

**Report of the**

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**TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COORDINATING WORKING  
PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS**

**Rome, 27 February–2 March 2007**



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## PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is the report of the twenty-second session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), held in Rome, Italy, from 27 February to 2 March 2007.

FAO.

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### ABTRACT

The report of the twenty-second session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Rome, Italy, 27 February–2 March 2007, is presented. Topics discussed were: enhancement of regional fishery bodies and the FishCode Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries partnership; review of progress by member organizations; aquaculture statistics; issues related to vessel and port classification; fishery data quality indicators; FishStat Plus status; review of recommendations from the CWP twenty-first session; review of reports from expert consultations and workshops; improvement in visibility of CWP.

### **Distribution:**

FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department  
FAO Regional and Subregional Fishery Officers  
FAO Members  
CWP Members  
Participants



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## **OPENING OF THE SESSION AND WELCOME**

(Agenda item 1)

1. The twenty-second session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP–22) was held at FAO from 27 February to 2 March 2007. Representatives of the following organizations participated in the meeting:

- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
- Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)
- Commission for the Conservation of 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 Organization (SEAFO)
- Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

The meeting was informed that WCPFC also represented the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) by its nomination. Participant list is in Appendix 1.

2. The CWP Chairperson, Hans Lassen (ICES) opened the meeting. Mr Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, welcomed the participants and reminded the meeting of the long history of CWP and its important role as the main global coordinating body for fisheries statistics. Opening statement is attached as Appendix 4.

## **REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP**

(Agenda item 2)

3. Since CWP–21, NEAFC has become a member of CWP following its application in December 2005.

4. GFCM has informed the CWP Secretary of its intention to request membership and its application is currently being processed. In the meantime, GFCM will attend CWP–22 as a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) under FAO.

5. The meeting was informed of a change in the CWP Secretariat: Sachiko Tsuji is replacing Richard Grainger as the CWP Secretary since October 2005.

## **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

(Agenda item 3)

6. A revised proposed Agenda was distributed to the meeting. “Separation of catch taken in EEZs and in high seas” and “Data collection after termination of the MoU between SEAFDEC and FAO in relation to collation of tuna fishery statistics” were identified for discussion under “Other business”. With those amendments, the agenda was adopted (Appendix 2). A list of acronyms used in this report is provided in Appendix 9.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

(Agenda item 4)

7. The current vice-chairperson, Ms Johanne Fischer (NAFO), was elected as a Chairperson. Mr David Ramm (CCAMLR) was elected as a Vice-chairperson.

## **ENHANCEMENT OF RFBs AND FISHCODE–STF PARTNERHSIP**

(Agenda item 5)

8. The FishCode–STF project team leader, Mr Gertjan de Graaf, presented a progress report on work carried out during the last two years:

- Since its start in November 2004, the FishCode–STF project has organized a regional workshop in South East Asia in Collaboration with SEAFDEC and a regional workshop in Central America in collaboration with OSPESCA, a regional workshop in the Pacific in collaboration with SPC and two workshops in China in collaboration with CFS. For 2007–2008, regional workshops in West Africa are planned in collaboration with CECAF.
- Fisheries and marine resources inventories in the FishCode Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (STF) project are building upon the already advanced work of the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) partnership. During 2005, inventories were completed for Australia, the USA and Namibia through the use of official governmental sources. During 2006, South Africa and Angola were nearly completed, a version was developed for Pacific Island countries with the available information, and work is well advanced for some Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, or with Central American countries such as Nicaragua or Honduras. The Project has supported the development of the fisheries module based on case studies provided by FIRMS partners as well as the Fishcode–STF inventories. The module will be used both by FIRMS and Fishcode–STF.
- The implementation of FAO STF strategy was discussed at the third session of the Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) and at a meeting of CPPS in 2006. An awareness brochure on the FAO strategy and the FishCode STF project has been prepared and distributed. The FishCode–STF Web site providing background information on the importance of the Strategy and activities of the FishCode–STF project was launched in May 2005.
- It has been recognized by COFI that small-scale fisheries (SSF) have not been given due attention and that SSF in developing countries are not well monitored. FAO has begun to address these concerns by developing technical guidelines on small-scale fisheries, and by collaborating with the WorldFish Center on an initiative to develop a project for the interdisciplinary assessment of small-scale fisheries. FishCode–STF embraced this initiative and in September 2005 organized, in association with the WorldFish Center, an “agency stakeholders” workshop on the role of SSF in food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable resource use, and on the development of simple and appropriate methods for collecting data in such fisheries. The Workshop constituted a first step in developing a collaborative project towards capacity-building for small-scale fisheries assessment in developing countries. Forty-five participants represented various international and national agencies and academic institutions as well as private firms. The Workshop addressed three main tasks: (i) preliminary development of a framework for interdisciplinary assessment of small-scale fisheries; (ii) identification of appropriate approaches, methods and research needs to help fill small-scale fisheries information gaps; and (iii) preparation of an outline implementation strategy for a collaborative project on small scale fisheries. Two steps have been taken as immediate follow up to the workshop. (i) The creation of a “Virtual Office on the Assessment of Small Scale Fisheries”. The virtual office will serve as a contact point for persons/institutions dedicated to work on integrated assessment of small scale fisheries [www.OneFish.org](http://www.OneFish.org). (ii) Establishment of a “Small-Scale Fisheries Assessment Global Working Group E-Forum”. The Group aims to: (a) develop a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to small scale fisheries assessment and related management advice; and (b) assemble related

assessment methodologies and tools for use by fisheries researchers, planners, administrators, practitioners and other stakeholders. The proceedings of the workshop are published as an FAO Fisheries Report (No. 787). In 2006 funds were obtained to follow up on the recommendations of the workshop and the development of a draft assessment frame work for integrated assessment of SSF is being prepared and will be carried out in 2007.

9. ICCAT reconfirmed the need to enhance the collaboration between FishCode–STF and the RFBs with regard to improving work on statistics and on status and trends information. The ICCAT work in several western African countries was noted as a candidate for such increased cooperation but FishCode–STF confirmed that the project is already in contact with ICCAT on this issue.

10. While taking a note on future activities of FishCode–STF in improving inland fishery statistics in Southeast Asia, SEAFDEC invited the collaboration with FishCode–STF on this matter. FishCode–STF noted that the collaboration with SEAFDEC has already been established since the Addressing Quality of Information for Inland Fisheries (AQIIF) project.

