

January 2003



منظمة الأغذية
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de las
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Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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

1. Introduction

The following presentation brings attention to various matters addressed by NAFO that may relate to discussions at CWP-20. The material is generally ordered in the numbering sequence of the Provisional Agenda of CWP-20.

2. Organizational Updates

During 2002, the Scientific Council (SC) recommended that in addition to the Assistant Executive Secretary's continuing work on CWP matters and attendance of its meetings, the Vice Chair of the Scientific Council (SC), who is also the Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) should attend CWP sessions.

The NAFO Scientific Council Rules of Procedure were changed to include future attendance of SC Vice Chair/Chair of STACREC at CWP Sessions.

SC and STACREC, and indeed other NAFO Committees had a busy 2001 and 2002 on CWP related matters.

3. Elasmobranch Statistics

(Re: Provisional Agenda Item 7)

The SC hosted a major Symposium on "*Elasmobranch Fisheries: Managing for Sustainable Use and Biodiversity Conservation*" during 11-13 September 2002, during the NAFO Annual Meeting held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The Symposium was attended by 119 participants from 22 countries. The majority of the participants were from European countries, United States and Australia, where elasmobranchs and their exploitation are particularly important fisheries issues. However, the broad representation of countries highlighted the importance of elasmobranchs and their fisheries worldwide, and many key papers were presented.

The Keynote address summarized the current state of shark management issues worldwide. Fifty three (53) oral presentations and 30 posters were presented in the proceedings divided into four sessions: Life History and Demographic Analysis; Stock Identity; Stock Assessment and Harvest Strategies and Biodiversity Maintenance.

The Symposium discussions are summarized in September Scientific Council Report (www.nafo.ca/scicoun/2002/2002index.htm on NAFO website) and the proceedings will be published in the *NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science* (expected by early-2004).

4. NAFO Area Vessels

(Re: Provisional Agenda Item 12)

- a) **VMS.** The comprehensive Vessel Monitoring System to be used by NAFO Contracting Parties was installed at the NAFO Secretariat, and was operational in July 2001. The system provides for uninterrupted reports, to the NAFO Computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from vessels themselves and also from VMS of the Contracting Party conducting fishing activities in the NAFO area. Types of information recorded on this system include: entry reports, departure reports, movement reports, zonal reports, transshipment reports and position reports. The North Atlantic code format is used for digitized records.

In NAFO the VMS is governed by the Fisheries Commission in respect of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures. The information is relayed to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area on a real time basis.

There is a proposal to include additional reports, e.g. catch reports from vessel captains, observer reports (both of these will be used in a pilot project when finally approved by NAFO Fisheries Commission).

b) **Use of GRT vs. GT in Recording Fishing Vessels**

Regarding GRT and GT records, the NAFO SC noted that the concerns were with respect to calculating CPUE and maintaining long and comparable time series. Although the GT is increasingly being used to record the tonnage of fishing vessels, and thus the comparability of current CPUE data from different fleets was less at risk, care had to be taken when comparing these data over time. The Council agreed to continue to monitor the reporting schemes.

5. NAFO re FIGIS

(Re: Provisional Agenda Items 13 and 14)

The NAFO SC was informed of the progress made over the last 2 years on FIGIS/FIRMS. The Scientific Council observed several areas of concern regarding the Fisheries Global Information System and its development, including workload issues for the NAFO Secretariat as well as Scientific Council, questions on maintenance of data and preserving the wording of scientific advice provided by the Scientific Council and its advice to NAFO managers, possible involvement of some national agencies and level of support provided by FAO. The Scientific Council noted further discussion will be required in the Scientific Council Standing Committees as well as in other Committees within NAFO before specific recommendations concerning this project can be made.

The SC will review the outcome of CWP-20 and other FIGIS related meetings, at its meeting of June 2003.

6. NAFO Fishery Statistics

(Re: Provisional Agenda Item 17)

NAFO continues the acquisition of fishery statistics for the Northwest Atlantic (FAO Fishing Area 21) through the STATLANT system.

a) STATLANT 21A

The Rules of Procedure of the NAFO Scientific Council has the STATLANT 21A submission deadline of **15 May** for the preceding year's data. However, this has not always been achievable due to late submission by some countries. The late submission of fishery statistics impacts NAFO budgetary matters (budget is based on catches) and the stock assessment work by the Scientific Council in June each year.

The SC continued to use 21A data for their stock assessment work, however there were many lapses in country submissions, and SC continued to use data from various sources titled "STACFIS estimates"

The SC noted that some clarification was required between the officially reported STATLANT catch statistics and the data used in Scientific Council stock assessments and recommended that catch statistics used in SC's Scientific Advice to management and produced in SC tables and in the Scientific Council Summary Sheets should include both catch data used by the stock assessment (STACFIS estimates) as well as the officially reported STATLANT 21A data.

SC noted the usefulness of comparisons between STACFIS estimates used for assessment purposes and those officially report in STATLANT 21A. It was agreed that the Secretariat would produce such a comparison (as was done as an example in SCS Doc. 01/5) periodically, ideally every 3 years.

