



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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Organización
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Working Group on Fisheries Statistics

**21-22 April 2009
at NEAFC Headquarters, London**

REPORT

1. Opening of the meeting and election of Chair and Vice-chair

The Secretary opened the meeting at 10 am on 21 April in the meeting room on the 3rd floor of Berners Street. All Contracting Parties were present except the Russian Federation. As this was the first meeting of a new group, he suggested that the representatives introduced themselves. He then suggested that, before going on to the agenda, the Secretariat should give background information and then ask for nominations for Chair and Vice-chair for the Working Group. This was agreed and the Secretariat went through the set up of the present system and the problems encountered.

After the presentation the comment was made that it was difficult to find out what the Scheme really requires. It would be a good idea to try to specify precisely what the statistics should contain. Problems meeting deadlines, when data on ICES areas have to be based on logbooks, were mentioned.

The Secretariat pointed out that some of the current problems are caused by the general philosophy of the Scheme that reports should be automatic. Although a fully automatic system might be desirable, quality control is easier in simpler reporting systems and such systems fulfilled the needs of quota uptake statistics.

Some cases were then presented on the projector. Article 10 of the Scheme sets out the reports required, both for areas in and beyond national jurisdiction (JUR and REP) and regulated species in Annex 1 and reporting formats in Annex VI.

One party reports in excel sheets sent by e-mail, one automatically to the database, both with ICES areas and in both cases meeting the requirements of the Scheme. One reports on a basic excel sheet without ICES areas. This makes the processing of the data quite cumbersome for the Secretariat. The reports at the Annual Meeting are kept in a simple format without ICES areas; landings by stock country and jurisdiction. The Secretariat noted that last year Contracting Parties brought data to the Annual Meeting and the monthly reports were not used for compiling

preliminary data for the year 2008. It was pointed out that, if there was regular feedback to Contracting Parties, the system would be improved.

The Secretariat demonstrated the application developed two years ago allowing Contracting Parties to input data directly into a specific database for Monthly Catches according to Article 10 in the Scheme. If it agreement was reached on this special database for monthly catches, with direct input from the Contracting Parties, real time data on quota uptakes would be available.

The Secretariat pointed out that if monthly catches were submitted in a simple format, it would not be a problem for the Secretariat to compile the data.

After the presentation the general feeling seemed to be to go for simplicity, something like the tables made at the Annual Meeting. The output should determine what input was necessary.

The Secretary then asked for nominations for Chair and Vice-chair

The Icelandic representative, Helga Sigurrós Valgeirsdóttir, was elected Chair and the EU representative, Jacques Verborgh, Vice-chair.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and appointment of rapporteur

The first draft agenda was sent out in early February. It was suggested that the Secretariat should act as rapporteur. The EU suggested that at some stage the NAFO system should be considered. This could be addressed under item 5 where also other reporting systems could be considered. The EU also suggested that all data could be considered, except those under *Agenda item 6 - cooperation with ICES*. This was agreed and the agenda adopted. The Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Terms of Reference of the Working Group

The group took note of the terms of reference. The Chair asked if the WG would have the responsibility of preparing catch data for the Annual Meeting. The answer was yes and it was pointed out that it was important that tables were prepared before any meetings. It should be possible to meet other Contracting Parties to discuss the data. There were no further comments on the ToR.

4. Statistical Data recorded by the Secretariat

- a) Reporting of quota uptakes by Contracting Parties (REP and JUR)**
- b) Weekly Catch Reports from fishing vessels**
- c) VMS database**
- d) Catches reported through the Port State Control System**
- e) Catches reported from IUU vessels**

The Secretariat added some information to that given at the beginning of the meeting, particularly highlighting progress and problems in reporting under 4. Data under a) – e). a) – c) in the VMS database and d) and e) are kept on separate records.

The data contain much information, but no statistics are produced which could be of use to others. The Working Group may have an opinion as to whether it would be useful to make statistics from these data. It was pointed out that Contracting Parties already make use of these data for their own control purposes.

With respect to data on catches of IUU vessels, these are not submitted to any other users. It was pointed out that monthly catch reports, a), had statistical significance, where the others were primarily of importance for control purposes. The Chair agreed and suggested we should therefore concentrate on a). “Opportunistic” data, such as data on IUU fishing, could be passed on by the Secretariat. New statistical procedures should not be invented.

The Chair summarised that there seemed to be agreement that the Group should concentrate on 4.a). The possible reporting of other data for purposes other than control should be considered at a later date.

