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**COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY
STATISTICS**

Nineteenth Session

Noumea, New Caledonia, 10-13 July 2001

AGENCY REPORT

Author: Eurostat

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics

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Report on Eurostat's Programme of Fishery Statistics

I: Personnel

The resources attributed to Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics have been reduced temporarily by the recall of Mr Klaus Hegar (Seconded National Official) to his national service. It is hoped that this post will be filled in the last quarter of 2001. While this has not reduced to any notable degree the routine programme of work for the section, it has hindered the developmental work on, for example, socio-economic data.

The staff currently working on fishery statistics, their immediate responsibilities and their contact addresses are shown in Annex A.

II: Data-base development.

Since the CWP-18 session the work on the FAME production (reference) data-base and the NewCronos dissemination data-base has concentrated on a re-organisation of the data-base structure in order to meet constraints on the size of sub-domains, to increase the meta-data content and to improve the user-friendliness of the base. The number of time series for which data are available (see Annex B) has increased by 38% since the CWP-18 session.

New topics covered by the NewCronos domain "FISH" since the CWP-18 session are supply balance sheets and foreign trade data for non-EU countries. In both cases the sources of these data are FAO. Annex C summarises the data that are currently available in the NewCronos domain "FISH".

The data may be accessed and extracted in "user-friendly" formats on an intra-net system by other services within the European Commission and the other European institutions. Access to New Cronos on the internet is provided free of charge to "privileged" users (government organisations, suppliers of data to Eurostat and other bodies with whom Eurostat collaborates and the press). The topic of Eurostat's dissemination policy is covered later in this document (Section IX).

As part of Eurostat's Qualistat programme (see section XIX of this document) and with a view to developing a performance indicator for the Unit F2 Sector "Fisheries" Eurostat has studied the period between the receipt of the data and the availability of the data in the FAME reference data-base. This period is compared against "bench-marks" which are defined as the period that is considered to offer a reasonable service to the data-user. These bench-marks depend on the method by which Eurostat receives the data and are as follows:

Data received on floppy disk	5 working days
Data received as a data-file by email	5 working days
Data received as a text file by email	8 working days
Data received on printed questionnaire	10 working days.

In the year 2000, on average the data were processed within the bench-mark period. However this statement masks a period in the middle of the year when, due to an overload on Eurostat's service providing the data-base support, the delays were in excess of the bench mark. It is anticipated that in the future, provided the technical support service does not experience similar difficulties, the processing period will be shorter than the bench-marks.

Although the basic data in the FAME data-base are of a relatively simple nature, the updating procedures have required considerable thought. This is due to the fact that data may be derived from three or more different sources and become available at different times. For example, for catch statistics for the NE Atlantic (STATLANT 27A data), data generally arrive in the first instance direct from the national institutes of EU Member States in the format prescribed in the legislation (as e-mail attachments or on diskettes), in the FAO electronic (Excel) format (again as e-mail attachments or on diskettes) or on STATLANT questionnaires. They are processed on the FAME database as provisional data. The data are then transferred to the New Cronos database. Subsequently information may be received from FAO (at the major fishing area level) covering data for non-EU countries (or from EU countries that have not reported to Eurostat!). These data are processed on the FAME database and are allowed to take precedence only where the data have not been received from the national authorities. Finally, data are received from the ICES Secretariat. These are data at the statistical sub-division level for all ICES countries (EU and non-EU) that have been processed by ICES. Having been subjected in the processing operation to the ICES expertise these data are accepted by Eurostat as being the final data. (NB: 'final' data may be subsequently updated.) The integration of these data from the various sources has been automated with as much of the original data being retained within the FAME database as possible and with a "quality" ranking being attributed depending on the timing and source of the data. However this automation cannot take account of such problems as differing allocation of catches by species items coming from the different sources: manual supervision of the processing is still an essential element in database management. (Note: the subject of integrating statistics from the various CWP Member Agencies is discussed in Section XX of this report.)

Eurostat welcomes the increasing availability of the data-bases of CWP agencies using the FAO's FISHSTAT Plus software because it has proved relatively easy to extract data from FISHSTAT Plus and apply procedures to convert the data to the FAME format.

The number of consultations of the New Cronos data-base FISH in the last 12 months was around 1200.

III: Catch statistics

Catch statistics have continued to be collected under the terms of three Council Regulations (see Annex D). Respect of the deadlines has generally been satisfactory though, for a variety of reasons, several normally reliable national authorities failed to meet the dead-lines for the submission of data for 1998 and 1999. Early indications are that the situation for the 2000 data has improved.

Modifications to the three Council Regulations, in the form of three Commission Regulations, are at an advanced state. These regulations have been developed in close collaboration with the Directorate-General for Fisheries, the EU Member States, the EEA countries and the Candidate Countries within the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" and have received the unanimous approval of Member States in a vote in the relevant statutory body, the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics. The final stage, seeking the formal approval of the European Commission, is under-way.

The Council Regulation no 3880/91 (equivalent to the STATLANT 27A questionnaire) has been modified to take account of the increasing demand for improved catch statistics on Elasmobranch species. In close collaboration with the ICES Secretariat, the list of species for which data are requested has been expanded to include those Elasmobranch species being added to the STATLANT 27A questionnaire.

The Council Regulation no. 2018/93 (equivalent to the STATLANT 21A and 21B questionnaires) has been modified in four ways:

- the list of species for which data are requested has been expanded to include the Elasmobranch species identified by the NAFO Scientific Council as being of interest in NW Atlantic fisheries,
- “twin trawls” has been included in the list of fishing gears,
- the definition of the effort measure for “boat seines” has been modified following the decision of the NAFO Scientific Council (and ratified by the CWP),
- certain minor corrections to the descriptions of the statistical divisions of the NAFO convention area have been incorporated.

The Council Regulation no 2957/95 (equivalent to the STATLANT 34A, 37A, 41A and 47A questionnaires) has been revised to include the Elasmobranch species identified by FAO, in collaboration with regional experts, as being of interest in those fisheries.

Each of the Council Regulations has been further modified to permit the national authorities to submit the data using a variable length record structure. The previous fixed length structure apparently caused problems for the national authorities who in a number of cases failed to keep to the prescribed format, thereby complicating the processing of the data within Eurostat.

IV: Aquaculture production.

Statistics on aquaculture production are covered by Council Regulation no. 788/96 that corresponds to the production data requested on the FAO FISHSTAT AQ questionnaire. Submissions by national authorities under the terms of this regulation are treated by Eurostat as provisional data with data obtained subsequently from FAO for these EEA countries and for non-EEA countries being considered the final data.

V: Landing statistics

The national authorities of EU Member States, Iceland and Norway have a legal obligation to submit monthly data on the quantity and average price of landings of a range of up to 130 of the major fishery products landed in the EU (Council Regulation no. 2104/93). In practice individual Member States only encounter a small proportion of the products in their national landings and thus the submission of landings data is very much less onerous than it might appear at first sight.

The current legislation does not require the reporting country (that is the country where the landings are made) to report the nationality of the vessel making the landings other than to distinguish between EU vessels, vessels from Iceland and Norway and vessels from third countries. For a number of reasons (see Section XVI) there would be advantages in the nationality of the vessel being recorded in the submissions under the regulation. Almost certainly the national authorities have such a breakdown and, in general, from discussions within the Working Group “Fishery Statistics” they appear to be willing for an appropriate change to the legislation. The modifications to the catch regulations (see Section III above) were by means of a so-called “Comitology” procedure, a relatively simple process involving a vote in the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics. This Comitology procedure is restricted to modifications of technical elements and should not have any budgetary implications for the Member States. An initial study of the content of the Council Regulation no. 2104/93 indicates that the changes in this case would involve a major reformatting of the legislation and would not be acceptable under the Comitology process. The alternative is to draft a new Council Regulation, a process that involves a formal Commission proposal being presented to the Council for discussion within various working groups and committees before approval by a meeting of the Council of Ministers. Careful reflection on the

advantages of introducing such changes has to be made before embarking on such a heavy and time-consuming process.