STATLANT 21A data were used by the Secretariat for the compilation of a publication (SCS Doc. 02/13) on "Historical Nominal Catches for Selected Stocks". In accordance with the recommendation of the Scientific Council to update reported catches, this document was expanded to include all stocks assessed by the Scientific Council.

b) STATLANT 21B

The Scientific Council Rules of Procedure has the deadline for the submission of STATLANT 21B reports of **30 June** for the preceding year's data. These data represent the final catch and effort statistics, which are used in the publication of the *NAFO Statistical Bulletin*.

Timely submission of data appear to have improved, however, individual incidents (such as a major reorganization of the USA database) have resulted in significant delays and

restructuring of the NAFO Statistical Bulletin. Data reports for 2000 to 2001 have been received from most countries, however these publications are significantly delayed due to the absence of a few submissions

c) **Publication of Statistical Information.**

The NAFO Scientific Council in June 2001 agreed to publish the Statistical Bulletin in absence of USA data. *Statistical Bulletins* for the year 1995 to 1999 were completed in the same manner as the Bulletin for 1994 without complete data for the USA. The *Statistical Bulletin* Tables 1, 2 and 3 were compiled in the usual manner, and for USA, incomplete data were available to incorporate total catch by species (giving total catch by species with no breakdown by Division), however, Tables 4 and 5 excluded USA STATLANT 21B data which were not available. Consequently some total catches reported were affected.

Data reports for 1995-98 were published in *NAFO Statistical Bulletins*, Vol. 45-48, in 2001, and for 1999 in Vol. 49 in 2002, in absence of USA data.

d) **Treatment of STATLANT 21 Statistics**

Since summer 1996 the NAFO database has been in WINDOWS 95 – ACCESS format. Data requests by users are fulfilled in a wide variety of formats.

In June 1998, the Scientific Council recommended that user access to data on the NAFO website be at the STATLANT 21A level and that access to 21B data should be via restricted FTP accounts.

NAFO 21A data, in a standard ASCII file format, is now placed on the NAFO website and updated data are uploaded as they are received. Data is now available for 1960-2002 (www.nafo.ca). Data are also available on request from the Secretariat as electronic or hard copies.

In 2001 the NAFO 21A files were converted to the format necessary to run under the FAO FISHSTAT Plus program. The data file and links to the FAO Software were published on the NAFO Website. Subsequently, technical problems emerged and there were some problems with the user support provided by FAO for this Software. NAFO data files have not been updated since January 2002.

e) **Interagency Data Harmonization**

The NAFO Secretariat continued to review the need to harmonize NAFO data with other international publications of NAFO area data (e.g. by FAO). No new harmonization exercises were needed since June 2001.

f) **Harp and Hooded Seals**

NAFO issues concerning stocks of Harp and Hooded Seals in the Northwest Atlantic are addressed, by request, by the Joint NAFO-ICES Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals. Each year the Scientific Council is presented a status report. The Working Group met intersessionally during 2001, and a report was presented to Scientific Council in

September 2001 (see *NAFO Sci. Coun. Rept.*, 2001 and 2002). The Working Group has scheduled a "Workshop to Develop Improved Methods for Providing Harp and Hooded Seal Harvest Advice" at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, MA, USA, on 11-13 February 2003.

g) **Research Activities, Biological Sampling**

The listings of Biological Sampling Data were prepared by the NAFO Secretariat. These listings (SCS Doc. 02/8) include biological sampling data for 2001 reported to the Secretariat.

h) **Further Development of PA Methodology**

Scientific Council discussed options for advancing further development of PA methodology. Several approaches were suggested including developing multi-species concepts, re-opening criteria, and additional measures to reduce exploitation on stocks, which are currently fished and those under moratorium.

Scientific Council agreed that a separate meeting devoted specifically toward advancing the PA methodology will be required. It was agreed that a Workshop be held in St. John's, Newfoundland during 31 March to 4 April 2003.

i) **Publications** (March 1999 to present)

NAFO Statistical Bulletin, Vol. 45 for 1995 (October 2001)

" " " Vol. 46 for 1996 (November 2001)

" " " Vol. 47 for 1997 (November 2001)

" " " Vol. 48 for 1998 (November 2001)

" " " Vol. 49 for 1999 (January 2002)

NAFO Scientific Council Report, 2001 (January 2002)

" " " " , 2002 (January 2003)

Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Vol. 29 (December 2001)

" " " " " , Vol. 30 (December 2001)

NAFO Scientific Council Studies, No. 34 (October 2001)

Other Meeting Documents Relevant to Statistics (January 2001-June 2002)

- Tagging Activities Reported for the Northwest Atlantic in 2000. (NAFO SCS Doc. 01/16, 2 p.)

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- Provisional Index and List of Titles of Research and Summary Documents of 2000. (NAFO SCS Doc. 01/8, 25 p.)
 - List of Biological Sampling Data for 2000. (NAFO SCS Doc. 01/11, 15 p.)
 - Notes on Acquisition and Publication of Statistics since June 2000. (NAFO SCS Doc. 01/20, 2 p.)
 - Tagging Activities Reported for the Northwest Atlantic in 2001 and early-2002. (NAFO SCS Doc. 02/17, 19 p.)
 - Provisional Index and List of Titles of Research and Summary Documents of 2001. (NAFO SCS Doc. 02/5, 43 p.)
 - List of Biological Sampling Data for 2001. (NAFO SCS Doc. 02/8, 24 p.)
 - Notes on Acquisition and Publication of Statistics since June 2001. (NAFO SCS Doc. 02/14, 2 p.)