## **REVIEW OF PROGRESS BY MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS SINCE CWP–21**

(Agenda item 6)

11. Member organizations reported the progress made since CWP–21 in the area of statistics and data collection. The presentation on issues relevant to those already listed as agenda items were deferred to appropriate agendas. After the progress reports by Members, observer organizations were invited to make presentations on their organizations' activities with emphasis on issues relevant to CWP mandate. Summaries of all presentations under Agenda item 6 are available in Appendix 5.

## **AQUACULTURE STATISTICS**

(Agenda Item 7)

12. FAO introduced the Agenda sub-item on *General aquaculture statistics and the need for defining standards and cooperation*. For many years the FAO aquaculture questionnaire has asked for many data elements (method of culture, hatchery production and structural information) that have been sporadically reported by the countries, and have not been regularly analyzed by FAO. Starting from 2005 data, the aquaculture production data have been compiled according to the method of culture, based on reported information when this was available; and based on estimations, assumptions and expert knowledge, when the method of culture was not reported. FAO envisaged that this information would soon be available on the FAO Web site and hoped that the dissemination of these data would stimulate better reporting by FAO member countries. It was noted that these data elements are consistent with those requested by Eurostat, SEAFDEC and the GFCM.

13. FAO reported that the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in New Delhi in 2006 endorsed the establishment of a CWP-like body for aquaculture statistics as included in the Strategy for Improving Status and Trends Reporting for Aquaculture which was developed by the Expert Consultation on Status and Trends Reporting for Aquaculture in 2004. FAO sought advice from CWP–22 on the possible scope, participation and funding of such an arrangement.

14. The meeting welcomed the initiative taken by the aquaculture experts. The extent of interest in aquaculture statistics varied largely among CWP members. While several members are directly involved in aquaculture statistics, some have no interest and others have only a limited interest in the specific issue of tuna farming. On the other hand, there are other organizations, not members of CWP, which would be interested in work on statistical standards for aquaculture.

15. However, the meeting noted that many aspects of data needs for fish and fishery products are shared by the capture fishery and aquaculture sub-sectors and consistency of standards and concepts should be maintained. While the meeting encouraged the aquaculture experts to continue their efforts to establish a CWP-like body for aquaculture, the CWP recommended that FAO and the Secretariat ensure close collaboration and monitoring of this development and regularly report to the CWP. The

appropriate form of the relationship between the current CWP and a CWP-like body for aquaculture should be discussed at the later stage.

16. Eurostat presented the status of their revision of legislation on aquaculture statistics. The Commission adopted a new proposal of Regulation on Aquaculture at the end of the year 2006. This proposal has been submitted to the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament and the European Council. The first meeting of the ad hoc Working Group of the Council will take place on 16 April 2007 and the new Regulation could enter into force during 2007. The main differences with the former regulation No. 788/96 include:

- annual data submission on the production **and the value** of the production of aquaculture with breakdown by **species, environment and technology**;
- annual data submission on **capture-based aquaculture** (the volume and value of fishery products taken from the wild and placed in aquaculture units for on-rearing to a marketable state);
- annual data submission on the **production of hatcheries** supplying material (e.g. eggs or young fish) for release to a controlled environment or to the wild; and
- triennial data submission on the **structure** of the aquaculture holdings giving information on the technology used and the size of the holdings.

FAO fishing areas are included as requirements in the reporting guidelines. The full proposal can be found on the Eurostat CIRCA site and Eurostat would be pleased to supply access information to interested CWP-22 participants.

17. ICCAT informed that the “*Guidelines on sustainable bluefin tuna farming in the Mediterranean*” had been finalised and published as an Annex in FAO Fisheries Report No. 79 on the third meeting of “the Ad Hoc GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Sustainable Bluefin Tuna Farming/Fattening in the Mediterranean”, held in Rome on 16–18 March 2005. While recognizing the inherent reporting difficulties, the guidelines reconfirms earlier recommendations of CWP that the final harvested weight should be separated according to the original capture fisheries component and the aquaculture component representing weight gained in captivity.

18. The meeting noted the difficulties in separating the capture fisheries component and aquaculture components of tuna cage culture. The methods actually used for estimating input to cage were explained. IATTC uses information from observers as the basis for estimates of tuna caught for cage culture and CCSBT reported that in Australia the number of southern bluefin tuna is counted from a video camera recording of the transfer of fish from tow cages to static farm cages. Australia is also investigating the use of a stereo video camera to record the size of each fish on transfer. GFCM suggested to use well known biological parameters, such as growth rates and feed conversion ratios, to estimate the biomass entered into the cages at the time of capture, knowing the biomass at harvest, period of fattening and the average size of individual fish caught. It remains essential to communicate the existing guidelines as well as to review and update them as appropriate and the meeting agreed this issue to be kept in agenda for the next session. It was noted that the capture-based aquaculture extends to species other than tuna and specific guidelines may be needed for other fishing activities.

## **ISSUES RELATED TO VESSEL AND PORT CLASSIFICATION**

(Agenda Item 8)

### ***8.1 Review of vessel classification***

19. FAO reminded the meeting that a proposal to simplify the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV) focusing on the vessel structural characteristics had been developed and approved by CWP-21. However, due to the concerns with regard to potential influences of the changes to current code users, the CWP intersessional meeting (ISM) agreed for the Secretariat to conduct the survey on actual utilization of codes to identify vessel type and fisheries.

Although the survey has not been completed, the preliminary results indicated that “gear” categories and “vessel type” categories are often used in a quite entangled way and that most users establish their own codes according to the needs. Although FAO concluded that potential impacts of simplifying ISSCFV seems to be minimal, it suggested that the revision should be postponed until the need of codes for supporting vessels would become clarified corresponding to an ongoing movement toward development of global vessel list including support vessels. The meeting endorsed this suggestion. The need for harmonization of gear codes was also noted.

### ***8.2 Harmonization of fields and codes in vessel database***

20. FAO is reviewing the fields and codes used in various vessel databases including vessel registration, authorized illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessel lists and national fleet statistics. The purpose of this work is also to re-establish global fleet statistics using more flexible categorization on vessel types and size classes. Subject to COFI approval, FAO will develop a comprehensive global record of fishing vessels, including proceeding with Expert Consultations toward establishing such a record. All of these activities would provide good opportunities and incentives to further discuss harmonization of fields and codes in various vessel databases.

21. Tuna RFBs have continued their efforts to consolidate lists of authorized vessels which are maintained by the individual organizations and plan to develop a IUU vessel list. The extent of experiences with vessel list and its accessibility varies largely among regional fishery bodies (RFBs). The CWP discussed IUU matters in more details under Agenda item 12.3. The tuna RFBs agreed to keep CWP informed on their continued work on IUU lists.