In the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" the EU Candidate Countries have been requested to submit landings data to Eurostat in a format as close as possible to that required under EU legislation. With the exception of Cyprus and Malta most of the Candidate Countries are not yet able to fully meet Eurostat's requirements.

VI: Fishing fleet statistics

Eurostat has continued to up-date its Statistical Register of Fishing Vessels from the DG FISH's administrative file of fishing vessels. It appears that some Member States are unhappy with their submission to the DG FISH's file and as a result Eurostat's up-dates have been late and incomplete.

Norway has continued to submit individual records of its vessels to Eurostat's Statistical Register and, since CWP-18 session, Iceland also submits records of its vessels.

Due to the late and incomplete submission of the DG FISH's records to the Statistical Register in 2000, Eurostat was unable to produce the CD-ROM with the program for compiling statistical tables and the accompanying encrypted data files for distribution to the 6 countries that agreed to the exchange of their data.

Eurostat has continued to supply the fishing fleet statistics of Member States to FAO in the requested format. Unfortunately Eurostat's Statistical Register and the DG FISH's administrative file do not permit the breakdown of the fleet by the ISSCFV type classification. The EU Member States are requested to make their submissions to the DG FISH's administrative file using national classifications, the details of which have to be transmitted to the Commission. These classifications are very difficult to align with the ISSCFV. The best breakdown by vessel type that can be extracted from the EU files is "Trawlers", "Non-trawlers" and "Polyvalent vessels".

Using data from the Norwegian fishing fleet file, Eurostat has been able to compare the values for tonnage using Gross Registered Tonnage (Oslo Convention (1947)) and Gross Tonnage (London Convention (1969)). Consistently the GT was greater than the GRT (see Annex F). With the change from GRT to GT being conducted at different speeds by different national authorities and the change taking place over a period of years it is evident that comparisons of fleets using tonnage measures has to be approached with great caution. FAO's decision to replace the tonnage by the overall length as the major parameter for classifying fishing vessels would appear to be justified.

Most of the EU Candidate Countries have established fishing fleet files, or are in the process of doing so, and several of them have expressed an interest in submitting extracts from these national files to the Eurostat Statistical Register in advance of their obligations to submit data to the DG FISH's administrative file.

VII: Fisher data

Eurostat has processed the data it has received from EU Member States on employment in the fisheries sector. In general these submissions have been copies of the FISHSTAT FM questionnaire sent to FAO.

Eurostat, in close collaboration with the DG XIV, has financed studies in EU Member States reviewing the concepts and definitions associated with data on employment in the fisheries sector (fisher data, aquaculture workers, employment in the processing and

fishery support industries). These studies, which have still to be analysed in depth, have revealed that there will be severe problems in establishing harmonized and comparable data on employment in EU Member States.

More recently, similar studies have been initiated in EU Candidate Countries. (For administrative reasons these studies do not currently cover Cyprus, Malta and Turkey but it is hoped to extend the coverage in the near future). The results of these studies should be available by the end of 2001. Initial results suggest that the situation in Candidate Countries is no better than in EU Member States.

VIII: Foreign trade data

The FAME and NewCronos databases on fishery statistics have been stocked with summary foreign trade data for fishery products aggregated from Eurostat's COMEXT database. Since the CWP-18 session, the foreign trade data in the FAO's Trade and Production data-base for all countries in the world have been stocked in NewCronos

IX: Socio-economic data for fisheries

Although socio-economic data for fisheries remain the major priority topic for development within Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics, lack of staff resources has restricted progress. Eurostat and the DG FISH have had plans to jointly finance a study to look at the data requirements and their availability. Unfortunately, a call for tender for a study in 2000 produced only very few offers, none of which satisfied the criteria for the award of a contract. It is intended to publish another call for tender in 2001.

A EU Council Regulation on the submission of fisheries data was approved by the Member States in 2000. This regulation, which was basically intended to cover the data for research purposes, included a proposal for the submission of economic data. Unfortunately the submission of economic data was unpopular with the Member States and the Commission was asked to submit a report on the need and range of economic data required before they are willing to approve this element of the regulation. This situation has still to be resolved.

X: Supply balance sheet for fishery products

Although this topic is another element of Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics of great interest, little developmental work has been possible since CWP-18. FAO's balance sheets have been made available on the NewCronos data-base. The national delegations at the meeting of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" in March 2000 were presented with the FAO balance sheets for their countries and requested to comment on them. There has been no response to this request.

XI: Eurostat's dissemination policy.

In recent months Eurostat's general dissemination policy has been the subject of much discussion within some internal working groups. Some elements of the policy are non-contentious. There is agreement that the number of paper publications should be reduced, that the series of short analytical statistical reports (called "Statistics in Focus") should be made available in PDF format free-of-charge on the Eurostat web-site and that methodological publications in PDF format should also be available free-of-charge on the web-site.

The currently major unresolved problem concerns the direct access to Eurostat's data-bases by external users. Users within the Commission services and services in national administrations and international organizations that contribute to Eurostat's data-bases are designated "privileged users" and are given free-of-charge direct access to these data-bases. However other users are obliged to submit requests for data via so-called "Data-shops". These Data-shops, 15 in number, mostly operated by national statistical services and supported by a "Data-shop Support Team" within Eurostat, charge for the service they offer. These charges are intended to finance the activities of the Data-shops and the operation and development of the support activities within Eurostat. Any decrease in the Data-shops' revenues would threaten the service offered.

Eurostat's Management Committee (Comité des Directeurs) has decided that external users should have increased access free-of-charge to Eurostat's data-bases but the method of implementing this policy has yet to be formulated. Currently it is limited to a series of "indicators" available on Eurostat's web-site. The Management Committee has also decided that Eurostat's pricing policy should not under-cut the prices charged by national statistical services. While many Member States are making their statistical information (both tabular information, generally available in PDF format, or direct access to data-bases) available free-of-charge through their web-sites, there is a minority of Member States that are maintaining a charging policy and even proposing increases in charges. A working group with Member States has been established (but yet to hold its first meeting) to consider a rational pricing policy which does not affect the future of the Data-shops.

Various ideas, not necessarily mutually exclusive, are under consideration:

- the Data-shops should concentrate their activities on the supply of "value-added" products (for example, customized tabulations) rather than making simple extractions from data-bases,
- free-of-charge access to a range of Eurostat's data-bases should be provided while maintaining charges for access to other data-bases. (Note that the greater part of the revenue from charging for data is derived from two data-bases – those for foreign trade and industrial production data).
- the users should be categorized by their ability to pay for data with, for example, financial institutions continuing to pay but with students receiving the data free-of-charge.

XII: Publications on fishery statistics.

Since CWP-18 Eurostat's annual programme of publications of fishery statistics has consisted of:

- a Fishery Statistics Yearbook. The format of this publication has been changed with the each edition being reduced by 75% to about 30 pages of tables but with an increase in information on the contents of the NewCronos data-base. The charge for the Yearbook is 60 Eur.
- a CD-ROM "Fishery Statistics", being a copy of the contents of the NewCronos domain "FISH" with the accompanying software. The charge for this CD-ROM has decreased significantly in the last three years, from 500 Eur, to 250 Eur and finally to 50 Eur.
- a series of analytical reports in the Eurostat series "Statistics in Focus" on specific topics within the programme of fishery statistics. In 1999 six such reports were produced at a cost of 6 Eur each. From 2001 the charge for hard-copy (paper) version of these reports has been maintained while copies in PDF format are available free-of-charge on the Eurostat web-site.

A twice-yearly "Fishery Statistics" Newsletter has been produced, containing a review of developments within Eurostat's programme of work. It is distributed primarily by email (though secondarily by fax) to all staff in the DG FISH, to members of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" and to an increasingly growing list of other workers in the fisheries field. A recent copy of this Newsletter is in Annex G of this document.

