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y la
Alimentación

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS**Twentieth Session****Victoria, Seychelles, 21-24 January 2003****Report by Eurostat**

Report on Eurostat's Programme of Fishery Statistics

I: Organisation and Personnel

Eurostat's Directorate F has undergone a reorganisation since CWP-19. It has lost responsibility for energy statistics but has gained the responsibility for regional statistics (including GIS systems). In addition a new unit on food safety, rural development and forestry has been created. The programme of work of this new unit is under development but will include food safety as applied to fishery products.

Unit F2 has been renamed "Land Use, Agricultural Production and Fisheries". The new head of Unit is Mr Marcel Ernens. The staff responsible for fisheries remains the same except that Mr Reinhold Achtmann from Germany has been appointed on a 2-year contract to the vacant post as Seconded National Official.

II. Data-base development and data processing.

There have been no changes in the structure of the FAME production (reference) and NewCronos FISH (dissemination) databases since CWP-19.

Data continues to be processed and made available to users within the following benchmarks:

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

There has generally been a good exchange of information between Eurostat and the other CWP agencies (particularly NAFO, ICES and FAO) concerning the receipt (or lack thereof) of data from national authorities and specific problems with data items. Some concerted actions have been taken by the CWP agencies to inform the national authorities of their obligations to the international agencies.

With the planned extension of the EU in July 2004 all but three countries submitting STATLANT 27A data to ICES will be EU Member States or obliged to submit data to Eurostat under the terms of the European Economic Area agreement (Norway and Iceland). Currently both ICES and Eurostat are processing these data and this can be seen as an inefficient use of limited secretariat resources. A proposal under consideration within ICES and Eurostat is that, since Eurostat has a legal obligation to process and publish the catch data, Eurostat undertakes the processing of the catch data and transmits the results in an agreed format (for example, the FISHSTAT Plus format) to the ICES Secretariat. ICES would transmit to Eurostat for processing the raw STATLANT 27A data from the countries with no obligations to Eurostat (Faroe Is, Greenland and the Russian Federation). This arrangement would be covered by a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations and should free resources within the ICES Secretariat for other tasks (for example, the computerisation of the catch data records prior to 1973 - a long requested action). The arrangement would be reviewed after three years.

III: Catch statistics

After the technical content had been agreed by the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" and the texts formally approved by the Standing Committee for Agricultural Statistics, in July 2001 the European Commission approved three Commission Regulations on catch statistics:

Commission Regulation (EC) no 1636/2001 amending Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2018/93 on the submission of catch and activity statistics by Member States fishing in the North-West Atlantic (Official Journal L222 of 17.8.2001, p.1)

Commission Regulation (EC) no 1637/2001 amending Council Regulation (EEC) no. 3880/91 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the North-East Atlantic (Official Journal L222 of 17.8.2001, p.20)

Commission Regulation (EC) no 1638/2001 amending 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 L222 of 17.8.2001, p.29)

The major purpose of these Commission Regulations was to incorporate into the list of species for which catch statistics are requested additional Elasmobranch species. The list of species included was developed in close collaboration with ICES, NAFO and FAO and reflect the corresponding changes to the STATLANT questionnaires.

More recently NEAFC has requested ICES to introduce sub-divisions of the ICES Divisions X and XII and to request the national authorities to submit catch data using these sub-divisions on the STATLANT 27A questionnaire. The ICES Secretariat is consulting with NEAFC and the ICES Deepwater Fisheries Working Group to prepare a chart and text description of the proposed sub-divisions and plans to present them to the CWP-20 session for its approval.

Since the STATLANT 27A questionnaire has been translated into EU legislation as Council Regulation no 3880/91 (now modified by Commission Regulation no. 1637/2002 - see above) the modification to the content of the STATLANT 27A questionnaire requires a modification to the EU legislation. As soon as the map and description of the proposed sub-divisions of Divisions X and XII are available, Eurostat proposes to draft a modification to the legislation, consult the national authorities bilaterally and in the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" (in May 2003), have a formal vote in the Standing Committee on Agricultural Statistics and then forward the proposal for adoption by the European Commission. The intention is that this modification to the legislation should be operative by the end of 2003.

IV: Aquaculture production.

Statistics on aquaculture production are covered by Council Regulation no 788/96 that corresponds to the production data requested on the FISHSTAT AQ questionnaire. There have been no changes in the receipt and processing of the data by Eurostat since CWP-19.