### ***8.3 Review of UN-LOCODE***

22. Following the recommendation made by the Expert Consultation on Data Formats and Procedures for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), the Secretariat reviewed the feasibility of United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN-LOCODE) as a template for port code. The UN-LOCODE is a dynamic system developed to provide a framework for locations used for goods movements and includes ports, airports, inland clearance depots and freight terminals. A quick examination indicated that although the UN-LOCODE covers fishing ports in the world reasonably well, substantial adjustments would be needed to make the system fully applicable for fishery-related databases. The existence of the UN-LOCODE should be noted when considering coding for ports, although it is premature to recommend it as a standard for fishing port codification. The meeting agreed that the issue of port codes will not be brought to CWP-23 unless further developments that need discussion have taken place.

## **FISHERY DATA QUALITY INDICATORS**

(Agenda Item 9)

23. FAO informed that the document on fishery data quality indicators has not yet been published. The document is however in principle ready and CWP members will be informed as soon as it becomes available.

24. As a matter of information, FAO mentioned that IOTC provides systematic data quality assessments on all their disseminated statistics records. Eurostat also informed on their partnership agreement with ICES to initiate a comparison of fish stock assessment data and STATLANT catch data.

## **FISHSTAT PLUS STATUS – DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW VERSION**

(Agenda Item 10)

25. The project presented an upgrade of windows based FishStat Plus version 2.3 at the CWP-21. The upgrade on the end-users module intended to resolve a few problems reported by users, with a special focus on improving the multi-language feature. The real change envisaged concerned the

administration module which handles the creation of new data sets and the update of existing ones: the demand was to make this module more flexible, user friendly, and better documented so that agencies who were interested in using FishStat for the dissemination of their data sets need not depend on FAO's assistance.

26. During the intersession, this new version was developed. The enhanced end-users module was tested by FAO staff against expected improvements and is officially being released as version 2.32 in February 2007. A beta version of the new administration module was presented to information managers of several CWP agencies during a training session organized in April 2006. The module enables flexibility in defining new data sets and their associated "data import" format for regular updates. The trainees were taught how to define a new data set, and how to use the "data import" feature. The final version of the administration module was delivered together with the relevant documentation in December 2006. It has not yet been tested by FAO information managers. Such testing is scheduled to occur before the end of the first 2007 semester.

27. FAO informed that the developer could not further FAO's request to adapt FishStat Plus to specific requirements for the dissemination of the Food Balance Sheet data set. This is due to the fact that the FishStat Plus system was never designed to handle multiple time-series. The fundamental architectural changes necessary to facilitate this are substantial and would be better served with a planned redesign of the system, which has to be considered for the medium term.

## **REVIEW OF AREA BOUNDARIES**

(Agenda Item 11)

### ***11.1 Northern boundary between fishing areas 57 and 71***

28. SEAFDEC proposed to change the northern boundary between fishing areas 57 and 71 in the Malacca Strait to be consistent with sub-national boundaries. SEAFDEC informed that the countries concerned – Indonesia and Malaysia – have already agreed with this change.

29. The meeting reconfirmed that there are three major conditions to be met before implementing a change in boundaries between major fishing areas: a) no country should object the proposed change; b) no RFB should object the change and effort should be made to reconcile boundaries between RFBs jurisdictions and those of the FAO Major Fishing Areas for Statistical Purposes; c) countries involved in the proposed change should be able to provide to FAO revision of historical capture statistics according to new boundary.

30. The meeting noted that the proposed change would cause inconsistency between the boundary of the FAO Major Fishing Areas 57 and 71 and that between IOTC and WCPFC statistical areas. This would be in contradiction with efforts by CWP to reconcile boundaries of FAO Major Fishing Areas and those between RFBs, i.e. changes implemented in recent years between areas 51 and 57 (India and Sri Lanka) and between areas 57 and 71 (Indonesia). 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 SEAFDEC, in consultation with Secretariat, should proceed as instructed during the intersessional period and that the Secretariat would report the result to member organizations. It was not considered necessary to include the issue on the agenda of CWP-23.

## **REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF CWP-21**

(Agenda Item 12)

### ***12.1 Comparison of characteristics of general purpose fishery data system by RFBs***

31. Reviews and comparisons of fishery data systems is a long-term ongoing activity of the CWP. Recognizing the importance of methodological descriptions of national fishery statistics programmes

for monitoring statistical data quality, the meeting recommended that the CWP Secretariat compile information supplied by CWP members during the earlier sessions and distribute this information to members for review and update.

32. The meeting was informed that the FishCode–STF project has also collected methodological information of data collection and fisheries monitoring systems with a special emphasis on small-scale fisheries using a common inventory framework. Currently, the inventory covers countries in South East Asia, Central America, the Pacific and China. A special database for storing and analyses of the information collected has been developed.

### ***12.2 Submission of trade document information to RFBs***

33. ICCAT reported on their progress, its expansion and development of statistical document scheme to improve the quality of the information of catches. Statistical documentation was first developed in 1992 for frozen bluefin tuna and later extended to fresh bluefin, swordfish and bigeye. The main objectives of the ICCAT statistical document were defined to be:

- Monitoring of ICCAT compliance measures by Contracting Parties;
- Providing statistical information to scientists; and
- Aid to fight against IUU fishing.

In 2006, the ICCAT initiated the pilot project to examine the feasibility of using an electronic documentation system. This activity will be reviewed in 2007.

34. CCSBT reported that at its annual meeting in October 2006, the CCSBT agreed to a draft resolution to implement a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) to record all catches of southern bluefin tuna (SBT) regardless of whether SBT were traded. The CDS is to be implemented by 1 January 2008 or another date agreed by the Commission.

It was agreed that the CDS would take into account:

- thirteen principles for a CDS agreed at CCSBT 12;
- the need to coordinate with other tuna RFBs (this has been strongly re-enforced by the outcome of the Kobe meeting); and
- tagging and measurement of individual fish as a cornerstone of the CDS.

Amongst other things, the draft CDS resolution specifies that:

- The scheme will track the catch, landings and trade flows, including transfer, transshipment, import, export, re-export, and landings of domestic production, of all SBT.
- SBT without completed and validated catch documents shall be considered as catch taken in contravention of the CCSBT conservation and management measures and shall not be permitted to be imported, exported, re-exported or landed on the domestic market.
- Individual SBT will be tagged, weighed and measured.
- Copies of all documentation will be submitted to the Secretariat. Hence, the draft CDS resolution is in accordance with the recommendation by CWP–20 that “... importing and exporting countries should transmit full trade document information to the RFBs...”.