XIII: Discrepancies between international data-bases

The major outstanding work in, at least, identifying discrepancies between international catch data-bases is with the data for the Northeast Atlantic. Unfortunately, since CWP-18, little progress has been made mainly due to the very heavy work-load this task imposes on the very limited staff resources of the ICES Secretariat. However the importance of this work has been recognized and it is hoped that progress will be possible in the near future.

XIV: Integrated data-file on Atlantic catch statistics

At the February 2000 intersessional meeting of the CWP, ICES proposed the compilation of all the available catch data for the Atlantic held by CWP agencies using the FAO Fishstat program format. It was agreed that Eurostat should undertake this task, with the other agencies making available the data-files for the period 1950-98 and that, in selecting the data to be included, priority should be given to

- 1) ICCAT data for tuna and tuna and tuna-like species,
 - 2) Data from regional agencies (CCAMLR, CECAF, GFCM, ICES and NAFO) for non-tuna species,
- and
- 3) Data provided by FAO where the data are not available from other sources.

The preference for data from the regional agencies rather than those from FAO where corresponding data were available from both sources was based largely on the fact that the data from the regional agencies were generally available in finer detail (particularly regarding the area of capture) than those from FAO.

It was also proposed that the international agency contributing the data in each time series of the data-file should be included in the record.

The file was created with the data supplied to Eurostat by the secretariats of CWP agencies by 1 September 2000.

The non-tuna data included in the file were:

	Major fishing area	Source	Years
21	Northwest Atlantic	FAO	1950-1959
		NAFO	1960-1998
27	Northeast Atlantic	FAO	1950-1972
		ICES	1973-1998
31	Western Central Atlantic	FAO	1950-1998
34	Eastern Central Atlantic	FAO	1950-1971
		CECAF	1972-1998
37	Mediterranean & Black Seas	FAO	1950-1971
		GFCM	1972-1997
41	Southwest Atlantic	FAO	1950-1998
47	Southeast Atlantic	FAO	1950-1981

		ICSEAF	1982-1988
		FAO	1989-1998
48	Atlantic (Antarctic)	FAO	1950-1969
		CCAMLR	1970-1998

The integrated data-file was completed in September 2000 and after testing was placed on the FAO web-site (<ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/stat/windows/fishplus/atlant.zip>) .

At CWP-19 the following topics should be discussed:

- an assessment of the current progress,
- the timetable and attribution of responsibilities for the work,
- the inclusion of data for inland waters and for the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

XV: The use of FISHSTAT Plus software by ICES and NAFO

Using the experience it gained in developing the integrated catch data file, Eurostat has assisted the ICES and NAFO Secretariats in formatting their data in the FISHSTAT Plus format.

XVI: Working Group “Fishery Statistics”

The Working Group “Fishery Statistics” has met once annually since the CWP-18 session. Eurostat has continued its policy of holding joint sessions with other CWP agencies.

The meeting in March 2000 was a joint meeting with FAO and OECD. The major topic discussed at this meeting was the possibility of closer collaboration between the agencies, particularly with regard to OECD’s requirements. The major problem encountered was that the OECD requirement for the quantity and value of landings was for data from each reporting country on the quantities landed by its own and foreign vessels nationally and by its vessels in foreign ports. This requirement is incompatible with the existing EU legislation. A study is underway to see if a change to the legislation to resolve this situation would be practicable (see Section V).

The meeting in February 2001 concentrated on discussions of the drafts of three Commission Regulations modifying the existing catch Council Regulations to include an expanded list of Elasmobranch species (see Section III). This meeting was immediately followed by a meeting of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics at which the Member States formally and unanimously approved these Commission Regulations. Another major topic at the Working Group meeting was a review of the Quality Reports (see Section XIX) by the national delegations.

The participation in meetings of the Working Group has continued to expand with the EEA participants (EU Member States plus Iceland and Norway) being joined by observers from the EU Candidate Countries (see Section XVII)

XVII: Collaboration with EU Candidate Countries

Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Turkey have applied to join the European Union and in anticipation of the pending accession negotiations Eurostat has developed close collaboration with the services responsible for fishery statistics in those countries to review work that will be necessary for them to meet the EU’s requirements for fisheries data.

In 1998 Eurostat published a volume entitled "The collection and compilation of fishery statistics by EEA Member States" containing contributions from the national authorities on their methodologies. These contributions were requested in a standard format (see Annex G). In the framework of the collaboration with EU Candidate Countries, Eurostat requested the national authorities of these countries to submit similar reports. These are now available, currently only as a working document, for all Candidate Countries except Turkey (which was not designated a Candidate Country at the time the request was made).

In association with the meetings of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" one-day Task Force meetings with the Candidate Countries have been organized to discuss the progress of the national authorities in adapting their systems to meet their future obligations on fishery statistics. At the meeting in February 2001 the national authorities agreed to routinely send Eurostat copies of all data sent to other international agencies.

XVIII: Conversion factors

Eurostat's draft of the bulletin on conversion factors has now been published as FAO Fisheries Circular 847 rev.1. A program developed by Eurostat for interrogating the data-file is undergoing final testing and should soon be available for down-loading from the FAO web-site.

XIX: Quality of fishery statistics.

As part of its Qualistat project, Eurostat's units are required to submit annual reports on the quality of the statistics for each element of its statistical programme. In principle, these reports are to be in a standard format with estimates of, for example, sampling error. This format was considered to be impracticable for the elements of the programme of fishery statistics and a simplified format involving a greater proportion of qualitative assessments was developed. For fisheries a series of 13 different "products" were identified and accordingly quality reports compiled.

It is believed that these reports are serve at least three purposes:

- they help to identify those areas in the programme of work requiring particular attention and are useful in assessing progress,
- they provide an over-view of the work for consideration by the Working Group "Fishery Statistics"
- they are useful documentation for internal purposes (for example, the training of new staff).

The reports were presented to the February 2001 meeting of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" for comments. Generally the reports were welcomed but the delegations stressed that the assessment of the national authorities' work should clearly differentiate between the complexity of the tasks confronting them and the performance of these tasks. The reports were subsequently revised and an example of such a report is included in this document as Annex E.

XX: Mediterranean fishery statistics

Eurostat has been closely following and contributing to the development of a programme of work for Mediterranean fisheries data in the Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information of the re-formed General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean. A proposal for a project for the development of Mediterranean statistics has been

drafted but Eurostat believes it requires further consultation within the GFCM to ensure that environmental, resource, social and economic aspects are adequately covered.

XXI: Collaboration with the Directorate-General for Fisheries (DG FISH)

The good working relationship and collaboration with the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries (DG FISH), Eurostat's major customer for fisheries data, has continued and has contributed significantly to the rational development of the statistical programme. Regular meetings are held at Director level to review progress and to identify priority areas of work.

XXII: Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

The CWP plays a central role in the development and implementation of Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics, with Eurostat ensuring that procedures it adopts are, as far as possible, compatible with procedures employed by the other CWP agencies. Eurostat regularly participates in meetings of the statistical bodies of these CWP agencies (for example NAFO's Standing Committee for Research Coordination, ICES Statistics Liaison Working Group, GFCM's Sub-Committee on Information and Statistics).

SUMMARY

Since CWP-18 Eurostat has increased the coverage in the NewCronos domain FISH data-base, largely by reformatting the data available from other CWP agencies.

The routine collection of catch landings and aquaculture production statistics under the terms of EEA legislation has continued. Modifications to the legislation on catch statistics have been proposed in order to meet the requirement for the improved availability of catch statistics for Elasmobranch species.

Development of socio-economic data for fisheries has been restricted by lack of staff resources.

The publication programme of a Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, an annual CD-ROM on the contents of the NewCronos database and short reports in the Eurostat series "Statistics in Focus" has been maintained.

Eurostat made a major contribution to the compilation of an integrated data-file for Atlantic catch statistics and has aided the ICES and NAFO secretariats in installing FISHSTAT Plus software on their computer systems.