However, several requests have been received to extend the legislation to cover structural data. No decision will be taken on this until it has been possible to study the structural data received from national authorities on the FISHSTAT AQ questionnaire.

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 on the major fishery products landed in the EU (Council Regulation no. 2104/93).

Currently the national authorities are required to report the landings for three groups of vessels:

- EU vessels
- vessels from EFTA countries
- vessels from third countries.

While this requirement is in line with the spirit of the European Single Market, it does mean that the data are not reported by the flag of each Member State and this has been found to be a handicap to the work of the Directorate-General for Fisheries in analysing the market situation. It also means that Eurostat does not possess the data required by OECD for the Statistical Annex to its "Annual Review of Fisheries in Member Countries" and thus a separate request has to be made to the national authorities.

The EU Member States have the landings data available by the flag of the vessel and the data submitted in respect of the EU legislation are derived by aggregating the data by flag of the vessel. Thus with the view to increasing the usefulness of the data submitted under the EU legislation and reducing the workload on the national authorities, Eurostat has the intention of formulating a proposal for the modification of the legislation requesting the national authorities to submit the data identifying the flag of the vessels of EU and EFTA member countries.

The proposed procedure and timetable for the adoption of this revised legislation will be as for the revision to the catch legislation mentioned above.

VI: Fishing fleet statistics

There have been no major changes in the procedures for maintaining the Statistical Register of Fishing Vessels. Once annually (normally in March-April) the Directorate-General for Fisheries provides Eurostat with edited records from the administrative file of EU vessels (submitted by the EU national authorities) for the previous year. Similar records are obtained from the Icelandic and Norwegian authorities.

Using the Statistical Register, Eurostat has provided FAO with data requested on the FISHSTAT FF questionnaire. Unfortunately due to the content of the DG FISH's administrative file, it is impossible for Eurostat to provide FAO with the data by class of vessel by the ISSCFV classification. There seems little possibility of improving this situation in the future.

Through its Working Group "Fishery Statistics" in February 2002 Eurostat requested the national authorities of the Candidate Countries to provide records from their national fleet files in a format as close as possible to the structure and content of the Statistical Register. So far three of the 13 Candidate Countries have responded to this request but the files do not cover the complete fleet.

VII: Fisher data.

Two studies on the availability of data on employment in the fisheries sector have been completed. The first study, jointly financed by Eurostat and DG FISH, covered the current EU countries while the second, financed through the PHARE Multi-country Programme covered the Candidate Countries with the exception of Cyprus, Malta and Turkey.

The studies were intended to cover the availability of data for fishing, aquaculture production, the processing industry and associated industries. The results of the two studies were very similar.

It was found that data on fishing and, to a lesser extent, those for aquaculture production were generally more readily available than those for the processing industry and associated industries.

However, there are considerable problems in developing harmonised data for the existing EU Member States. Naturally the difficulties are more extreme if the Candidate Countries are included.

Some of the difficulties encountered are:

- the sources of the data are very variable (e.g. population censuses, social security files, professional organisations),
- the reference period and date is variable. For example, it may be the situation on a particular date, or the average of the situation over a period (month, quarter),
- the definition of a fisher may vary. It may be based on the proportion of his/her income derived from fisheries or on the proportion of his/her time devoted to fisheries,
- similarly, where a breakdown is available, definitions of full-time, part-time and occasional may vary both in the parameter used (proportion of income or time) and in the limits between the categories,
- the availability of data on the sex, age and level of education of the employees is very variable,
- the availability of data by region (NUTS classification) was very variable.

At this stage Eurostat considers it premature to introduce legislation on the submission of data on employment in the fisheries sector. The subject was discussed at the meeting of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" in February 2002. At this meeting Eurostat proposed that the national authorities attempt to complete on a "gentlemen's agreement" basis a questionnaire on employment based on the FISHSTAT FM questionnaire but including information on the regional distribution and professional status. The participants accepted this proposal: at the present time there have been too few responses to assess the success of the questionnaire.

VIII: Candidate countries

It is proposed that 10 Candidate Countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Malta, Cyprus, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia and the Slovak Republic) join the EU as of 1 July 2004. Three other countries (Roumania, Bulgaria and Turkey) are scheduled to acquire membership at a later date.