35. RFBs that have implemented trade documents schemes include ICCAT (Atlantic bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, and Swordfish), IOTC (bigeye tuna), CCSBT (southern bluefin tuna), and IATTC (bigeye tuna). CCAMLR operates a Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) that differs from trade documentation schemes.

36. Trade documentation systems are now commonly used among tuna RFBs and there is a general tendency to shift toward catch certification scheme. Data availability of those collected information to

RFBs varies. It was noted the CWP-20 recommendation for importing and exporting countries to transmit full trade document information to RFBs (para. 57 of CWP-20 report), not just summaries. Only CCAMLR has achieved this completely and CCSBT was close to achieving this with its trade information scheme and will completely achieve this with its CDS. Harmonization of information contents and standardization of concepts may be needed to ensure effective operations.

### ***12.3 Follow-up of recommendations from the FAO Expert Consultation on Data Format and Procedures for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)***

37. The former chair of the MCS-network, Ms Michele Kuruc, informed on the structure and scope of the organization. It is an international network comprising MCS professionals from some 50 countries and has operated on a voluntary basis. Main objectives include improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among national governmental organizations and institutions responsible for fisheries related MCS. Despite of recommendation from Expert Consultation on Data Format and Procedures for MCS, the CWP could not identify a concrete issue for collaboration. However, the meeting saw a merit in maintaining contact with and exchanging information and agreed to invite the MCS-network as an observer for future sessions of CWP.

38. The intersessional meeting in 2006 agreed to follow the development of the North Atlantic Format (NAF) closely, in particular with regard to its usefulness for assessment and scientific purposes in addition to the MCS function. It appeared that data generated from vessel monitoring systems (VMS) are of great interest to many scientists and several members reported on requests for VMS data from their scientists.

39. NEAFC and NAFO are the custodians of the NAF format for VMS positioning. In addition to NEAFC and NAFO, it is currently being used by SEAFO and CCMLR uses a NAF-like format. The similar format is also being used by a numbers of flag States. This is discussed in the NEAFC Advisory Group on Data Communication. This Group is open to all users of the NAF format and invitations are sent out to all through the Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats Network.

40. At the last meeting of the Group it was concluded that the NAF format with proposed extensions may suffice for the information in electronic logbooks. If all scientific information is to be included it will not suffice.

41. FAO Fishing Technology Service (FIIT) will host a visiting scientist who will work on VMS, in particular with regard to carrying out a review and inventory of VMS systems. It was agreed that CWP and its members would collaborate with FAO on this issue by making information available. The report will be shared with CWP and will provide an important input into the evaluation of the future role of CWP on this issue.

42. With regard to the potential establishment of a global list of IUU vessels – an issue that had already been mentioned by several members during the meeting– the establishment of a Pan-Atlantic IUU list between NAFO and NEAFC and the joint publication of lists by the tuna RFBs was noted with satisfaction. However, more generally, it would appear that each organizations has its own criteria for defining IUU vessels and, in addition to potential legal problems, this inconsistency is likely to represent an obstacle to the establishment of internationally shared lists. In the absence of such global lists, it was recommended that RFBs should facilitate the establishment of links to each others' IUU lists. It was further recommended that CWP should review the criteria used for defining IUU vessels by its various members with a view to provide a basis for a discussion on harmonization.

43. A variety of methods is also used by those organizations that attempt to estimate the catch of IUU vessels. The estimation of IUU catches is critical for stock assessments and it was recommended that CWP should review existing methods used for such estimates.



## REPORTS FROM EXPERT CONSULTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

(Agenda Item 13)

### *13.1 United Nations Review Conference on Fish Stock Agreement of Highly-migratory and Straddling Stocks*

44. IATTC reported briefly about the UN Review Conference on Fish Stock Agreement of Highly migratory stocks and straddling stocks held in May 2006. Several CWP members were represented at the Conference – CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, NEAFC and SEAFO. During the Conference many comments were made attaching significance to the importance of adequate data as a basis of good fisheries management. The Outcome of the Conference included an assessment which included the statement:

*Data collection and sharing are a basic obligation of States and fundamental to the effectiveness of RFMOs, yet ensuring timely and accurate data reporting, including reporting of catches, remains a serious challenge. Without comprehensive and accurate data gathering/reporting, both scientific and management processes are undermined.*

45. The Recommendations of the Conference included several relating to data.

States obligations:

- To provide data to RFMOs.
- Cooperate with FIRMS.

FAO:

- To establish arrangements for the collection and dissemination of data in accordance with paragraph 7 of Annex I of the Agreement.
- Revise its global fisheries statistics database to provide information for the stocks to which the Agreement applies, as well as to high seas discrete stocks.

In order to respond to the second point of recommendations addressed to FAO, FAO considers it preferable to establish capture database such as requested by linking data collected, compiled and analysed by RFBs and seek collaboration from other CWP Members. It would not be desirable to create a new data collection arrangement for this purpose in addition to the RFBs efforts. FAO also considered it neither possible nor desirable to alter the existing FAO capture database. FAO proposed to make the provision of associated catch data to be mandatory whenever stock assessment results are to be disseminated.

46. The meeting was in general agreement with FAO's proposal to consolidate RFB's data and noted that the CWP had already consolidated data in the Atlantic on a previous occasion under the leadership of Eurostat. This work consolidated the publicly available data from Eurostat, FAO, CCAMLR, CECAF, GFCM, ICCAT, ICES, and NAFO for Atlantic for the period of 1950–98 and disseminated them in FishStat Plus format but no further updates nor expansion have been carried out since then.

47. ICES noted that stocks are not statistical units but are derived from basic catch and other data, sometimes complemented with other information. It is a fairly difficult task to produce accurate stock information and the meeting agreed with FAO that a stock associated catch data should be kept together with stock assessment results and separate from the general fishery statistics.

48. The meeting discussed the possibility to incorporate effort data into the consolidated fishery statistics. It was noted that while most organizations would be able to provide catch data, effort data are not available to the same extent. Moreover, where effort data are collected, these are often collected according to different criteria and definitions and the results are generally not compatible or comparable.

49. While the importance of being able to separate data by stocks was agreed upon, certain concern was expressed with regard to the possibilities to provide catch data distinguishing between catches in national EEZs and in international waters. In some areas, disputed borders pose particular problems

and when reporting catch in separation between EEZs and high seas, it should make it clear this is for statistical purposes only.