5. Changing the Reporting of Monthly Catches (REP and JUR)

Reporting is not satisfactory for monitoring uptake of quotas. The Secretariat has pointed out that one of the problems is that this reporting is regulated by the Scheme of Control and Enforcement rather than a specific recommendation on statistics under Article 9 of the NEAFC Convention.¹

The reporting of REP and JUR is confounded by some stipulations of the Scheme, demanding reporting by species and ICES statistical divisions or subdivision. What is really needed is reporting by regulated fish stocks.

The Secretariat introduced doc. WG Stats 2009/03. The point in maintaining Article 10 of the Scheme if a separate recommendation on monthly catches was agreed was questioned. On the other hand it was felt practical to have all statistical requirements in one place, the Scheme. The Chair was not certain how to put it into the Scheme. At least the Group should reach agreement on the format and whether the information should be on the public or private part of the website.

The Chair asked whether there was any problem in making all data public. One suggestion was that the data should be public at least when they had been consolidated at the Annual Meeting. The Chair thought we should follow the NAFO practice. This was agreed.

Preliminary monthly data will be placed on the private part of the website and consolidated annual data on the public part. One Party pointed out that the monthly data are cumulated and these could be on the public site. Another Party felt it could be useful to have monthly data for comparison. This can be solved by reporting monthly on the private website with the addition of cumulation. This again means that whether corrections should be done on a monthly or

¹ ARTICLE 9

1. The Commission may by a qualified majority make recommendations providing for the collection of statistical information relating to fisheries conducted beyond areas under the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.

2. The Commission may also make recommendations providing for the collection of statistical information relating to fisheries conducted within an area under the jurisdiction of a Contracting Party, provided that the recommendation receives the affirmative vote of that Contracting Party.

cumulative basis has to be decided upon. The Chair suggested that corrections should be made on a monthly basis. One party would prefer to report monthly and correct the cumulated figures. The Chair agreed as the Working Group has the possibility of discussing the figures for each month. It was pointed out that if corrections were made in the cumulated data it would not be possible to compare individual months. The Chair accepted this, but would not like to put additional burden on reporting agencies. Individual cases could be addressed before the Annual Meeting. One party reminded that there still was the option to input data to the NEAFC reporting facility. However, this would create problems for some parties.

The Chair summarised we should report on a monthly basis and allow corrections in the cumulation. It was accepted that, if monthly data were available according to an agreed deadline, checking could start immediately and problems could be sorted out on a bilateral basis. The Chair's proposal was then agreed.

The Group went on to discuss the table format. One possibility is one row for the month and a cumulative row. The table will be available on the NEAFC website and can be filled in by CPs and forwarded to NEAFC. The output should be as for the Annual Meeting. The Secretariat presented two examples.

The deadlines for reporting and for the Secretariat to make compilation will be maintained. The reporting record of Contracting Parties should be included in reporting (as in NAFO).

The Secretariat introduced a draft recommendation for reporting monthly catches. It was suggested that the Scheme's definitions of units should be included (with ICES Sub-areas). Some other amendments to the text were proposed.

The EU representative pointed out that the EU needed time to discuss the practicalities with member states and changes had to be made in EU law. He, therefore, did not see any possibility for implementation before 1 February 2011. It was agreed that the changes should be implemented 'not later than'. If some Contracting Parties were able to implement before, that should be possible. The Secretariat will circulate the information in whatever format it is received.

The Secretariat had drafted a format for reporting tables both for input and for output. There were some amendments and suggestions. Input tables will go by CP, month, zone and species. The same will be repeated for cumulation. It can be done by an excel sheet or the NEAFC facility. Both options should be available on the website.

It was pointed out that, if implementation is no later than 2011, there would be time to work out precisely the most efficient way to report the monthly data.

It was agreed that Contracting Parties will be responsible for the data submitted in a format that can be easily aggregated. The following elements were listed:

Contracting Party, jurisdiction (as they are now), stock-species catch per month, catch cumulated for the year.

Heading: CP, month,
Table: stock-species, jurisdiction.
An identical table for cumulated data.

This was agreed.

The Chair then wanted to reach a decision on whether this should be a specific recommendation or an amendment to the Scheme. She summarised the amendments to the draft recommendation and the elements to report attached.

The Recommendation will take in Annex 1 from the Scheme. The Working Group will suggest to PECCOE that it may consider bringing the Scheme in line. It was pointed out that Annex V is superfluous after the STATLANT had been changed, at the request of NEAFC, to report catches split between national zones and the Regulatory Area.