Close contact with EEA national authorities is maintained through the annual meetings of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics", through bi-lateral contacts and by means of a twice-yearly Newsletter. The development of contacts with the EU Candidate Countries is proceeding well and the NewCronos data-base includes much data for these countries.

Reviews of data quality are playing an important role in the development and implementation of the programme of fishery statistics.

The developments and implementation of the statistical programme depends heavily of the good relationship and collaboration developed with the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries (DG FISH), the main customer for Eurostat's data. At the same time a central point in the programme is the collaboration with the CWP and its member agencies.

Annex A: Eurostat personnel in fishery statistics.

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Annex B: Contents of the FAME data-base on fishery statistics (number of series)

Collection	Source	Primary	Derived	Total
Total production	EU/FAO	15 734	91 859	107 593
Catch	EU/FAO	47 295	367 140	414 435
Aquaculture	EU/FAO	3 879	187 522	191 401
Landings	EU	7 422	450 138	457 560
Fleet	EU	2 810	7 976	10 786
Fishers	EU/FAO	1 051	7 233	8 284
Trade	EU	2 160	4 536	6 696
Trade	FAO	5 961	12 212	18 173
ICCAT tuna data*	ICCAT	2 369	5 913	8 282
IOTC tuna data*	IOTC	718	404	1 122
Supply balance sheets	FAO	1 320	512	1 832
Total		90 719	1 135 445	1 226 164

* Derived series being developed

Situation on 21 June 1999

Annex C: Contents of Eurostat's FAME production and NewCronos dissemination data-bases on fishery statistics.

Domain	Content	Years	Source of final data
TOTAL PRODUCTION	Annual production for all species by country and major fishing area	1950-	EU/FAO
CATCH STATISTICS			
Northwest Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries.	1950-1959	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-divisions	1960-	NAFO
Northeast Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1972	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1973-	ICES
Western Central Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Eastern Central Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1973	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1974-	CECAF
Mediterranean and Black Sea	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1972	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1973-	GFCM
Southwest Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Southeast Atlantic	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1972	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1973-1988	ICSEAF
	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1989-	FAO
Antarctic (Atlantic Ocean)	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1969	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1970	CCAMLR
Western Indian Ocean	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Eastern Indian Ocean	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Antarctic (Indian Ocean)	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1969	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1970	CCAMLR
Northwest Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Southwest Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Northeast Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Western Central Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Eastern Central Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Southwest Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO

Domain	Content	Years	Source of final data
Southeast Pacific	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-	FAO
Antarctic (Pacific Ocean)	Annual catch data for all species and countries	1950-1969	FAO
	Annual catch data for all species and countries by sub-division	1970	CCAMLR
Internal waters	Annual catch data for all species and countries by continent	1950-	FAO
Atlantic tuna catches	Annual catch data for all species, country, region and gear	1950-	ICCAT
Indian Ocean tuna catches	Annual catch data for all species, country, region and gear	1950-	IOTC
AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION	Annual data on quantities and value for all species and countries	1984-	FAO
LANDING STATISTICS	Monthly data on quantities and values of landings of main species in EEA ports	1991-	Eurostat
FISHING FLEET STATISTICS	Annual data by tonnage, length, power and age classes for the fishing fleets of EU Member States	1990-	DG XIV
FISHERS	Annual data by sector and sex for European countries.	1970-	Eurostat/FAO
FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (EU)	Quantities and value of foreign trade in major groups of fishery products by EU Member States	1973-	Eurostat COMEXT
FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS (FAO)	Quantities and value of foreign trade in major groups of fishery products for all countries	1976-	FAO
SUPPLY BALANCE SHEETS	Total balance sheets for all countries	1961 -	FAO

Annex D: EU Legislation on Fishery Statistics

Regulation	Official publication	Equivalent FISHSTAT/STATLANT questionnaire
Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3880/91 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic.*	Official Journal L365 Of 31 December 1991, p.1.	STATLANT 27A
Draft Commission Regulation modifying Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3880/91 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic.#		STATLANT 27A
Council Regulation (EEC) No 2018/93 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the Northwest Atlantic*	Official Journal L186 of 28 July 1993, p.1.	STATLANT 21A and 21B
Draft Commission Regulation modifying Council Regulation (EEC) No 2018/93 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the Northwest Atlantic#		STATLANT 21A and 21B
Council Regulation (EC) No 2597/95 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic.*	Official Journal L270 of 13 November 1995, p.1.	STATLANT 31A, 34A, 37A, 41A, 47A and 51A
Draft Commission Regulation modifying Council Regulation (EC) No 2597/95 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic.#		STATLANT 31A, 34A, 37A, 41A, 47A and 51A
Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture production. .*	Official Journal L108 of 1 May 1996, p.1.	FISHSTAT AQ

Regulation	Official publication	Equivalent FISHSTAT/STATLANT questionnaire
Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1382/91 on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States. *	Official Journal L133 of 21 July 1991, p.1.	
Council Regulation (EEC) No 2104/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1382/91 on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States. *	Official Journal L191 of 31 July 1993, p.1.	

* This regulations applies to EU Member States and, under the agreement forming the European Economic Area, Iceland and Norway

This draft Commission Regulation has been approved by the EU Member States and awaits adoption by the European Commission.

QUALITY REPORT

IV: Catch statistics for the NE Atlantic

Date of report: May 2001

Eurostat Unit	F2
Module	692
Statistical product	Catch statistics for the Northeast Atlantic
Periodicity of data	Annual
Eurostat dissemination	New Cronos domain "FISH"
Person to contact	David Cross

Definitions, concepts, classifications used in product

The concepts, definitions and classifications are those developed by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP). They are applied world-wide in fishery statistics.
Council Regulation no. 3880/91 includes definitions and concepts following those of ICES and CWP .

Clients for data

EU Commission (DG FISH)

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). [NB: the EU Commission has an agreement with ICES whereby it receives scientific advice in return for a contribution to the ICES budget.]

National authorities

Other fishery workers

Use(s) made of data

Data are used by the EU Commission in managing the Common Fisheries Policy and for negotiations with non-EU countries on fishing agreements.
Used by ICES in fish stock assessment work.
General fishery studies

Assessment of client satisfaction

Client	5	4	3	2	1
DG FISH			X		
ICES		X			
Others		X			

5 = Very good; 4 = good; 3 = satisfactory; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor

Client comments.

Respect of deadlines could be improved. Data on non-regulated species are missing for some countries.

Collection of data by national authorities.

Assessment of complexity of data collection

EEA	
A	0
B	1
D	2
DK	2
E	2
F	3
FIN	3
GR	0
I	0
IRL	2
NL	1
P	1
S	1
UK	1
ISL	1
NOR	1

Candidate countries

BGR	0
CYP	0
CZE	0
EST	1
HUN	0
LTU	1
LVA	1
MLT	0
POL	1
ROM	0
SVK	0
SVN	0
TUR	0

* 5 = Very complex; 4 = complex; 3 = no particular difficulties; 2 = relatively simple; 1 = simple; 0 = not applicable; ? = unknown

Assessment of countries' data collection systems

EEA	Census	Sampling	Quality*	Coverage *	Methodological reports
A					
B	X		5	5	X
D	X	X	5	5	X
DK	X	X	5	5	X
E	X	X	4	4	X
F	X	X	4	4	X
FIN	X	X	5	4	X
GR					
I					
IRL	X	X	4	5	X
NL	X	X	5	5	X
P	X	X	5	4	X
S	X	X	5	5	X
UK	X	X	5	5	X
ISL	X	X	5	5	X

NOR	X	X	5	5	X
-----	---	---	---	---	---

Candidate countries

BGR					
CYP					
CZE					
EST	X	X	4	4	X
HUN					
LTU	X	X	3	3	X
LVA	X	X	3	3	X
MLT					
POL	X	X	5	5	X
ROM					
SVK					
SVN					
TUR					

* 5 = Very good; 4 = good; 3 = satisfactory; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor

Notes on current quality:

Vessels larger than 10 m in length are subject to controls of log-books and landing declarations. In general all such vessels are included in data collection system. Vessels of less than 10 m in length and at sea for less than 24h at a time are not subject to control by log-books. They also often land in small harbours not subject to rigid inspection. Sampling techniques are often used to collect data on their activities. Factors are used to convert landed weight to the live weight equivalent. In many cases these factors are of very long standing and are of doubtful origin.

