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Naciones
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Nineteenth Session

Noumea, New Caledonia, 10-13 July 2001

AGENCY REPORT

Author: OECD

OECD's report to the 19th Session of the Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics, 10-13 July 2001, Noumea, New Caledonia

1. In 1998, the Committee for Fisheries decided that the text part of the OECD Review of Fisheries would be produced on a biennial basis while a Statistical update will be produced on an annual basis. As a result, the *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries - Volume I Policies and Summary Statistics* and *Volume II Country Statistics* (containing statistics for 1995 to 1997) were published in 2000. The *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries - Statistical Update 1997-1998* was also published in 2000.
2. The *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries: Policies and Summary Statistics (2001 Edition)* and *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries - Statistical Update 1998-1999* are currently in the process of being published. They are expected to be released during August 2001.
3. The Guidelines for the *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries – Statistical Update 1999-2000* include a number of changes and refinements that were recommended by the EUROSTAT/FAO/OECD meeting of Statistics Experts which took place in Luxembourg, 7-8 March 2000. The Committee for Fisheries subsequently agreed to changes recommended at that meeting.
4. The procedure for collection and dissemination of the statistics has undergone some changes since the last report to the CWP. When statistical returns are received from a Member country these are placed on the Fisheries' Division's dedicated web site accessible only by delegates to the Committee for Fisheries and national correspondents. Member countries can then check the statistics from the web site. The fisheries web site allows the Secretariat to update tables in response to any updated submissions provided by Member countries. This "hidden" part of the web site is kept "alive" until statistics are in their final form ready to be published.
5. Another significant development is that the data relating to trade is now being downloaded by the Secretariat directly from the OECD's Foreign Trade Statistics database. This has reduced the workload for member countries and has increased the reliability and comparability of the trade statistics.
6. The Guidelines for 1999-2000 include a new request to include a table for recreational fisheries. However, recognising that some countries only collect this type of information on an ad hoc basis, the Committee agreed that these data should be on the basis of "best effort".
7. Information on fishing capacity will also be presented differently in the future. To maintain consistency with the FAO approach, information is now being collected and reported in length classes, rather than tonnage classes. For each length class, Member countries report fleet capacity in Gross Tonnage (GT). EU Member States do not need to fill out this table as the Secretariat receives the data directly from EUROSTAT.
8. The study on *Transition to Responsible Fisheries- Economic and Policy Implications*, published in 2000, includes summary and country tables for 1996 and 1997 on Government Financial Transfers (GFTs) to the fishing industries of OECD member countries.
9. The Committee for Fisheries at its 86th Session on 9-11 October 2000 decided that GFT statistics should be published annually in the Statistics volumes of the *Review of Fisheries in OECD Countries*. The Annex gives an overview of the GFT data that Member countries have agreed to submit.

Annex. Government Financial Transfers in OECD Countries

The Draft Guidelines for the 1997 Review of Fisheries Annex 1 [AGR/FI(98)7] contained a “Classification of Financial Transfers”. The following classification proposed, including examples, is still being used.

A. Revenue Enhancing Transfers (from Consumers):

Market Price Support (optional) — Market price support (MPS) is normally measured as the difference between the border price for a particular product and the domestic price for that product. In the absence of a suitable reference price, the applied tariff rate may be used in estimating MPS.

B. Revenue Enhancing Transfers (from Government budgets):

Direct Payments:

Payments based on the level of production or sales. Examples: withdrawals, payments for the purchase of fishing quotas, payments to compensate for a reduction in TACs.

Per-vessel payments. Examples: direct payments per vessel, and payments for the temporary or permanent withdrawal of vessels or vessel licenses.

Income-based direct payments. Examples: deferred taxation on fishing income, income tax averaging, income supplement schemes, and payments (including tax concessions) based on income.

Other direct payments. Direct payments that do not fall into the above categories.

C. Cost Reducing Transfers

Transfers related to productive capital. Examples: capital grants, interest concessions and subsidies, loan guarantees, and special tax treatment for capital used in fisheries.

Transfers related to intermediate inputs. Examples: fuel tax exemptions and rebates; wage subsidies for hired help; bait, ice or water provided at below cost-price; harbour services; insurance subsidies; and interest concessions for operating credit.

Other cost reducing transfers. Cost reducing transfers that do not fall into the above categories.

D. General Services

Fisheries Infrastructure expenditure.

Fisheries management costs paid by central, regional or local governments.

Fisheries research costs paid by central, regional or local governments.

Other general services. Services not covered in the above categories.