Article 10 would just refer to the specific recommendation for monthly catches.

The first day of the meeting was closed and will resume at 10 the following day. The Chair had to leave London because of other commitments. The meeting on the second day was chaired by the Vice-chair.

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting and informed delegates that the Secretariat had revised the recommendation according to the consensus the day before and had also drafted two examples of the reporting table format.

It was agreed that the provisions of the recommendation should be implemented not later than 1 February 2011 and that there should also be a commitment to submit annual data for the previous year not later than 1 July the following year.

It was pointed out that there was a difference between the stock areas defined by ICES and the NEAFC Scheme (especially for blue whiting). It was agreed that the Group would ask PECCOE about the reasoning behind the NEAFC area list. The last column will read NEAFC area list as in the Scheme. The attention of PECCOE will be drawn to the list.

The Group agreed on stock codes which should be inserted into the recommendation.

The Secretariat then introduced a proposal for a table for input data. It was pointed out that it should be very easy for Contracting Parties to make these reports because the only difference is that catches are now reported by stock and not by ICES area. It was noted that at present deep-sea catches are not reported by zone. The Vice-Chair suggested that the group concentrated on the elements of the table rather than the technical solutions to produce the data.

There was a choice between one long table with zones in rows and a version with two shorter tables with zones in columns.

After some discussion it was agreed to recommend the long table and attach it to the recommendation. The Secretariat will describe the elements in an annex to the table and run tests for consideration by the Working Group.

It was also agreed that there was no need to define the output. It can easily be changed if necessary.

The proposal for a recommendation was then adopted as amended. A copy is attached.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) reminded the Group that there was a problem with the identification of catches based on Greenlandic quotas, which should be traceable in the statistics. The matter has been discussed in PECCOE. He suggested that catch reports should contain a footnote indicating the origin of the quota. It was suggested that the parties involved should sort this out bilaterally and inform NEAFC about the bilateral arrangement. This would allow the WG to consider the matter

6. Cooperation on data with ICES

NEAFC has had a recommendation since February 2007 for information on measures established for deep-sea species in the NEAFC Convention Area and the submission of scientific information on deep-sea fisheries. No NEAFC body has looked at the reporting under this recommendation. Contracting Parties had been invited to report and comment on the data and if necessary amend them.

The EU representative (the EU originally made the proposal) did not see this as a going concern. The EU now submits these data directly to ICES according to specifications. Norway had similar arrangements providing logbook information for some deep sea fisheries, communicated to ICES through national research institutions.

It was agreed that, as there are now direct links from Contracting Parties to ICES, the recommendation was unnecessary and should expire.

It was decided to keep the general issue of making NEAFC data available to other users as a permanent agenda item.

7. Cooperation with FAO

a. CWP

b. FIRMS

The Secretariat reported on these programmes and suggested that this became a permanent agenda item under which the Secretariat will update the Working Group on progress and developments.

8. Other projects

The Secretariat reported on various projects in which it has participated and it was agreed that this issue should be kept on the agenda.

9. Report of the meeting

The Report of the Meeting has been based on the Summary Records and circulated on 8 May; participants will have one week to comment.

10. Future Meetings

It was suggested tentatively that the next meeting will be held back to back with the PECCOE and AGDC meetings, preferably 15 October in the afternoon. It was felt that it would not be necessary to have a meeting during the Annual Meeting. The group could work by correspondence if there are any problems after the October meeting.

The main issue will be the preparation of the catch report for the Annual Meeting.

11. Any other business

None

12. Actions arising

The recommendation will be circulated to HODs and PECCOE. The Secretariat will prepare catch summaries for the October meeting and Contracting Parties should be able to deliver data for August for that meeting. The Secretariat will circulate the catch reports it receives. The Secretariat will make the proposed forms available on the website.

The Vice-Chair closed the meeting at 12:25 thanked everybody and wished them a safe journey home.