Foreseen improvements in quality

Satellite "blue boxes" are being introduced on larger vessels. This should improve reporting of fishing area and better allocation of species to fishing area. Member States have agreed to the inclusion of new species in the legislation. A Commission Regulation is in the final stages of approval.

Submission of data to Eurostat by national authorities

Basis for submission:

Legislation

X

Council Regulation no.
3880/91

Gentlemen's agreement

Deadline for submissions: 31 May of the year following the reference year

EEA	Method of transmission					Timeliness *	Conformity to format*
	Paper	Diskette	Email	Stadium	Other		
A							
B		X				5	5
D	X					3	5
DK			X			4	5
E			X			2	3
F			X			4	4
FIN			X			5	5
GR							
I							
IRL			X			3	5
NL			X			4	5

P			X		
S			X		
UK			X		
ISL			X		
NOR			X		

5	5
3	5
5	3
5	5
5	5

Candidate countries

BGR					
CYP					
CZE					
EST					
HUN					
LTU					
LVA					
MLT					
POL					
ROM					
SVK					
SVN					
TUR					

* 5 = Very good; 4 = good; 3 = satisfactory; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor

Comments:

Although generally timeliness of reporting has improved in recent years, reporting of 1998 data was not as good as for 1997 data. An improvement with 1999 data has been noted.

EU Candidate countries do not yet generally report directly to Eurostat. The data are usually obtained from the ICES Secretariat. From 2001 Candidate Countries will submit data sent to ICES directly to Eurostat: this meets the requirements under EU legislation

Confidentiality:

Are any of the data subject to confidentiality restrictions? No. Data are in the public domain.

Data acquired by Eurostat from other sources

Data	Source
Candidate countries	ICES Secretariat
Non-ICES member countries	FAO

Comments:

FAO data are not generally sub-divided by statistical division.

Data processing and quality control

Production data-base: FAME

Average processing time (working days between receipt and data on production data-base):

Method of transmission	
Paper	8
Diskette	5
Email	5
Stadium	-
Other	-

Quality checks during processing:
Consistency checks with existing series. Codes used.

Other quality checks:
ICES Secretariat (with its regional expertise) checks data and exchanges it with Eurostat. FAO/ICES/Eurostat have a standard routine for detecting discrepancies between their data-bases. Inter-secretariat discussions eliminate most of these discrepancies. The remainder are referred to the national authorities.

Derived data developed:
Species, regional and country aggregates.

Estimates made:
None.

Dissemination of data

Dissemination data-base: New Cronos domain "FISH"
Frequency of data-base up-dating: irregular but within a few days of availability of processed data

Time-span of data:

Earliest	1950
Most recent	2000

Parameters covered:
Species, fishing region, country

Meta-data added:
Definitions and concepts. Map of fishing regions, list of species.

Overall quality assessment:

Comparability between countries	5
Comparability over time	5
Comparability with related data-sets	5
Completeness	3
Conformity with concepts, definitions	5

- 5 = Very good; 4 = good; 3 = satisfactory; 2 = poor; 1 = very poor

Comments:
For the period 1950-72 FAO data are used. This has no breakdown by statistical division within the NE Atlantic. Data for 1950-69 are recorded to the nearest 100 tonnes.

Priorities for improvements in quality:
Timeliness of submissions has to be improved. Formal arrangements with Candidate Countries have to be agreed.

Annex F: Vessel tonnage categories – GT vs GRT

NOT TO BE CITED WITHOUT PRIOR
REFERENCE TO THE AUTHOR(S)

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N4370

NAFO SCR Doc. 01/5

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING – JUNE 2001

Vessel size categories used by the NAFO Scientific Council

David Cross¹⁾

EUROSTAT²⁾, European Commission, BP 1907, Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)

Abstract

A comparison of the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) and Gross Tonnage (GT) of fishing vessels demonstrates that the GT is significantly greater than the GRT. The implications of this on the collection of STATLANT data on catch and effort by vessel size categories is discussed.

Introduction

The STATLANT 21B questionnaire used for many years by the NAFO Scientific Council in the assessment of fishery resources requires the contracting parties to submit the data on catch and fishing effort for segments of the fishing fleet. The size category of the fishing vessels is one of the parameters used to identify a segment of the fleet and the size is currently defined as the Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) of the vessels with the vessels being divided into the following size classes:

0 – 49.9 GRT
50 – 149.9 GRT
150 – 499.9 GRT
500 – 999.9 GRT
1000 – 1999.9 GRT
2000 – 99999.9 GRT
tonnage not known

Within each size class, the average GRT is requested.

The Gross Registered Tonnage is a volumetric measure that approximates to weight and was defined by the internationally recognised Oslo Convention (1947) as the capacity of the hull in cubic feet/100 (that is, 100 cubic feet – or 2.83 cubic metres- is equal to 1 GRT). It appears that judicious use of the calculation of the vessel capacity led to vessels being able to reduce their GRT and hence pay lower harbour dues, etc. This led to the London Convention on Tonnage (1969) that has apparently resolved the physical measurement issue. It has resulted in the GRT being replaced by the Gross Tonnage (GT) with the GT being defined as KxV where V is the volume of the vessel and K is a coefficient determined in an annex to the Convention.

¹⁾ The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of EUROSTAT or the European Commission.

²⁾ Statistical Office of the European Communities

The London Convention was agreed in 1969 but did not enter into force until 1982 and gave exemptions for vessels to use their previously measured GRT until 1994. From 1982 new vessels were supposed to have their tonnage recorded as GT as were vessels undergoing structural changes. Owners could also request that their vessels be re-measured. However it is apparent that, even at the end of the 1990's, the GRT was still in use as a tonnage measure for fishing vessels. A possible reason for this is that the Convention only applies to vessels of 24 meters in length and above and to vessels undertaking international voyages (that is, involving visits to foreign ports). Many fishing vessels are below 24 meters in length and only operate from ports in their own country.

As a result many national registers of fishing vessels include vessels for which tonnage is recorded in GRT, GT or both. Unless, as intended by the Convention, the values of GRT and GT are very similar the use of tonnage in studies of the fishing fleet has to be approached very cautiously.

Materials.

The Norwegian Directorate for Fisheries provided EUROSTAT with copy of its file of fishing vessels as of 31 December 1999. This file contained records for each vessel in the Norwegian fishing fleet and in each record there was the possibility of recording the gross registered tonnage, the gross tonnage and the year of construction.

Results.

The Norwegian file of the fishing fleet contained 13196 records. For 4738 records there was no tonnage information. For 7991 records there was only information on the GRT of the vessel, for 165 records there was information on both the GRT and GT of the vessel and for 302 there was information on only the GT of the vessel.

Using the 165 records for which both GRT and GT were recorded a scatter plot was drawn and the trend line calculated (see Fig. 1).

