWP.
 - 3.3.1. Further communication on a common format for vessel records [104] and revision of vessel related information in relevant documents. [93, 94]
 - 3.3.2. Inter-sessional electronic working group for consideration on NAF format as international standards for VMS position and catch reporting. [103]

- 3.3.3. Consideration on the UN-LOCODE (fishing ports code system) [106]
- 3.3.4. Progress by RFB's on MCS issues to identify the need for developing standardized/harmonized formats for MCS-type data. [108]
- 3.3.5. Contact to MCS Network with the aim to conduct a joint workshop [109]
- 3.4. Fishery Data Quality Indicators
 - The Secretariat will report on the development of future work.*
 - 3.4.1. Status of final review and publication of CWP-21/7 [111]
 - 3.4.2. Developing a draft of practical guideline and organization of an Expert Consultation [115, 116]
 - 3.4.3. Inclusion of data transmission mechanisms and the issues related to ownership and the related property rights into a draft guideline discussed at 3.4.2. [120-122]
- 3.5. Other agreed and/or recommended activities
 - The CWP will consider other issues identified during CWP-21.*
 - 3.5.1. Status of development of FISHSTAT 3.0 [77-78]
 - 3.5.2. Improvement in visibility of CWP [100, 101]
- 4. CWP-22
 - The CWP will develop a provisional agenda for CWP-22.*
 - 4.1. Provisional agenda
 - 4.2. Arrangements
- 5. Any other business

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS (CWP)

Rome, ITALY, March 2007

Draft AGENDA

Note: Numbers in square brackets refer to the paragraph numbers in the Report of CWP-21

1. Opening and Welcome, practical arrangements
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of chair and vice-chair
4. Review of membership [NEAFC is a new members]
 Progress since CWP-21 (**Members** will report on progress made since CWP-21 and the CWP will review and identify areas which require further actions, Each organization to provide a short paragraph to be included to the report as well as a progress report on its statistical programme)
5. Review of progress/plans for follow-up to recommendations of CWP-21
 - 5.1. Enhancement of RFBs and the FishCode-STF partnership [83,84]
*The **FishCode-STF team** will report on progress made since CWP-21 with emphasis on matters of relevance to the CWP, noting the CWP-21 recommendations.*
 - 5.2. Aquaculture statistics (**Eurostat and ICCAT** to provide an overview as basis for discussion, **FAO** to give a revision of FSTAT AQ Questionnaire, **Secretary** to report on progress in identifying interested group)
The CWP will review progress in the following recommendations related with aquaculture statistics.
 - 5.2.1. Guideline for capture-based aquaculture [90]
 - 5.2.2. General aquaculture statistics – needs for defining standards and cooperation
 - 5.3. Issues related to vessels and ports
*The **Secretariat** and **Members** will report on progress and the CWP will plan for future work of relevance to the CWP.*
 - 5.3.1. Further communication on a common format for vessel records [104] and revision of vessel related information in relevant documents. [93, 94] (**NEAFC** for information)
 - 5.3.2. Inter-sessional electronic working group for consideration on NAF format as international standards for VMS position and catch reporting. [103] (**NEAFC** for information)
 - 5.3.3. Contact to MCS Network [109] (**Secretariat** to report)
 - 5.4. Fishery Data Quality Indicators
*The **Secretariat** will report on the development of future work.*
6. Reports from expert consultations and workshops (if relevant)
7. Review of the vessel classification (**Secretariat**)
8. Development of vessel information database
9. Integrating the regional databases- removing the basis for data discrepancies (**Eurostat** and **Secretariat** to lead)

10. FishStatPlus Status

Secretariat to report for progress as well as results from training of administrative module for FishStat 2.3 in April 2006

11. Improvement in visibility of CWP (*NAFO to lead*)

12. CWP-23 and intersessional meeting. Arrangements – Time and venue

13. Any other business