



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE THIRD REGULAR SESSION

13-24 August 2007
Honolulu, United States of America

THE COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS

WCPFC-SC3-2007/GN WP-12

Paper prepared by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The second regular session of the Scientific Committee, 7-18 August 2006 at Manila, Philippines recommended that the Executive Director attend the 22nd meeting of the Coordinated Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP22), 27 February-2 March 2007 with a view to providing advice to the third regular session of the Scientific Committee as to whether more formal, ongoing involvement would be beneficial and achievable.

The CWP

2. A summary of the history and background of the CWP, including its Statutes and Rules of Procedure, is presented at Attachment A. The material for this was taken from the FAO website <http://www.fao.org/fi/>

CWP22

3. Representatives of the following organisations participated in CWP22:
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
 - Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)
 - Commission for the Conservation Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)
 - Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
 - General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)
 - Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
 - International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)
 - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
 - Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
 - Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) which also represented the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

4. Issues on the CWP22 agenda of interest to WCPFC included the coordination and harmonisation of fishery statistics collected by regional fisheries bodies, managing statistics generated by trade documentation schemes, data issues associated with monitoring, control and surveillance (including the use of data for scientific purposes, global vessel lists, inclusion of data for support vessels and vessels less than 24m, and global IUU vessel lists), vessel and port data (including classification of ports (UN-LOCODE)), and fishery data quality indicators.

5. SEAFDEC proposed to change the northern boundary between fishing areas 57 and 71 in the Malacca Strait to be consistent with sub-national boundaries. CWP22 noted that the proposed change would cause inconsistency between the boundary of between IOTC and WCPFC statistical areas. It was concluded that CWP would support SEAFDEC's proposal to change the boundary between FAO Major Fishing Areas 57 and 71 on the condition that IOTC and WCPFC would be consulted, and had no objections, and that historical data according to the new boundary could be submitted to FAO. The meeting agreed that the SEAFDEC, in consultation with Secretariat, would be responsible for facilitating further consultation on this proposal.

6. A report of the meeting is available at: ftp://ftp.fao.org/fi/DOCUMENT/cwp/cwp_22/CPPS_report.pdf

WCPFC and CWP: Advice

7. As the CWP is the principle global body for coordination and harmonization of the processes for the collection of fishery statistics (both scientific and increasingly compliance related), and noting that the WCPFC is the only tuna RFMO not actively participating in the CWP, it is recommended that WCPFC formally apply to become a member of the CWP.

8. Membership does not mean that the WCPFC is required to participate in every meeting of the CWP. It is suggested that WCPFC participation in CWP meetings be on an opportunistic basis taking into account costs and other logistical considerations (for example coordinating it with other activities of relevance to WCPFC – such as participating in COFI or other meetings of RFBs/RFMOs). This would not preclude WCPFC being able to actively engage in inter-sessional, or other CWP-meeting related activities, by electronic means.

The Coordinated Working Party on Fishery Statistics

Introduction

1. The stated purpose of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) is to:
 - a. keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics for research, policy-making and management,
 - b. agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics, and
 - c. make proposals for the coordination and streamlining of statistical activities amongst relevant intergovernmental organizations.

Background and history

2. An Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area at Edinburgh, Scotland, 22-29 September 1959), sponsored by FAO and attended by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) (the predecessor to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)), considered the requirements for fishery statistics for the North Atlantic.

3. The Meeting proposed common definitions and classifications for the collection of statistics on catches, fishing effort, manpower (fishermen) and fishery commodities. It also made recommendations in respect of observer programmes to collect data on discards at sea, the use of conversion factors for the estimation of live weight equivalent catch from landed product weight and that the flag of the vessel be used to determine the country of origin of direct foreign landings - and that countries should exchange information on such landings. The Meeting reviewed and proposed the FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Commodities (ISSCFC) for use in the North Atlantic area and asked FAO to draw the attention of other international organizations interested in fishery commodity statistics to this classification. It recommended that progress with the collection and analysis of fishery statistics be kept under continuous review and requested the Director-General of the FAO to arrange for its Fisheries Division to function as Secretariat for the meetings of this Working Party.