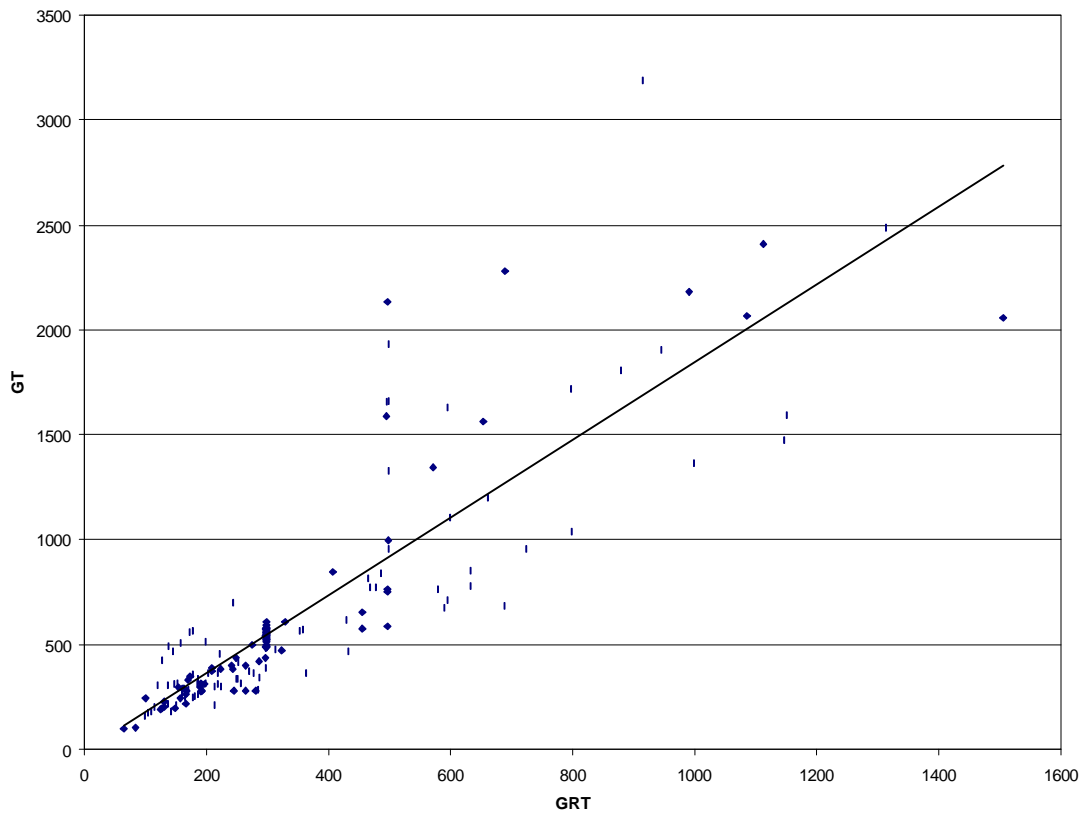


Fig. 1. Scatter plot for 1999 Norwegian fleet file of vessels for which both GRT and GT are recorded.

The equation of the line is

$$GT = 1.85 \text{ GRT} - 4.1$$

With a correlation coefficient of 0.87 with the range of GT/GRT for individual vessels being 1.00 to 4.31, the mean 1.78 and the median 1.61 (see Fig. 2).

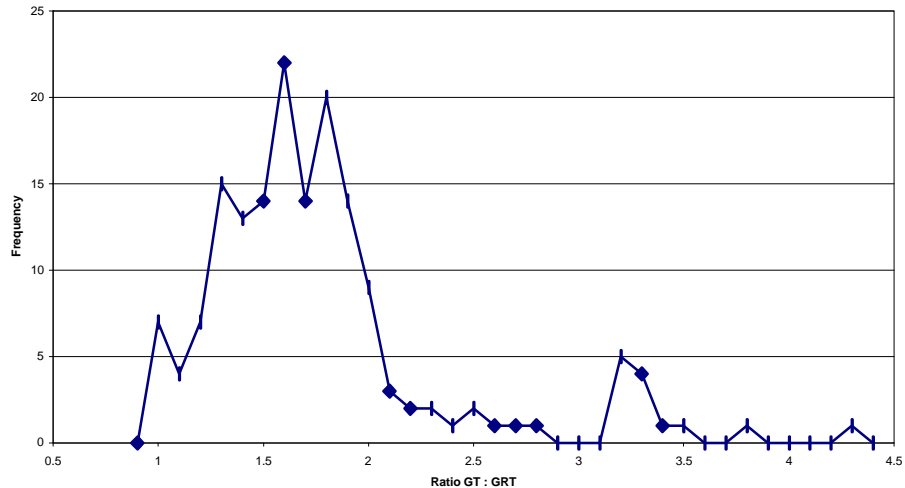


Fig. 2. Ratio GT : GRT for 165 vessels with records for both measures.

Discussion

The intention of the 1969 London Convention was to resolve the problems associated with the physical measurement of tonnage under the earlier Oslo Convention. The tonnage was to be calculated using the formula $GT = V \times K$ where V is the volume of all enclosed spaces and K is a coefficient the value of which is contained in an annex to the Convention for a range of values of V .

The basic difference in the calculation of GRT and GT is that in the calculation of the GRT under the Oslo rules certain rooms or part of rooms are not measured while for the calculation of the GT all enclosed spaces are measured (see Fig. 3).

As was noted above, the London Convention is mandatory for vessels over 24m and for vessels on international voyages. However it is evident that it was expected this Convention would be applied to smaller vessels because the annex to the Convention quotes coefficients that would result in gross tonnages of 2 GT.

In the case of the Norwegian fishing fleet file it appears that, even in 1999, over 50% of the fleet were still only recorded in terms of the GRT. (This should not be taken to imply that the vessels have not been re-measured but it may be due to the file in the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate not having been up-dated.)

The result of the Convention is that over time (and yet to be completed?) the tonnage measure of fishing vessels is changing from Gross Registered Tonnage to Gross Tonnage. Furthermore it is highly likely that this process be taking place at varying rates in different national administrations.

The present study has shown that the GT is significantly greater than the GRT. This casts considerable doubt on the comparability over time of the STATLANT catch and effort data by tonnage classes of fishing vessel. Once the re-measurement of fishing vessels is complete (and recorded on the administrative files) comparability should be restored but, until such time, great care should be taken in analysing data compiled by vessel tonnage categories.

It is relevant to point out that, in part due to the above-mentioned problems with the tonnage measurement, the tonnage is no longer the main parameter used by FAO in

collecting fishing vessel data from national administrations. The overall length has now been adopted as the main parameter with the following classes being selected:

0 – 6 m
6 – 12 m
12 – 18 m
18 – 24 m
24 – 30 m
30 – 36 m
36 – 45 m
45 – 60 m
over 60 m

The NAFO Scientific Council may well wish to consider adopting the length as the vessel class parameter in collecting STATLANT data. Such a change would have little effect of data already held in the NAFO databases because this paper has already expressed doubts as to the comparability of the data and, even when the GT is the universally used tonnage parameter, the new data series will not be comparable with the old.

Acknowledgements.

The author wishes to thank the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate for supplying a copy of its fishing vessel file and Andrew Smith of FAO Fishing Technology Service for background information concerning the tonnage conventions.

References

International Convention on Tonnage Measurements of Ships, 1969. *Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization.*
<http://www.admiraltylawguide/conven/tonnage1969.html>