In preparation for EU membership, for several years these countries have been invited to participate in meetings of the Working Group "Fishery Statistics" and have attended Workshops designed to review the measures the national authorities have taken to adapt their systems of fishery statistics to meet the EU's requirements.

Since the national authorities already complete STATLANT and FISHSTAT questionnaires and the EU legislation on fishery statistics are largely based on these questionnaires it is evident that, for the large part, the Candidate Countries will have little difficulty in meeting the requirements. The national authorities already send to Eurostat copies of the data they send to other organizations on the STATLANT and FISHSTAT questionnaires.

The equivalent data for earlier years are already available from the FAO, NAFO, ICES and other international data-bases and have been used to complete the NewCronos domain FISH.

The one sector of Eurostat's work where the Candidate Countries have still to make an effort is the provision of the monthly data on the quantity and average value of landings (Council Regulation no. 2104/93) and this will be a major topic of the Workshop to be organized on 7 May 2003.

IX: Foreign trade discrepancies

It was noted at CWP-19 that there are considerable differences in the foreign trade data for fishery products for EU Member States published by FAO, OECD and Eurostat and it was recommended that the three organisations study the cause of the differences and how to eliminate them.

This study, yet to be completed, has revealed that

- the major differences are between the OECD data and those of FAO and Eurostat,
- the data published by OECD are obtained from the national authorities (using national concepts) while the data published by Eurostat are submitted by the national authorities under the terms of EU legislation which lays down and

harmonises the concepts to be applied to the data. The data published by FAO are derived from Eurostat's COMEXT database.

- differences between the data published by FAO and Eurostat are probably due to FAO adding to the Eurostat data information obtained from the national fishery authorities on the quantities of fish landed directly in foreign ports,
- the major differences are to be found principally with the data for Denmark and the Netherlands,
- the likely explanation for the differences between the OECD and Eurostat data is the treatment of products in transit.

All are agreed that it is important that these discrepancies are at least minimised so as to remove any confusion for the users. It is proposed to have a meeting of the interested parties in Paris in the first quarter of 2003 at which it is hoped a strategy with regard to the discrepancies can be formulated.

X: Supply balance sheets for fishery products

The end products of supply balance sheets (per capita consumption and the degree of self-sufficiency) are among the most frequently requested data. For many years Eurostat had a system of supply balance sheets which were compiled by the national authorities on a gentlemen's agreement basis. However, it was noted that for certain countries the annual variation in the per capita consumption was greater than would have been expected to be accountable for from changes in consumption patterns. The methods used in compiling the balance sheets (notably the uncertainties in the application of conversion factors to the foreign trade data to arrive at a harmonised live weight unit) were considered to be a major influence on the observed variations. Accordingly Eurostat withdrew its request that Member States compile the balance sheets and, when data from supply balance sheets were requested, attention was drawn to the balance sheets compiled by FAO.

In the course of recent consultations on Eurostat's statistical programme with the other services of the Commission, the DG FISH emphasised the importance of supply balance sheets and requested Eurostat to include these in its programme of work. Accordingly Eurostat, in collaboration with the DG FISH, has hired a consultant to look at the feasibility of establishing supply balance sheets using production, trade and other data already available to Eurostat. Emphasis is being placed on the need to minimise any additional data requests on the national services. It is intended that the consultant's report should be available by the end of 2003.

XI: Socio-economic indicators

Within the Commission's services there are two major linked initiatives towards the development of socio-economic indicators for fisheries. The first is within the DG FISH's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) where a sub-group of fishery economists has been charged with developing a list of indicators for the management of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

In the second, a study jointly financed by the DG FISH and Eurostat has been undertaken to establish a list of indicators considered to be of value in the management of the CFP. The study, the final report of which is expected in early 2003, has focussed on establishing a "short" list of about 60 indicators to be applied to the previously identified 170 "fishery dependent" EU regions. (A "fishery dependent" region is defined as one where at least

0.1% of the population in employed in fisheries.) This study has taken account of the preliminary STECF work and the work undertaken in other fora (e.g. OECD and GFCM) and it is anticipated that the results will be used by the STECF to develop a final list of indicators.

Once the STECF has finalised its list of economic indicators, the Commission services will look at the practical implications of compiling the indicators including the availability of the basic data and the attribution of the various tasks between the national services and those of the European Commission.