4. The FAO Conference at its Tenth Session in 1959 adopted Resolution 23/59 under which the Conference welcomed the suggestion for the establishment of a Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area and agreed that the "Working Party should consist of one government expert each nominated by the Governments of Canada, Germany, Iceland and the United Kingdom, one expert each nominated by the Secretary-General of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the Executive Secretary of the International Commission of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, one expert nominated by the Director General of FAO, and such additional experts as may be nominated by the Working Party itself". Finally, the Resolution requested "the Director General to establish the Working Party in accordance with Article VI of the FAO Constitution and to arrange for the FAO Fisheries Division to function as secretariat for the Working Party".

5. The FAO Council, at its Fifty-first Session (1968, Resolution 1/51), altered the title of the Working Party to the Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (also abbreviated

to CWP) and decided that it would be "... composed of experts; FAO, ICES and ICNAF each appointing up to four experts in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures". The FAO Council confirmed that, i) as far as FAO was concerned, the CWP was a working party of experts established under Article VI-2 of the Constitution, (ii) it authorized the Director-General of FAO, in accordance with Article VI-3 of the Constitution, to determine the terms of reference of the CWP in agreement with ICES and ICNAF, and (iii) agreed that FAO should continue to provide the secretariat services for the Working Party.

6. At its Ninth Session in 1977, the CWP discussed the suggestion of an extension of its membership and area of activity to cover the world's seas. It was agreed that there was a need for a world-wide coordination of organizations responsible for tuna fisheries, having regard to the very high mobility of the fishing fleets and the resource. The CWP suggested that a coordinating working party on tuna statistics should be set up on a world basis.

7. At its Tenth Session (1980, Madrid), the CWP recommended "that FAO obtain the approval of its appropriate governing bodies to dissolve the present Working Party as an FAO statutory body". It proposed that CWP be reconstituted as an "independent inter-agency consultation forum" with representation as follows: FAO (up to five participants), ICCAT, ICES, ICSEAF, NAFO, CCAMLR (each up to three participants), Eurostat (one participant, plus one EEC member country participant if none was nominated by ICCAT, ICES, ICSEAF, NAFO or CCAMLR) and OECD (one participant). These recommendations were not agreed by all participating organizations and so the proposed reconstitution did not take effect.

8. The *Ad hoc* Consultation on Global Tuna Statistics (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 6-7 December 1985) agreed that each tuna organization was in the best position to collect, improve and comment on the data for its own area of responsibility and that they, therefore, had a vital role to play in improving data at the global level. It further agreed that some form of inter-organization collaboration was essential if improved coverage and more reliable global tuna statistics were to become a reality and that there was a need to establish some mechanism like the CWP for the coordination of statistical programmes for organizations concerned with tuna statistics.

9. The Second *Ad hoc* Consultation on Global Tuna Statistics (La Jolla, California, 21-22 May 1987) further considered the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a formal body to coordinate tuna statistical programmes. The consensus was that "(1) it would be more desirable to formalize the group rather than continue in an *ad hoc* fashion; and (2) the most advantageous way to accomplish this would be to formalize as an FAO body rather than under one of the regional agencies or the CWP". Such a coordinating body for organizations concerned with tuna statistics has not yet been formed, however.

10. At its Fifteenth Session in July 1992, the CWP recommended that the word "Atlantic" be dropped from its title so as to encourage the participation of organizations concerned with areas outside the Atlantic and so facilitate the discussion of fishery statistical issues of global significance.

11. The *Ad hoc* Consultation on the Role of Regional Fishery Agencies in Relation to High Seas Fishery Statistics (La Jolla, USA, 13-16 December 1993) recognised the global nature of many of the issues discussed at CWP and the usefulness of extending the brief of CWP to a global level. Some concerns were expressed as to the number of participants which might attend global CWP meetings and the time and travel costs which would be incurred. It was noted, however, that these concerns could be met to some extent by using regional sub-groups to review

specific regional issues. The Consultation recommended that the CWP should extend its brief to a global scale.