50. The meeting recommended that FAO establish a consolidated catch database based on the publicly available data and under general guidelines established at the time of the previous consolidation exercise. At the same time, FAO should prepare a more detailed proposal with a long term strategy including whether the database should be held under the auspices of FAO or CWP to be considered at CWP-23. FAO thanked the members for their support and suggested to continue active communications intersessionally including provision of prototype products for evaluation by data providers.

51. ICCAT noted that the different divisions of FAO request the same information and urged FAO to unify the communication channel for data submission. To ensure to avoid such duplication, the organizations that had multiple submissions of data to FAO were requested to inform FAO-FIES on data types and focal points within FAO.

### ***13.2 Kobe-meeting***

52. Five Tuna Organizations and members and non-members of those organizations met in January 2007 (CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, and WCPFC), and GFCM and SEAFDEC attended as observers, with the aim of coordinating their work. The meeting agreed on a **Course of Action** with 14 components including;

1. Improvement, sharing and dissemination of data and stock assessments and all other relevant information in an accurate and timely manner including development of research methodologies.

8. Establishment and implementation of a system to monitor catches from catching vessels to markets.

13. Provision of adequate capacity building assistance for developing coastal states, particularly small island developing states and territories, towards responsible fishery development, including fisheries data collection.

53. The Course of Action also provided four items of technical work across tuna RFBs, two concerning data:

1. Harmonization and improvement of the trade tracking programs and, as appropriate, development of catch documentation including tagging systems as required.

2. Creation of a harmonized list of tuna fishing vessels that is as comprehensive as possible (positive list) including use of a permanent unique identifier for each vessel such as an IMO (International Maritime Organization of the United Nations) number. The positive list should include support vessels. Creation of a global list of IUU vessels.

54. IATTC reported on the progress on a harmonized global list of authorized tuna vessels and that work is well under way. There are two main outstanding issues; the unique vessel identification number and the inclusion of support vessels in the listing.

55. FAO informed that the joint IMO/FAO working group on vessel identification identified the IMO/Lloyds register as such unique vessel identifiers on larger vessels but there is now a certain pressure to also include smaller vessels into system. The meeting suggested that the Secretariat should monitor the progress of unique identification numbers for smaller vessels by the IMO/FAO working group and report to the CWP.

56. CWP had agreed in the previous sessions to eliminate vessel classifications on non-fishing vessels including support vessel from ISSCFV. However, the meeting felt this decision should be reversed and recommended that support vessels should be included in the ISSCFV. The meeting also noted the need to develop a unique identifier for vessel owners.

## **INTEGRATING THE REGIONAL DATABASES – REMOVING THE BASIS FOR DISCREPANCIES**

(Agenda Item 14)

57. FAO introduced this agenda item and explained that during the validation process before entering new capture data into the FAO database, data received by FAO are continuously compared with those available in the databases of other fishery organizations. This procedure has allowed in recent years to reduce the number and entity of discrepancies between the FAO and other databases. FAO–FIES maintains continuous relationships with most of the CWP Members on data exchange and data issues. Catch data included in the FAO database for the Southern Ocean fishing areas are fully derived from those compiled by CCAMLR. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the provider of the great majority of whale data included in the FAO database, whereas FAO forward to IWC data on whales received by national correspondent that may be of interest to IWC. Tuna catch data by IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC and WCPFC (compiled by the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of SPC) are used to complement, replace and improve most of the tuna catch data received directly by national correspondents. However, recent discrepancy exercises held together by FAO and ICCAT showed that in specific cases also the data gathered by FAO may be useful to complement data collected by a regional organization.

58. At the 2006 ISM, NAFO put forward the issue of discrepancies between catch data in the NAFO database and in the FAO database for Area 21. Main causes of discrepancies had been identified in different national agencies reporting the data to FAO and NAFO and in different timing of reporting. NAFO has now moved the annual deadline to report STATLANT 21B to 31 August, the same deadline for the FAO NS1 questionnaire, in order to eliminate source of difference in timing of reporting.

59. Difference in reporting agencies is quite a complex issue as there are countries in which different institutions are in charge of reporting capture data to FAO and NAFO. A possible solution may be that data submitted to NAFO, at least those for the principal species, be considered as the valid ones for all countries. To make this operational, NAFO should provide FAO with a compilation of annual capture data as soon as they are ready and should also request representatives of its Contracting Parties to inform, in the case of differences, the relevant authorities of their country that FAO will replace the statistics for Area 21 received by its national correspondent with those provided by NAFO. CWP welcomed the initiative taken by NAFO and FAO as a step in the right direction and encouraged other organizations to also undertake efforts to consolidate their data with those of FAO. However, it was cautioned that the solution found by NAFO and FAO might not always be the right solution in other cases as the causes for data differences are quite diverse and require individual consideration.

60. Regarding discrepancies for recent years, FAO prepared in August 2006 a brief summary of FAO–NAFO discrepancies in the 1994–2003 period, highlighting in particular data missing in one of the two databases and available in the other one. Data missing in the FAO database have been supplemented with the NAFO data, which was reflected in the statistics disseminated in 2007. NAFO may also consider to fill gaps in its capture database with data present in the FAO database.

61. ICES informed that the European Union is addressing the issue of data discrepancies by having one single submission of data. Eurostat and ICES have one common database that is held by Eurostat. Eurostat processes the data which are also validated by ICES. Currently, work is carried out with a view to have an automatic validation system to avoid erroneous data entries.

62. In this context, the introduction of electronic questionnaires was raised. EU members are requested to submit their data reports electronically according to the Eurostat format. FAO developed electronic questionnaires for all STATLANT questionnaires, including those for ICES and NAFO areas. ICES pointed out the importance of harmonising the Eurostat questionnaires with those of FAO since it would not be desirable to have ICES members submitting the same data twice in two different formats. Eurostat reminded the meeting of the agreement that Eurostat provides FAO with the necessary statistics without any direct request for such information from FAO to the EU Member States. FAO, ICES and NAFO officers will be in contact in subsequent months to sort out if FAO

should discontinue dispatch of paper and electronic versions of the STATLANT 21 A–B and 27 that have been so far dispatched and made available on the FAO Web site on behalf of ICES and NAFO. FAO reported that the new development of its working system would enable to accommodate the data provided with the formats different from the FAO questionnaires and assured to include Eurostat format as one of the standard formats.

