



COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS
Intersessional Fishery Subject Group Meeting
Swakopmund, Namibia 25-27 February 2015
Extraction of Appendix 4 of the Report of CWP-24: report of the Fisheries Group Meeting (Rome, Italy, 05 February 2013)
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Report of
COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS
 The 24th session, Fisheries Group Meeting
 Rome, Italy, 05 February 2013

1. Opening of the meeting

The 24th session of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Capture Fishery subject Group meeting (CWP-FS) was held on 06-07 February 2012 in Rome, Italy. Mr Ramm, the Coordinator of the Group, opened the meeting. The meeting was attended by the 14 experts from eight CWP participating organizations (CCAMLR, Eurostat, FAO, GFCM, ICCAT, ICES, NAFO, SEAFO). Additional participants were Mr Hamukuaya, representing the Benguela Current Commission and Mr Al Jabri of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Oman, representing the Regional Commission for Fishery (RECOFI) under the nomination of FAO, Mr Calvo-Santos of European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), under the nomination of Eurostat, and Mr Lassen, the CWP Handbook coordinator. The list of participants is in Appendix 1 of the CWP-24 session report.

This was the first CWP session after establishing two subject groups at the 23rd CWP session. Following the “Operational guidelines corresponding to the establishment of two subject groups” (Appendix 5 of the CWP-23 Report), the Fishery Group and the Aquaculture Group held their Group meetings in conjunction with the CWP 24th session. The objective of the meeting was to finalize and summarize the intersessional activities of the Group and its achievements, and develop the proposal of terms of reference and work plan for the subsequent intersessional period to report to the CWP session.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The CWP Secretary explained that out of agenda items covered by the session previously, all the items of technical nature were transferred to the Group meeting. The agenda was adopted without change (Appendix 2 of the CWP-24 session report).

3. Review of progress since CWP-23

The CWP Secretary summarized the achievements on recommendations of the CWP-23 as indicated in Appendix 6 of the CWP-24 session report.

Each Member Organisation reported on progress since CWP-23 (Appendix 7 of the CWP-24 session report).

4. Revision of the CWP Handbook

Mr Lassen introduced the agenda by outlining the scope and overall structure of the revised CWP Handbook. The role of the CWP Handbook is to provide guidance to set up data collection and statistical system for fishery and aquaculture. Then, the Handbook should cover standard concepts relevant for fisheries and aquaculture statistics, either those CWP adopted as an organization specialized for fisheries and aquaculture statistics or those internationally adopted (e.g. UN Statistical Committee) and utilized in broader context, as well as methodological issues, and minimum as well as desirable data needs. Taking a benefit of web-dissemination, he suggested to clearly separate two components, the core of the Handbook providing well established standards and solid guideline and the components archiving background materials including references, supporting materials, case studies, success stories and examples of failure, argument of emerging issues and so on, with enhanced search engines and links.

As overall structure, the four large categories were identified, i.e. general methodological issues (e.g. confidentiality), general and commonly used concepts (e.g. nationality, species, etc) and capture fisheries component and aquaculture component.

The meeting then reviewed the list of sections that were identified as no fundamental revisions would be required and confirmed his conclusion in general. This included the sections on B: Catch and landing statistics, C: Nationality, D: Country or Areas, E: Time unit, G: Fishing Areas – General, H: Fishing Areas for statistical purpose, I: Conversion factors, N: Fishing efforts, O: logbooks, P: Supply balance sheets on apparent consumption, R: Fishery commodities classifications and S: Identifiers for aquatic animals and plants. Points noted included:

- Section B: Catch diagram was decided to replace with the newly developed one after incorporating subsistent use in diagram.
- Section D: The current area data breakdown and coding are not completely satisfactory but no immediate revision would be planned;
- Section H: Fishing Areas for statistical purpose – inconsistencies in terms referring sub-areas within the FAO Major areas. It was agreed to change the name of “FAO Major Fishing Area” to “FAO Major Area” to apply the same code for aquaculture harvest location.
- Section I: Conversion factors – quick review of text to ensure that the problems in applying conversion factors are well noted
- Section O: Logbook – incorporate sentence on Vessel Transmitted Information
- Section P: Supply balance sheets on apparent consumption – while this
- The revision in the section on Gears and Fishing Vessels were already agreed at the previous Group meeting.
- Section T: Statlant, Statpac, Fishstat system of questionnaires – no need to keep.

- Section U: Use of FAO Yearbook of fishery statistics – to move to the background archive.

It was agreed to introduce new sections on confidentiality, data required for fish stock monitoring and assessment and fisheries statistics for ecosystem approach. For the latter two sections, the group accepted the final draft that Mr Lassen prepared based on inputs from the designated groups.

Confidentiality was newly proposed section. The meeting noted that there are two types of confidentialities, one for protecting micro data containing information on individual identifications and the other applied in aggregated statistics by national policies. Both are important but the latter increasingly became problem in securing consistency and reliability of regional and global statistics. While fully aware that the confidentiality is national policy decision that may be out of control by statistical agencies, the meeting agreed it important to clearly indicate the problems in statistics and make efforts to establish a basic rule in applying confidentiality as well as mitigating problems. The draft text was agreed after modifications.