Reconstitution of the CWP in 1995

12. The *Ad hoc* Inter-Agency Consultation on Atlantic Fishery Statistics (Madrid, 11-16 July 1994) was convened to consider the Statutes and Rules of Procedure for CWP. The Report of the Consultation proposed new Statutes and draft Rules of Procedure. The proposed new Statutes were designed to (1) regularise the composition of the Working Party according to previous CWP recommendations and decisions of member organizations, (2) provide a sound basis (including more focused terms of reference) for the CWP to meet the challenges resulting from the enhanced role of regional fishery organizations in relation to statistics which is likely to result from the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and (3) ensure that only minor modifications to the Statutes would be required if it is decided at a later stage to extend the remit of the CWP to areas outside the Atlantic.

13. At its Annual Meeting in September 1994, NAFO agreed to endorse the proposed Statutes and further agreed that in order to provide for the possibility of future expansion to other areas, all references to "Atlantic" (including the title of the Working Party) be removed so that the geographical remit of the CWP will be defined only by its composition. The proposed Statutes as modified by NAFO were also endorsed by ICES at its Annual Science Conference in September 1994 and the Hundred and Eighth Session of the FAO Council in June 1995. Eurostat, CCAMLR, ICCAT and NASCO have also subscribed to them. The new Statutes are presented at Annex A.

14. The Sixteenth Session of CWP (Madrid, 20-25 March 1995) adopted the new Rules of Procedure as presented in Annex B.

15. At the Sixteenth Session, two concerns were expressed about the extension of the work of the CWP to the global scale: the implication for travel costs for all agencies and the possible diminution in the time available for discussion of issues pertinent to the Atlantic. The CWP considered that these concerns could be met by careful consideration of the frequency of full meetings of the CWP and by holding meetings of regional sub-groups in the intersessional periods as suggested by the *Ad hoc* Consultation on the Role of Fishery Agencies in Relation to High Seas Fishery Statistics.

Participation

16. Organisations that have participated in CWP include: FAO, ICES, NAFO, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF, subsequently dissolved), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). FAO fishery regional bodies such as the Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOTC), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAF) have also participated. In addition, there has been

occasional participation by experts from other organizations such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

Frequency of Meetings

17. The Working Party has held twenty two Sessions since 1960, generally meeting about every two years.

Admission of New Organizations to the CWP

18. The admission to the CWP of intergovernmental organizations having competence in fishery statistics is provided for in item 2 of the Statutes and paragraph 14 of the Rules of Procedure. The Sixteenth Session of the CWP agreed (paragraph 170 of the report) the following procedure for handling applications: "In discussing the procedure for admitting new organisations to the CWP, the CWP agreed that applications could be handled inter-sessionally by correspondence. To help existing participating organisations to reach their own internal decisions on whether to support the admission of an applicant organisation, it was suggested that applicants should be asked to provide information on the objectives of their organisation, their involvement in fishery statistics collection, compilation and publication and the composition of their governing body."

STATUTES

1. **TERMS OF REFERENCE.** The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) shall:

- (i) keep under continuous review the requirements for fishery statistics (including aquaculture) for the purposes of research, policy-making and management, taking into account *inter alia* their purpose, usefulness, cost, burden in collection and collation, timeliness, quality, confidentiality needs and regional differences;
- (ii) agree standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for the collection and collation of fishery statistics;
- (iii) make proposals and recommendations for action in relation to the collection, collation and dissemination of fishery statistics, recognising the need to coordinate activities so as to avoid duplication.

2. **COMPOSITION.** The Working Party shall be composed of experts nominated by intergovernmental organizations which have a competence in fishery statistics. The following shall be the participating organizations initially:

- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Statistical Office of the European Communities (EU/Eurostat)

Participating organizations may admit other intergovernmental organizations having competence in fishery statistics. Participating organizations may withdraw from the Working Party.