63. ICES pointed out discrepancies that have been recently found between historical data in the FAO and ICES/Eurostat databases. These differences concern data during the years 1950–1960, tuna catches as well as data recorded since 1999 when new EU legislation was passed introducing more detailed species groups. FAO explained that the reason for some of the discrepancies in the historical data are likely due to the fact that most of the 1950–69 data in the FAO capture database had been rounded and that different data sources may have been used. It was felt that the priority should be to update more recent data and the importance of data validation was stressed, in particular today when electronic submissions and processing may increase the risk of errors. FAO also invited RFBs to share information on revisions of Ukrainian catch data that the organization recently has obtained.

64. While it may be desirable to eliminate discrepancies between different sets of published data, it has to be accepted that differences between databases will continue to exist. Data are collected within different frameworks and for different uses and will hence be different. The meeting agreed that priority should firstly be given to improving future data collection and validation rather than to rectifying historical discrepancies. FAO was complimented on its good work and on the usefulness of its various initiatives towards improving data collection and dissemination.

## **IMPROVEMENT IN VISIBILITY OF CWP**

(Agenda Item 15)

65. It has been noted that the knowledge of CWP among fisheries organizations, officials and experts appears to be limited and CWP–21 recommended that measures should be taken to increase the visibility of CWP. The need for a consistent communication strategy was stressed, keeping in mind that the target audience consists of Offices of international organizations and national institutes in charge of preparation of fishery statistics. Various such measures were discussed and the following suggested:

- RFBs should include links to the CWP Web site from their sites.
- A statement by CWP will be delivered to COFI. This statement can also be used as a basis for press releases and other information measures by CWP members.
- A reference to CWP will be included on the Web site for UN statistics.
- The CWP Secretariat will consult with relevant expertise within FAO to develop an outreach strategy for CWP to be presented and considered by CWP–23. This work will also include investigating possibilities for making the CWP Web site more accessible.

## **CWP–23 AND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING: ARRANGEMENTS – TIME AND VENUE**

(Agenda Item 16)

66. Following a suggestion by the Secretariat it was agreed that there was no need to have an intersessional meeting unless there are particular technical issues that are identified to be discussed. Should such a need arises, an intersessional meeting can be called at a later stage.

67. After reviewing the issues which were identified as those needed for further discussion in future, the meeting agreed to have an intersessional meeting during 2007/2008 period focusing on “new data requirement and new data sources”. This meeting should cover standardization and harmonization of format, criteria and definition for MCS-related data including VMS information, data requirements within the context of the Ecosystem Approach to fisheries management including incidental-catch data collection, socio-economic information, and data in relation to area closure, and consolidation of global records. NAFO kindly offers to host this intersessional meeting around June or

July of 2008. Exact date as well as draft agenda of the meeting will be developed through consultation among NAFO, Secretariat and Members.

68. The list of minimum items that should be included in the Agenda of the CWP-23 as well as those to be covered under the intersessional meeting is prepared as Appendix 6.

69. There is a general acceptance to have the CWP-23 session in conjunction with COFI-28 in 2009 if no offer will be made for the next session.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(Agenda Item 17)

### ***17.1 Amendment of Rules of Procedures***

70. The Secretariat noted that the Rules of Procedures were last amended in 1995. Some provisions may not be applicable to the way CWP operates currently. It was agreed that the Members review the Rules and Procedures during the intersessional period and provide the Secretariat with potential suggestions for changes. At the same time, it was suggested that Members and meeting participants may want to pay closer attention to, for example, adhering to deadlines for document submissions ahead of Sessions.

### ***17.2 Data collection after termination of MoU between SEAFDEC and FAO on tuna fishery statistics***

71. The CWP was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat received the letter from its Department of Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) in Malaysia concerning the proposal to terminate the MoU with FAO for collation of tuna fishery statistics in Southeast Asia Region (FAO Statistical Area 71 adjacent to Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Australia) in the early 2005. SEAFDEC Secretariat consulted with Dr. Richard Grainger (former CWP Secretary) during his visit to Bangkok on 10 June 2005. Dr. Grainger mentioned that FAO will assist in finding out the formal process for termination of the MoU. To proceed with collection of tuna fishery statistics, he indicated that CWP would further follow-up to transfer the responsibility to relevant tuna management bodies, e.g. WCPFC. SEAFDEC Secretariat prepared the official letter and sent it to FAO in order to formally terminate the MoU with FAO in mid-2005 and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD provided the electronic files of tuna statistics from 1996 to 1999 and the full set in hard copy to FAO.

72. The CWP noted that with the lapse of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC and as there is no regional management arrangement for tuna and tuna-like species, there is currently no institutional arrangement in place for the collection and consolidation of tuna catch statistics for the Southeast Asia region (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Australia). The CWP recommended that FAO work with appropriate organizations to address this gap. The result of their work will be reported to the next meeting of the CWP.

### ***17.3 Separation of catch taken in EEZs and in high seas***

73. ICES and Eurostat explained to the meeting the recent separations of the statistical sub-divisions distinguishing between national EEZs and international waters. These changes have recently been passed in European legislation and catch data will be reported accordingly as of 2006. It was noted that since these new separations apply only to sub-divisions of statistical areas, a formal approval would not be needed. However, the CWP statistical handbook should be updated accordingly and the meeting agreed to these changes. Eurostat and ICES will provide the definition of this new sub-divisions.

74. The meeting considered the development undertaken by ICES/Eurostat important – in particular in the light of the recommendations of the UNGA to improve data for management of straddling and

migratory stocks – and other members were encouraged to investigate to implement similar measures for distinguishing between catches in national and international waters.

75. FAO continues to regularly update the regional database for the fishing area “47 – Southeast Atlantic”, which includes data since 1975 by divisions. However, the utility of this database has been questioned several times as it provides only limited information of interest to SEAFO given that its Convention Area (outside the EEZs) and the statistical divisions do not coincide. FAO and SEAFO suggested to conduct in the near future a joint study to analyse if it is feasible to rearrange the statistical divisions of area 47 in a way that would both reduce to a minimum the disruption of historical data series and allow the reporting and compilation of data for the SEAFO Convention area in the future. Results of this study should be presented to the appropriate SEAFO body and reported to CWP at the 23rd session.

#### ***17.4 Standards for data collection in relation to the ecosystem approach to fisheries***

76. ICCAT drew attention to the importance of improving data collection in the context of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The CWP handbook does not cover this area but FAO informed that other information resources and guidelines exist.

77. It was recommended that CWP should move towards refining best practice data standards for monitoring fisheries within their ecosystem context. These issues are becoming important for regional management bodies and it is not clear that sufficient data exist to adequately address bycatch, discarding and other associated topics.