Recommendation yy

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING IN 2009 TO ADOPT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9, 1 and 2, OF THE CONVENTION, PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO FISHERIES BEYOND AND UNDER THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:

Recognising the need to establish a more efficient reporting system for uptakes of quotas from resources regulated by NEAFC the Contracting Parties have agreed the following measures:

1. Each Contracting Party shall, within 30 days following the calendar month in which the catches were landed, or transhipped, report to the Secretary, provisional monthly statistics of catches from stocks listed below. These reports shall be made in accordance with the specifications and format given below, whether or not that Party has quota allocations for the stocks from which catches were obtained.
2. The Secretary shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collate the information received and circulate it to the Contracting Parties. Annual catch data should be submitted not later than 1 July of the following year.
3. This Article shall also apply to Regulated Resources caught in areas under national fisheries jurisdiction.
4. The stock units/regulated resources to be reported by are:

Stock units	Stock code	NEAFC stock – common name	Species			NEAFC area list as defined in the Scheme, Annex 1
ICES definitions			Common name	FAO code	Scientific name	ICES Sub-areas & Divisions
Norwegian spring spawning herring	XHE	Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto Scandian)	Herring	HER	Clupea harengus	I, II
Blue whiting combined stock Sub Area I-IX, XII, XIV	XWH	Blue whiting	Blue whiting	WHB	Micromesistius poutassou	IIa, IVa, Vb, VI, VII, XII, XIV
North East Atlantic Mackerel	XMA	Mackerel	Mackerel	MAC	Scomber scombrus	IIa, IV, V, VI, VII, XII
Rockall haddock	XHA	Haddock	Haddock	HAD	Melanogrammus aeglefinus	VIb
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	XIS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	Sebastes mentella	V, XII, XIV
Pelagic redfish Sub Areas I, II	XNS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	Sebastes mentella	I, II
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Annex I, B Scheme list	See list	See list	I - XIV

5. An input table is annexed to this recommendation
6. The provisions in this recommendation should be implemented not later than [1 February 2011].

RR Regulated Resource (Scheme, Annex 1)

Species common name	FAO code
Redfish	REB
Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring (Atlanto Scandian)	HER
Blue whiting	WHB
Mackerel	MAC
Haddock	HAD
Baird's smoothhead	ALC
Risso's smoothhead	PHO
Blue antimora (Blue hake)	ANT
Black scabbardfish	BSF
Iceland catshark	API
Greater silver smelt	ARG
Alfonsinos	ALF
Tusk	USK
Gulper shark	GUP
Leafscale gulper shark	GUQ
Black dogfish	CFB
Portuguese dogfish	CYO
Longnose velvet dogfish	CYP
Deep-water red crab	KEF
Rabbit fish (Rattail)	CMO
Frilled shark	HXC
Conger eel	COE
Roundnose grenadier	RNG
Kitefin shark	SCK
Birdbeak dogfish	DCA
Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	EPI
Greater lanternshark	SHL
Velvet belly	SHL
Blackmouth dogfish	SHO
Mouse catshark	GAM
Bluemouth (Blue mouth redfish)	BRF
Blondnose six-gilled shark	SBL
Orange roughy	ORY
Silver roughy (Pink)	HPR
Large-eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	CYH
Silver scabbard fish (Cutless fish)	SFS
Eelpout	ELP
Roughhead grenadier (Rough rattail)	RHG
Blue ling	BLI

Ling	LIN
Common mora	RIB
Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	OXN
Red (blackspot) seabream	SBR
Forkbeards	GFB
Wreckfish	WRF
Round skate	RJY
Arctic skate	RJG
Norwegian skate	JAD
Greenland halibut	GHL
Straightnose rabbitfish	RCT
Knifetooth dogfish	SYR
Small redfish (Norway haddock)	SFV
Greenland shark	GSK
Spiny (Deep-sea) Scorpionfish	TJX

STK	Stock code	ICES definition/name
	XIS	Pelagic redfish (<i>S. mentella</i>) in the Irminger Sea
	XNS	Pelagic redfish (<i>S. mentella</i>) in ICES sub-areas I and II
	XMA	North east Atlantic Mackerel
	XHE	Norwegian spring spawning Herring
	XWH	Blue whiting combined stock
	XHA	Rockall Haddock
	XDS	Deep sea fisheries

ZON	Fishing grounds either international waters or EEZs
	XNE NEAFC's Regulatory Area
	XNW NAFO's Regulatory Area
	XNW-GRL Greenland's EEZ within NAFO Convention Area
	XEU European Union EEZs
	XSV Svalbard
	XJM Jan Mayen
	FRO Faroe Islands EEZ
	GRL Greenland EEZ FAO27
	ISL Iceland EEZ
	NOR Norway EEZ
	RUS Russian Federation EEZ

CA Monthly catch landed
 Quantity in metric tonnes of catch landed or transhipped in the relevant month.
 No decimals, rounded up.

CC Cumulative catch landed
 Quantity in metric tonnes of cumulative catch landed up to and including the relevant month. No decimals, rounded up.