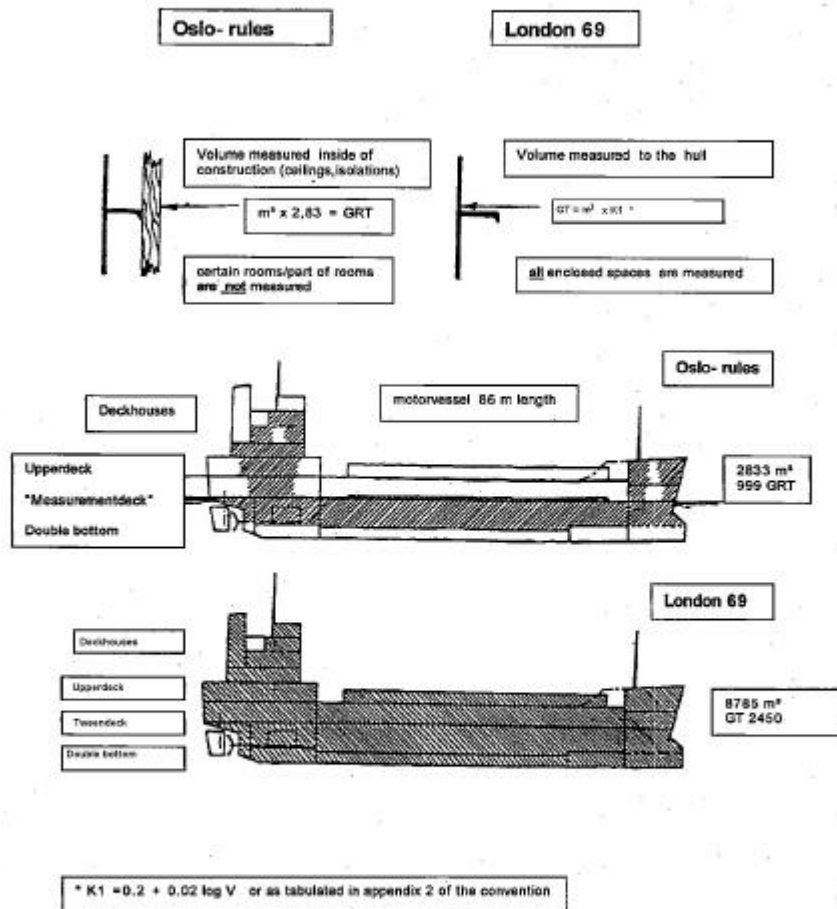
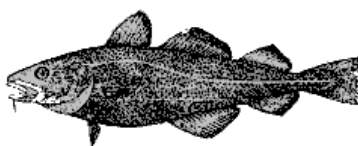


Fig. 3. Comparison of the measurement of a vessel according to the Oslo Convention (1947) and the London Convention (1969).



NEWSLETTER

FISHERY STATISTICS



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Requesting information on fishery statistics.

Should you require information on any topic related to fishery statistics, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our **postal address** is:

Unit F2: Agriculture Production & Fisheries,
Directorate for Agriculture, Environment and Energy Statistics,
Statistical Office of the European Communities,
Jean Monnet Building,
L-2920 Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)

You may **telephone** us, using the telephone numbers given on page 8, selecting the person to whom you speak either by their responsibilities within the Fishery Statistics section or by the languages which they speak.

You may **e-mail** us, using the addresses given on page 9.

You may **fax** us using the number (+352) 4301 37318

This **Fishery Statistics Newsletter** is distributed by e-mail to DG FISH staff and by e-mail (or by fax where an email address is not available) to Eurostat's collaborators in the national services and in international organisations. Should you know of anyone not receiving the Newsletter who would wish to do so please let us know, giving us his/her name, organisation and e-mail address. (If no email address is available a fax number may be substituted.)

Special note: In October 2000 we changed our e-mail system and it appears that the address list for the Newsletter may not have been converted completely accurately. We apologise to those whose names dropped from the list and have not received this Newsletter directly and we will correct the address list as soon as we are informed of the error.

We would also welcome comments, both on the contents of this Newsletter and more generally on our statistical programme and the service we offer. Only by feed-back from our clients can we improve the service we offer. So, let us have your comments.....

New Cronos domain FISH

EXTRACTIONS

As of 7 December the number of extractions from the New Cronos domain FISH in the calendar year 2000 was 1194. This a little down on the number of extractions in 1999 but the year is not yet over.

UPDATES

We are pleased to report that we are currently meeting our target of making available on the New Cronos data-base all data in electronic format within 5 working days of their arrival in Eurostat and all paper submissions within 8 working days of their arrival. Indeed, in most cases the delay is significantly shorter than this.

To put into perspective the task of maintaining this data-base, you should note that the domain contains about 1 million time series with over 23 million values.

It is also pleasing to report that the national authorities have submitted their data to Eurostat in a more timely manner this year. There is still a minority of miscreants and we are in contact with them to attempt to remedy the situation.

In future editions of this Newsletter we will report on our progress.

NEW DATA

In the last two Newsletters we promised some major expansions to the New Cronos domain FISH - only to have to apologise for our failure to achieve this because of the heavy work-load on the small team working in Fishery Statistics. However, better late than never, these extensions to the data are now available in New Cronos. Due to the large volume of data made available in the domain, the technical problems this causes and the resulting attention that has to be given to the "user-friendliness" of the access to the data, certain changes to the organisation of the domain have been necessary. The domain now contains the following elements:

Catch statistics: the catch statistics from 1950 to the present are quoted for each of the FAO major fishing areas, with data for sub-divisions of these areas where they are available, for all fish species and for all countries.

Tuna catches: catch statistics from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), basically data obtained from national statistical services but revised by tuna scientists, are included for the period from 1950, for all countries and sub-divisions of the organisations' areas of responsibility.

Aquaculture production: data on the volume and value of aquaculture production from 1984 to the present, by species, by country, by major fishing area and by culture environment (e.g. fresh-water, brackish water or sea-water).

Note: FAO is currently extending these series back in time and the data will be added as soon as they are available.

Landing statistics: monthly data on the volume and value of landings of major species in the ports of EU, Iceland and Norway. The earliest year for which data are available is 1991.

Fishing fleet statistics: the number, total, tonnage and total power of fishing vessels in the fleets of the EU, Iceland and Norway, broken down by tonnage, length, power and age classes. These data, derived from Eurostat's statistical register of fishing vessels, are available from 1989.

Employment: these data, obtained from FAO, are for the employment on fishing vessels and in aquaculture for all European countries from 1970.

Foreign trade: two sets of data are involved here.

The first is summary import and export data for 7 major groups of fishery products for each of the EU Member States. They are derived from Eurostat's COMEXT data-base.

The second set is obtained from FAO and includes data for the same product groupings for all countries in the world. These data are not always compatible with those from COMEXT because they have been adjusted to include quantities of fishery products frequently excluded from official trade data (e.g. fish trans-shipped to foreign vessels at sea or landed directly in foreign ports)

Supply balance sheets for fishery products: data compiled by FAO on the apparent supply and consumption of fishery products by all countries from 1961.

Global production of fishery products: the data from 1950 on the global production (catch plus aquaculture production), by species, by major fishing region (but with no sub-regional breakdown) and for all countries in the world.

META-DATA

A great effort has been made in recent months to increase the methodological and other information available to users of the New Cronos domain FISH . Although it will be periodically up-dated as required, the basic structure and content is now in place. However, we would very much like to hear from you if you have comments or suggestions for improvements.

Access to Eurostat's "New Cronos" data-base.

New Cronos is available on the Internet, free of charge, to the following users:

- European Commission, through the server Europa Plus
- European Institutions, through the server Europa Team
- Eurostat institutional data suppliers (e.g. Statistical Offices) and the Data Shop network, through the server Europa (<http://europa.eu.int>) with a password.

The above categories of users and, indeed, other users should contact the New Cronos team for further information. The contact details are Eurostat Unit C1 – Tel: (+352) 4301 33262, Fax: (+352) 4301 32594, E-mail: NewCronosTeam@cec.eu.int

You can access all New Cronos data with the same software you use to access the WEB: no additional software is needed, only your own HTML browser (more commonly called a WEB explorer). The New Cronos interface allows you to navigate in the data-base, to find and download the data in which you are interested. By clicking on icons or links you can easily go down or up in the structure of New Cronos. You can also search for a table using an alphabetical index (all that with any HTML browser).

Publications

The "**Fisheries: Yearbook 2000**" edition was published in October 2000, three months earlier than the equivalent 1999 publication. The publication has maintained the previous year's format: that is, a 60-page edition with only essential summary tables of use to the general reader. However, for users wishing to obtain more detailed information, each table is accompanied by information on the detailed contents of Eurostat's data-base of fishery statistics. Comments on the contents and presentation of the data will be most welcome.