#### ***17.5 Statement to COFI***

78. The CWP statement to the forthcoming COFI was prepared and adopted (Appendix 7). The Chairperson will deliver this to COFI which will be held next week in Rome (2–6 March, 2007).

### **ADOPTION OF REPORT AND CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

(Agenda Items 18 and 19)

79. The report was adopted on 2 March, 2007. The Chairperson thanked the CWP members and observers for their participation and the meeting was closed.

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## Agenda

*Note: Numbers in square brackets refer to the paragraph numbers in the Report of CWP-21*

14:00–16:30 27 February 2007, Tuesday

1. Opening and Welcome (**Mr Ichiro Nomura**, FI-ADG/FAO), practical arrangements (**Secretariat**)
2. Review of Membership [NEAFC is a new member]  
*Secretariat to review the change of membership since CWP-21 and introduce observers*
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of chair and vice-chair
5. Enhancement of RFBs and the FishCode-STF partnership [83,84]  
*The FishCode-STF team (Mr Gertjan De Graaf) to report on progress made since CWP-21 with emphasis on matters of relevance to the CWP, noting the CWP-21 recommendations.*
6. Review of progress by member organizations since CWP-21  
*Members will report on progress made since CWP-21 and the CWP will review and identify areas which require further actions.*

16:30–18:00 27 February 2007, Tuesday

CWP/FIRMS joint reception at Aventino room

9:00–13:00 28 February 2007, Wednesday

Review of progress by member organizations since CWP-21 (continuing)

7. Aquaculture statistics  
*Eurostat and ICCAT to provide an overview as basis for discussion, Secretariat and FAO to report on progress in identifying interested group and efforts toward establishment of CWP-like structure for aquaculture. The CWP will review progress in the following recommendations related with aquaculture statistics.*
  - General aquaculture statistics – needs for defining standards and cooperation [87] (**FAO to report**)
  - Revision of legislation on aquaculture statistics by Eurostat (**Eurostat to report**)
  - Guideline for capture-based aquaculture [89,90] (**ICCAT to lead**)
8. Issues related to vessel and port classification
  - 8.1. Review of the vessel classification [94]  
*Secretariat to report on the use of 1995 vessel classification and potential problems of new classification, CWP to decide final confirmation of data adopted at CWP-21.*

## 8.2. Harmonization of fields and codes in vessel database [104]

*NEAFC for information, Secretariat to provide summary report on current situation and proposal made in the past. The CWP will review the status and plan for future works*

## 8.3. Review of UN-LOCODE [106]

*Secretariat to provide a review on UN-LOCODE, CWP to discuss its suitability as international standard code for statistical use.*

## 9. Fishery Data Quality Indicators [111,115,122]

*Secretariat will report on the publication status of the document CWP-21/7 and development of future work.*

## 10. FishStatPlus Status – Development of new version [77]

*FAO to report for progress as well as results from training of administrative module for FishStat 2.3 in April 2006*

## 11. Review of Area Boundaries

11.1. Area 51– Area 57 (*SEAFDEC to lead*)11.2. Area 27 : split of certain Divisions (*Eurostat/ICES to lead*)

14:00–18:00 28 February 2007, Wednesday

## 12. Review of progress on recommendations of CWP-21

*The relevant members and Secretariat to provide report on progress made since CWP-21 in the following recommendations. The CWP will review progress and plan for future work of relevance to the CWP.*

## 12.1. Comparison of characteristics of general purpose fishery data system by RFBs [70] – retained from CWP-20

*Secretariat to report on progress since CWP-21*

## 12.2. Submission of trade document information to RFBs [71] – retained from CWP-20

*The ICCAT to report on the workshop in April 2005 in Tokyo, CCSBT to provide information on movement toward catch documentation scheme, Secretariat to provide a summary report of current situation, and CWP to plan for future works*

## 12.3. Follow-up of recommendations from the FAO Expert Consultation on Data Format and Procedures for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS).

*The Secretariat and Members will report on progress on the following activities and the CWP will plan for future work of relevance to the CWP.*

- Contact to MCS Network [109] (*Secretariat to report*) *Ms Michele Kuruc, former chair of MCS-network will attend.*
- Intersessional electronic working group for consideration on NAF format as international standards for VMS position and catch reporting. [103] (*NEAFC for information, CWP will decide the need of further discussion on international standards for VMS position and catch reporting*)
- Scientific use of VMS position and catch reporting (*NAFO to lead*)

9:00–13:00 1 March 2007, Thursday

## 13. Reports from expert consultations and workshops :

## 13.1. UN Review Conference on Highly-migratory and straddling stocks.

13.2. Kobe-meeting

*IATTC to briefly report. CWP will discuss on UNGA recommendation of revision of FAO capture statistics to incorporate a capability to identify stock from the location where catch are taken. FAO/Secretariat to lead.*

14. Integrating the regional databases- removing the basis for data discrepancies (*Eurostat and Secretariat to lead*) [124]

*Eurostat, NAFO and FAO to report progress in identifying and removing discrepancies among the relevant databases, Secretariat to propose options. ICES will present its ongoing work to update catch data of 1950–1972 period. The CWP will review causes of discrepancies and plan for future works.*

14:00–16:00 1 March 2007, Thursday

15. Improvement in visibility of CWP [100]

*Secretariat and Members will report on efforts made to improve CWP visibility, NAFO to lead the discussion, CWP to plan for future actions.*

16. CWP–23 and intersessional meeting. Arrangements – Time and venue

17. Any other business

17.1. Amendment of Rules of Procedures

*Secretariat will explain the rationales and CWP to decide whether needs any amendment and if so, to agree on guideline for development of draft proposal.*

17.2. Separation of catch taken in EEZs and in high seas (ICES to lead)

17.3. Data collection after termination of MoU between SEAFDEC and FAO (SEAFDEC to lead)

14:00–18:00 2 March 2007, Friday

18. Adoption of Report

19. Close of the Meeting

### List of documents

CWP-22/A	General Announcement
CWP-22/B	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable
CWP-22/C	Provisional List of Documents
CWP-22/D	Provisional List of Participants
CWP-22/E	CWP Sessions: Dates venues, etc.
CWP-22/F	Provisional List of Acronyms

#### DOCUMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

CWP-22/1	Report of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Session of the CWP (Copenhagen, 1–4 March 2005)
CWP-22/2	Report of the CWP-ISM (Madrid, Spain, 14–15 February 2006)
CWP-22/3	Review of progress of recommended actions and other relevant information addressing agenda items
CWP-22/4	Report of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Session of FIRMS Steering Committee (Madrid, Spain, 13–15 February 2006)