Each of the participating organizations may nominate up to five experts in accordance with their respective internal procedures.

3. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary to the Working Party shall be appointed by the Director General of FAO and shall be administratively responsible to him.

4. **RULES OF PROCEDURE.** The Working Party will adopt its own Rules of Procedure and amendments thereto which shall come into force unless any participating organization objects within three months of the adoption.

5. **AMENDMENTS OF STATUTES.** Proposals for amendments to the Statutes shall be submitted to the CWP Secretary by one or more participating organizations or shall be recommended by the Working Party. Amendments shall come into force upon receipt by the CWP Secretary of notification of approval by all of the participating organizations in accordance with their respective internal procedures.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

1. SESSIONS. Unless contrary to the views of the majority of participating organizations, the interval between successive sessions of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) shall not exceed three years. The Working Party shall meet on announcement by the CWP Secretary who shall respect the wishes of the majority of participating organizations. The announcement shall generally be made at least six months before the session starts.

2. AGENDA. A provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the CWP Secretary in collaboration with the secretariats of the participating organizations. The first item on the provisional agenda shall be the adoption of the agenda. The agenda shall be distributed with the announcement of the session.

3. NOMINATION OF EXPERTS. Participating organizations should, where possible, notify the CWP Secretary of the names and affiliations of their nominated experts at least four months before the session.

4. DOCUMENTATION. Documents for each session should, if possible, be distributed to all participating organizations and nominated experts at least two months before the session. Each participating organization shall be responsible for the timely distribution of its documents in accordance with the mailing list supplied by the CWP Secretary.

5. OFFICERS. At the start of the Session, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman appointed at the previous session shall call the session to order. In their absence, the CWP Secretary will call the session to order. Following adoption of the agenda, the Working Party shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members; they shall remain in office until the election of the new Chairman and new Vice-Chairman at the next session. The outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be eligible for re-election.

6. EXPENSES. The expenses incurred by experts attending sessions of the Working Party shall be borne by the nominating organization or as otherwise arranged between the experts and the respective nominating organizations.

7. WORKING LANGUAGE. English shall be the working language of the Working Party.

8. VOTING. A majority of the participating organizations shall constitute a quorum. Each participating organization is entitled to one vote. Decisions of the Working Party shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast by those present at the session. When necessary, the Chairman may exercise a casting vote.

9. REPORTS. At each session the Working Party shall adopt a report of the session which will include *inter alia* all decisions and recommendations. The report shall be distributed by the CWP Secretary to the participating organizations and nominated experts, and to other individuals or organizations as requested by the Working Party. FAO should make the report available as widely as possible.

10. MONITORING OF RECOMMENDATIONS. Although recommendations and decisions of the Working Party are not binding on participating organizations, the Working Party shall monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations and decisions.

11. INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. The Working Party may arrange such intersessional activities as are required for its effective functioning, including *inter alia* holding informal preparatory meetings, holding meetings of regional or subject groups, preparation of working papers, and communication by correspondence.

12. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. Suspension of the Rules of Procedure may be adopted by the Working Party by a two thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension had been given to the Working Party.

13. AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be adopted by the Working Party by a two thirds majority of the participating organizations provided that three months notice of the proposal for the amendment had been given to all participating organizations. An amendment shall come into force unless any objection is received by the CWP Secretary from any participating organization within three months of being adopted.

14. NEW PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS. An intergovernmental organization having competence in fishery statistics may become a participating organization of the Working Party if it is so decided by a two thirds majority of the participating organizations provided that three months notice of the proposed admission had been given to all participating organizations.

15. WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS. Any participating organization may withdraw from the Working Party after giving three months' notice to the CWP Secretary who will inform other participating organizations. If a participating organization does not provide any experts for three consecutive sessions without notification, it will be deemed to have withdrawn.