It was considered that section on socio-economic statistics would require quite substantive review and enhancement. Specifically, Section K: Fishers was decided to re-draft to generalize to include aquaculture and processing component under the title of “employment”. The designated group on the socio-economic section agreed to focus this round revision to define broadly accepted basic concepts in three areas, integrated environmental and economic accounting for fisheries, economic indicators and employments. However, further works definitely needed and it was agreed the group would continue to elaborate the section of socio-economic statistics in the next intersessional period. Main target would to provide more pragmatic guidance on how to apply the basic concepts in the context of fishery and aquaculture.

Macro indicators are broadly used especially in socio-economic analysis, but also for food security monitoring and assessment. While it was consider important not to mix up statistics and derived indicators, the meeting noted the value to include clear description and principle calculation methods of such indicators in the context of fishery and aquaculture, recognizing the main focus of the Handbook should remain on statistics. Value added, resource rent and profit ratio to investment may be potentially useful indicators to cover.

With the understandings that the Secretariat in collaboration with the Handbook coordinator would make final editorial adjustments to the texts of individual sections following the guidance given above as well as the agreements made at the intersessional Fishery Group meeting in 2011, the meeting accepted the existing version of revised draft. Finalized sections would be reviewed and cleared by all Members as indicated in Section 8 before dissemination.

5. Review and revision of standards, concepts, and codes -- Global standards on vessel transmitted information (VTI)

Mr Taconet reported that through the iMarine initiative, FAO is collaborating with DG Mare to establish a standard data exchange protocol for fisheries operations data, called **FLUX** (Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange). This standard will facilitate exchange of data relating to electronic logbooks between Flag States and other parties, including the relevant RFMOs. This standard is eventually meant to cover the full spectrum of VTI during fishing activities and at arrival to and departure from ports, including e-logbooks, observers on board, daily catch reports, landings reports, inspections at sea and ports, and other VTI. Ideally the standard would also cover collection of scientific data on board of fishing vessels. A goal identified for this collaboration would be to upgrade this standard to be a global standard under UN/CEFACT, a UN standards setting body. The present communication seeks to gauge the interest of CWP members to contribute to the development of such standard.

It was noted that some Member including NEAFC and SEAFO were involved in the activities of UN/CEFACT and others utilizing the similar mechanisms. CCAMLR also expressed interest in

being involved in the initiative. While the previous CWP discussion indicated difficulty and reluctance to unifying data transmission format, harmonization of contents, e.g. standard codes, definitions, and concepts, would benefit substantially to facilitate data exchange among different systems.

6. Methodology, tools and emerging data needs

FAO sought feedback from the Members on software and database tools presented at a side event, GIS tools to assist with the re-allocation of historic catches to EEZs in selected regions, Integrated Catch Information System, FishStatJ management console, and Vessel Record Management Framework. Corresponding to question, FAO confirmed that FishStat plus would be no longer supported and replaced with FishStatJ. All of those tools envisaged to assist data sharing and harmonization and FAO stressed its wiliness to provide help for their utilization.

7. Efforts to remove data discrepancies

The collaborative efforts among Eurostat, FAO and ICES lead to high level of transparency and data sharing among three organizations that helped to reduce the data discrepancies, though there were still further areas of improvement. Recognizing a substantially common ground addressing specific reporting obligations between Eurostat and GFCM, it was suggested to extend collaboration including GFCM.

8. Work plan for 2013-2016

Work plan for the next intersessional period:

- Dissemination of the revised Handbook at the CWP web page;
- Further enhancement of socio-economic section of the Handbook (lead: Eurostat/DG Mare, core participation: FAO, GFCM, OECD);
- Further elaboration of the Handbook in the newly identified area, specially on GIS standards and geographical presentation (lead: SEAFO, core participation: CCAMLR, ICCAT, NAFO, FAO)
- Eurostat, FAO, GFCM and ICES to collaborate for further streamlining national statistics reporting, by harmonizing data reporting formats and enhancing information exchanges among organizations, thus reducing potentially duplicated reporting

As the mechanism to clear for the dissemination of revised Handbook, the meeting would propose the following for consideration of the CWP-24:

- CWP Secretariat in collaboration with the CWP Handbook coordinator to convert the agreed draft into the format suitable for dissemination at web and upload to the CWP wiki page for final review and clearance by Members;
- Unless substantive objection would be received during one month after upload of the section, the Secretariat will transform the cleared section to the proper format for dissemination in CWP web and disseminate as prompt as possible;
- Conversion and upload of files will be done section by section, targeting to complete the revision before the end of 2013;
- On completion of dissemination of whole sections, the Secretariat would formally announce the revision of CWP Handbook.

9. Other business

The meeting briefly discussed on possible timing and venue of the next intersessional Group meeting and of the CWP-25. It was informed that the SEAFO invited the 9th session of FIRMS Steering Committee to Namibia. The meeting generally considered the availability of Members for participation as the first priority and requested the Secretariats of CWP and FIRMS to figure out the period for each Member having difficulty to participate.

10. Report adoption

With the agreement that the Report will be adopted through communication, the meeting was formally closed.