The "**Fishery Statistics CD-ROM: 1950-99**" will be ready for publication by the end of December. The contents of this CD-ROM will reflect the new organisation of the New Cronos domain FISH and will include the improved meta-data (methodological notes and other information)

Working Group "Fishery Statistics"

The next meeting of the Eurostat Working Group "Fishery Statistics" will be held in Luxembourg on 19-20 February 2001. The major topics for discussion will be:

Quality of fishery statistics. In the context of Eurostat's Qualistat programme Unit F2 has drawn up quality reports on 13 'products' within the programme of fishery statistics. These reports cover the collection of data by Member States, the submission of data to Eurostat, the processing of the data within Eurostat and the dissemination of data.

Modifications to legislation. There are three proposals for Commission Regulations amending legislation on catch statistics for the Northeast Atlantic (Council Regulation no 3990/91), for the Northwest Atlantic (Council Regulation no.2018/93) and for certain regions other than those of the North Atlantic (Council Regulation no. 2597/95). It is hoped that the Working Group will agree on the technical content of these proposals and that, at the end of the Working Group meeting, the formal approval of the Member States can be obtained by a vote in a meeting of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics.

Employment data: The views of the Member States will be sought on the results of the study on data on employment in the fisheries sector (see page 6)

Workshop on Fishery Statistics for Phare and EU Candidate Countries, 21 February 2001

In order to profit from the participation at the above-mentioned Working Group meeting, it is intended to have a one-day workshop on fishery statistics for Phare and Candidate Countries in Luxembourg on 21 February 2001. This Workshop will review the progress of the national authorities in adapting their systems of fishery statistics to those of the European Union since the last workshop held two years ago.

Integrated data-file on catches in the Atlantic Ocean

Readers of the previous edition of this Newsletter will be pleased to hear that the work of developing an Integrated Data-file for Atlantic Catch statistics is nearly

complete. The work of developing this file was undertaken largely by Eurostat and involved integrating the data from the following organisations:

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
Commission for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries (CECAF)
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)

In eliminating discrepancies between the data of the different organisations, due largely to differing submissions by the national authorities, a decision was taken by the organisations to give priority to data from ICCAT (for tuna and tuna-like species) and to the data from the regional agencies. Where data were not available from these sources, FAO data were used. (You should note that, in general terms, these are the same concepts as are used in the development of the catch statistics in New Cronos domain FISH.)

The data for the period from 1950-98 have been integrated and formatted so that they may be consulted using FAO FISHSTAT Plus software. FAO has to be credited with the modifications necessary to run the file under FISHSTAT Plus.

In fact the task of integrating the data was not as simple as originally envisaged, due in no small part to data for different time periods having to be taken from different sources. However, as a beneficial result, we believe it is fair to say that now, within Eurostat, we now have a very good knowledge of the catch statistics held by the other organisations.

The data-file is now undergoing final testing and should soon be available for downloading (with the FISHSTAT Plus software) from the FAO web-site or be available from the secretariats of the other collaborating agencies.

This Integrated Data-file is a first attempt at integrating the data from the various sources and hence, despite the efforts of all concerned to check the results, there may be some unforeseen incoherences in the data. We would very much welcome the comments (both positive and negative) of the users so that we may improve and develop subsequent efforts.

Employment in the Fisheries Sector

We have reported in earlier Newsletters that, conscious of the fact that there is a lack of quality data on employment in the fisheries sector for use in the management of EU fisheries, Eurostat and the DG FISH had engaged consultants to study the availability of data in EU Member States and the possibility of developing a harmonised system of employment data within the EU. The final report has been received from the consultants recently and although we have not studied them in depth nor discussed them with the national authorities (initial discussions are planned within the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" on 19-20 February 2001 - see page xx), it is evident that various sources of data exist within the Member States. However, at first sight it is difficult to see how harmonised data sets can be developed from the existing sources.

In the framework of a number of studies in agriculture, fisheries and environment statistics, Eurostat has recently signed a contract with consultants to under-take a similar study as that for EU Member States on the availability of employment data in the Phare countries. This study is due to be completed in August 2002.

Socio-economic Indicators for Fisheries

This is another sector for which the DG FISH and Eurostat are conscious of failings in the quantity and quality of data available for the management of the CFP and accordingly a call for tenders was published to conduct a study on socio-economic indicators. Unfortunately the offers received did not meet the Commission's requirements and were rejected. It is hoped to launch another call for tenders for this study in 2001.

Mediterranean fishery statistics

It is generally recognised that the quality of fishery statistics for the Mediterranean region is lower than that for many others. With the restructuring of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) as an international organisation independent from FAO, the improvement of data required to monitor and manage Mediterranean resources has been given a high priority.

A Sub-Committee on Statistics and Information of the GFCM's Scientific Advisory Committee has been formed and Eurostat is closely following the development of a statistical programme within the sub-committee and, more specifically, a project designed to improve the quality of data for the region.

Staff change.

Those of you comparing the "Rogues Gallery" at the end of this bulletin and with that in the last Newsletter will note that the team in Eurostat's Unit F2 for Fishery Statistics has decreased in number. Unfortunately Klaus Hegar, who had worked in Eurostat for two years as an Detached National Official, was required to return to his previous position in the German Statistisches Bundesamt in November.

Klaus' departure has been much regretted by Eurostat, not only because of the contribution he made to our work but also because he was much appreciated as a friendly, helpful and sympathetic colleague. We wish him the best for the future in his new post and we hope to see him again "on the other side of the table" at meetings of our Working Group "Fishery Statistics".

Staff vacancy.

Klaus Hegar's departure from Eurostat means that we have a vacancy for a Detached National Official working in the team on fishery statistics. Such appointments are normally from a national government department and are for a maximum period of three years (3 renewable annual contracts).

Apart from generally assisting in the programme of fishery statistics, the successful candidate would be allocated special topics which, as far as possible, would be selected to fit the aptitudes and interests of the candidate. Particular topics on which we would welcome improving our expertise are social and economic aspects of fisheries and Mediterranean fisheries.

Apart from the contribution they make to Eurostat's programme of statistics, previous holders of this post have found the experience useful for their career development and of use to their employers on return to a national position.

For preference the successful candidate would have a good working knowledge of at least one of English, French or German.

Anyone requiring further information about this vacancy may contact David Cross (tel: +352 4301 37249 or email: david.cross@cec.eu.int). Although such an appointment involves an agreement between Eurostat and the national service for which the candidate works, this initial contact would be informal and in fully confidential

Seasons Greetings

We would like to send our best wishes for the Festive Season to all the readers of this News-letter. In particular we would like to thank all our collaborators within the national services, the EU institutions and the international organisations for the part they have played in our work in 2000 and we look forward to a continuation of such a fruitful process in 2001.



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Annex H: Format proposed by Eurostat for the reports of the national systems of fishery statistics

These reports are required under the terms of Council Regulation (EEC) no. 1382/91(modified by Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2104/93), Council Regulation (EEC) no. 3880/91, Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2018/93 (which replaced Council Regulation (EEC) no. 3881/91) and Council Regulation (EC) no. 2597/95.

1. Organisation of the national system of fishery statistics

- 1.1 Authorities responsible for the collection and processing of the data and their respective responsibilities.
- 1.2 National legislation on the collection of fishery statistics.
- 1.3 Unit responsible for the transmission of data to Eurostat.

2. Method of collecting, processing and compiling the data on catches, landings and average prices

- 2.1 For each type of data the source should be indicated.
- 2.2 A description of the methods used to collect the data (e.g. log-books, landing declarations, interviews) for each component of the national fishing fleet.
- 2.3 For catch statistics, a description of the method used to collect data for landings in foreign ports and for transshipments.
- 2.4 Methods used to attribute the fishing area in catch statistics.
- 2.5 Method used to calculate the average prices.
- 2.6 Description of processing and compilation of the data together with an indication of the delays involved.

3. Reliability and representativity of the data

- 3.1 If sampling techniques are used for some elements of the data, a description of the methods, an estimate of the level of use of such methods and an estimate of the reliability of such methods.
- 3.2 Short-comings of the national systems with an indication as to the possibility of over-coming them.