XII: Indicators of sustainability in fisheries

The European Environmental Agency (EEA) has developed a provisional list of 27 so-called "core" indicators of sustainability in fisheries. In October 2002 the DG FISH, DG ENV (Directorate General for the Environment) co-hosted a two-day workshop to review these core indicators. The meeting was attended by representatives from a range of national organisations and international agencies (FAO, ICES, NEAFC and OECD).

The conclusions of the workshop were that the list of core indicators required further work before it could be "finalised" and it was proposed that a limited group of experts be convened to further develop the list. Of particular concern to Eurostat was the need to maximise the use of existing data-sets in compiling the indicators and to minimise additional data demands on the national authorities.

XIII: Publications programme.

In common with publication programmes of many agencies emphasis in Eurostat is being placed on reducing the number of hard-copy (paper) publications and making information available electronically ("Electronic first!").

In the last few years the programme of fisheries statistics has included a Fishery Statistics Yearbook, a Fishery Statistics CD-ROM (a copy of the NewCronos domain "FISH") and a series of short topical reports in the series "Statistics in Focus".

While sales of the Yearbook have been encouraging, sales of the CD-ROM have been poor. The Yearbook has been designed with many references to the NewCronos domain "FISH" and consequently in 2003 it is proposed to combine the Yearbook and CD-ROM in a single publication. It is also proposed in 2003 that the DG FISH and Eurostat will collaborate in a publication on EU fisheries.

While not part of the official publications programme, a Fishery Statistics Newsletter has been produced twice a year (June and December) for distribution by email to the staff of DG FISH, those in the other institutions (European Parliament, European Council, Court of Auditors) known to have an interest in the topic and to external organizations and individuals having requested to be placed on the mailing list. It has proved to be a successful method of publicizing the work on fishery statistics.

XIV: Dissemination policy.

While there has been no major change on Eurostat's dissemination policy (external "non-privileged" users are required to pay for access to Eurostat data) momentum is developing towards a greater free-of-charge dissemination.

As a first stage the "Statistics in focus" short topical reports have been available for free-of-charge downloading in pdf format from the Eurostat web-site. Similar a limited range of indicators are available free-of-charge on the web-site.

Eurostat's Management Board (Comité de Direction) has requested the directorates responsible for dissemination and informatics to study the implications (budgetary and staff resources) of adopting a wider free-of-charge dissemination policy.

Currently a two-step approach is envisaged

- increasing the availability of indicators and pre-formatted statistical tables on the web-site,
- providing access free-of-charge to data-bases.

There are three major problems to be overcome:

- to provide capacity on the web-site to ensure that the anticipated increased demand does not result in unacceptably long response times,
- to up-grade the "Help-desk" resources to meet the anticipated increased demand,
- to find the budgetary resources to finance the Data-shop network (currently the income from data sales makes a major contribution to the cost of the Data-shop network)

XV: Working Group "Fishery Statistics"

Since the CWP-19 session the Working Group has met once, on 18-19 February 2002 in Luxembourg, in a joint session with the ICES Fishery Statistics Liaison Working Group. Given the high proportion of countries with common membership (or future membership) of the EU and ICES this was an efficient method of treating matters of common interest. At the same time, a little flexibility in the organization permitted the treatment of topic of primary interest to one of the organizations. The EU contribution to the expenses of the EU Member States and the Candidate Countries ensured a wider participation than has been the experience with earlier meetings of only the Liaison Working Group.

It is proposed that such joint sessions should be held in future with a probable periodicity of 2 years.

The next meeting of the Eurostat Working Group will be held on 5-6 May 2003 in Luxembourg. The agenda has not been fixed in detail but topics for discussion will include the proposals for modifications to the catch and landings legislation and the reports of the studies on employment data and socio-economic indicators. As in previous years, this will be followed on 7 May by a one-day workshop on fishery statistics for the Candidate Countries.

XVI: CWP Newsletter.

Eurostat has continued to edit the CWP Newsletter (previously known as the Statlant Newsletter) and has provisionally placed it on the web-site cwp.cross.lu

The CWP may wish to consider placing the CWP Newsletter on the CWP site of FAO.

XVII: Integrated data-file on Atlantic catch statistics.

In September 2001 Eurostat up-dated the integrated data file on Atlantic catch statistics with the data up to 1999 and made it available for inclusion on the FAO Fishstat Plus website page and for inclusion on the 2001 edition of the ICES Fishery Statistics CD-ROM.

As of December 2002, no attempt has been made to up-date the file with the data for 2000. In part this has been due to the uncertainty as to the support for the Fishstat Plus available from FAO (see item XVIII below).

XVIII: FAO Fishstat Plus software.

The FAO Fishstat Plus software has become a *de facto* standard method of disseminating the data of CWP agencies. Currently FAO, ICES, NAFO, CEEAF, GRM, ICCAT and IOTC data and the CWP integrated Atlantic catch file are disseminated using this software.

Eurostat has assisted the ICES and NAFO secretariats with the conversion of their data to the Fishstat Plus format and has been responsible for compiling the integrated Atlantic catch file.

In addition this format is proposed for the exchange of data between ICES and Eurostat and Eurostat is looking closely at the possibility of making the data in the NewCronos domain FISH available in this format.

When in September 2002 Eurostat and the NAFO secretariat were attempting to update the Fishstat Plus file for the NW Atlantic with the data for 2001, they encountered difficulties and were obliged to call upon FAO for technical assistance. It was disconcerting to find that, due to the resignation of the staff member primarily responsible for the development of the software, this technical assistance was not available.

Eurostat is extremely satisfied with the Fishstat Plus software and, together with other CWP agencies, has been promoting its use, even in preference to its own NewCronos software. However, if the use of Fishstat Plus is to be promoted in future, it is essential that technical support for the software be available. Thus while Eurostat congratulates FAO for its work in developing the Fishstat Plus format and strongly advocates the continued use and development of the software, an assurance is sought from FAO that technical support (including documentation) is made available in the future.

XIX: Multi-lingual species file.

There are currently 11 official EU languages and this is likely to increase sharply with the accession of the Candidate Countries in 2004. EU legislation has to be made available in all of the official languages, a major task in itself, but made particularly onerous when, for example, the legislation includes in annexes long lists of fish species. Up until now these lists have been compiled on an *ad hoc* basis which, apart from the work involved, has often

resulted in discrepancies between the names for the same species in different legislation. In order to reduce the workload and increase the harmonization of names, work has started on a multi-lingual list of species items.

This list uses as the master-file the FAO's ASFIS file (with the 3-alpha identifier, English, French, Spanish and scientific names) and includes the possibility of adding the names of each item in the other official languages. The EU's Multi-lingual Dictionary of Aquatic Animals and Plants will be used as a major source of these names. In addition, each item will include references to the existing EU legislation in which they are mentioned and the FAO regions for which they are recorded in the catch statistics. Associated with the development of the list will also be software for up-dating the file and software for producing customized lists of species items.

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

The good working relationship and collaboration with the DG FISH, the major customer for fisheries data, has continued and has contributed significantly to the rational development to the statistical programme. Particularly useful has been the joint financing and elaboration of studies on employment in the fisheries sector and on socio-economic indicators for fisheries.

XXI: Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)

The CWP and its agencies continue to play a central role in the development and implementation of Eurostat's programme of fishery statistics. For its part, Eurostat ensures 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 agencies (for example, NAFO's Standing Committee for Research Coordination, ICES Statistics Liaison Working Group and GFCM's Sub-Committee on Information and Statistics.)

SUMMARY

(for inclusion in the CWP-20 report)

Since CWP-19, Eurostat has modified the EU catch legislation to increase the coverage of Elasmobranch species. A proposal is being developed for a modification to the legislation for the NE Atlantic incorporating NEAFC's request for a finer breakdown of ICES divisions X and XII.

A proposal for a modification to the legislation on landing statistics is also being developed, to include the reporting of the data by the flag of the vessels making the landings.

Studies have been undertaken on the availability of employment data in the fisheries sector of both EU Member States and the Candidate Countries and a trial questionnaire has been introduced.

A study is near completion on socio-economic indicators for fisheries and Eurostat is assisting in EU work on the development of indicators of sustainability in fisheries.

Close contacts 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 emailed Newsletter. The development of contacts with the EU Candidate Countries continues and the NewCronos database includes much data for these countries.

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

Eurostat has made a major contribution to the compilation of the CWP integrated data-file for Atlantic catch statistics and has aided the ICES and NAFO secretariats in up-dating their Fishstat Plus data files.

The development and implementation of the statistical programme depends heavily on the good relationship and collaboration developed with the Commission's Directorate-General for Fisheries, 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.