#### DOCUMENTS FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

CWP-22	CCAMLR
CWP-22	CCSBT
CWP-22	Eurostat
CWP-22	FAO
CWP-22	GFCM (FAO)
CWP-22	IATTC
CWP-22	ICCAT
CWP-22	ICES
CWP-22	IOTC
CWP-22	IWC
CWP-22	NAFO
CWP-22	NASCO
CWP-22	NEAFC
CWP-22	OECD
CWP-22	SEAFDEC
CWP-22	SPC

#### DOCUMENTS FROM OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS

CWP-22	CPPS
CWP-22	SEAFO
CWP-22	WCPFC

#### INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

CWP-22/Inf.1	Final Report of the Meeting on Fisheries Statistics of CPPS Member Countries Lima, Peru. 20–21 September 2006
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**CWP-22 opening statement**  
**by**  
**Ichiro Nomura**  
**Assistant Director-General**  
**Fisheries and Aquaculture Department**  
**FAO**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome all the participants to Rome and to this very important meeting.

CWP was originally established as a coordinating mechanism to implement the recommendations from the Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic Area held in Edingburgh in 1959. This meeting identified the requirements of fishery statistics by proposing common definitions and classifications for the collection of statistics on catches, fishing effort, man-power and fishery commodities. Since then, the CWP has played a leading role in establishing standards and guidelines for fisheries statistics and data collection originally in the North Atlantic Region, and in the whole Atlantic Ocean since 1968.

The CWP was reconstituted in 1995 to further develop its pivotal role in reviewing statistical requirements and setting standards and guidelines for global fishery statistics. This reconstitution particularly focused on accommodating an increased need for global coordination of fishery statistical programmes among all relevant organizations in the light of the outcome of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Now a decade has almost passed and several UN conferences have been held to review the problems and achievements of the UN Fish Stock agreement, as well as RFMOs activities. The first joint meeting of tuna RFB Secretariats, and participating Members and cooperative non-Members, was held just a month ago. All of these meetings stressed the importance of coordination among RFMOs, especially in the areas of data sharing and harmonized regulations.

Needless to say, accurate, reliable and timely data on fish stocks and fisheries are the essential factors for stock conservation and fisheries management to be effective. Unreliable data can lead to potential bias and increased uncertainties in assessing stock trends and exploitation levels, which in turn reduces the effectiveness of management. Both ecosystem approach and precautionary approach require a wider range of data. Nowadays, a fishing fleet can change its name, flag, and fishing pattern in a surprisingly short time period. Fleets can also move swiftly around the globe. Monitoring, control and surveillance of such fleets requires a network of consistent regulation equipped with timely reporting, prompt compilation and sharing of accurate data among relevant parties at global scale, which all lead to the idea of harmonization and standardization of data.

Since 1995, the number of member organizations of CWP has almost doubled. However, when observing the conclusions of recent sessions, the CWP would appear to be falling into mannerism and appears to have lost its aspiration and energy to face expanded changes and opportunity which had been given by the international community at the time of reconstitution in 1995. I hope that this inertia can and should be rectified by our collaborative effort and willingness.

The role of CWP enormously important and should continue to increase. I therefore expect to see a strong leadership of CWP in promoting its role as a principal coordinating body for fisheries data.

I trust you will have very constructive and fruitful discussions during the next three days.



## Summaries of presentations under agenda item 6

### PROGRESS REPORTS BY MEMBERS

#### *Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)*

Eurostat reported mainly on the new Regulation on Landings No 1921/2006 and the proposal for a new Regulation on Aquaculture replacing the former Regulation No 788/96. Details of the new aquaculture legislation were discussed under Agenda Item 7.

The new Regulation on Landings No 1921/2006 was published in December 2006. The main differences with the former Regulation No 1382/91 include:

- Annual transmission of data instead of monthly transmission. For year 2006 monthly data until December 2006 inclusive will be transmitted. For the data referring to December 2006, the deadline is 30 June 2007.

For year 2007: in accordance with the new Regulation (EC) No 1921/2006:

- The Countries shall submit data on an **annual basis** within six months after the end of the reference year. Thus, annual landings data by individual vessel nationality for year 2007 shall be sent in one single transmission, **by 30 June 2008**.
- Each Country shall submit before the end of 2007 a detailed **methodological report** to the Commission describing how the data have been collected and the statistics compiled.
- As regard to the technical aspects of the data transmission, the Countries are requested to respect the **format** specified in Annex I and the codes specified in Annexes II, III and IV.

In this respect, it should be noted that:

- The full list of international alpha-3 species codes is to be found in the FAO's ASFIS file [http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?xml=FIDI\\_STAT\\_org.xml&dom=org&xp\\_nav=3,3,2](http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?xml=FIDI_STAT_org.xml&dom=org&xp_nav=3,3,2)
- The list of the presentation codes (Annex III) is wider than that in the previous legislation;
- The list of “intended use of Fishery products” is wider than that in the previous legislation.
- The submission of data are required **by flag** (or nationality) of the vessels responsible for the landings instead by the broad groups of EU vessels of EFTA vessels and of other vessels.
- In circumstances where the structural characteristics of the fisheries sector would result in difficulties for the national authorities incommensurate with the importance of the sector, the Regulation permits a more flexible approach to the use or **sampling techniques** for the estimation of the total landings.

Eurostat is producing several reports of “Statistics in Focus” which analyse various aspects of EU fisheries. These reports are available free of charge on the Eurostat Web site.

#### *International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)*

ICES is working closely with Eurostat on fisheries statistics issues through a partnership agreement. ICES reported on the following issues:

- Release of a catch database including estimates of IUU landings

This database is an electronic version of the information that has for several years been published in the ICES Advisory report (Stock Summaries). This database is available in the FishStatPlus format through the ICES Web site <http://www.ices.dk>. ICES thanks Mr David Cross for assistance in establishing this database. The IUU estimates, called unallocated catches, are available on a stock by stock basis but not by country-by-country.

- Quality control of submitted data

ICES is investigating and implementing IT systems for automatic data check. This work covers data for R/V abundance surveys and a range of environmental data but is general purpose software. The system is being further developed to identify outlier and other anomalies in the data. The system is developed as an expert support system. The system is operated by the data submitter; data can only be submitted if the checking system passes the data.

- IUU fishing estimates

ICES is facing an increasing number of fisheries where IUU fishing is recognized as a major problem. This has led to a number of assessments (e.g. North Sea demersals) being conducted without using fisheries data and assessments and advice being conducted based on survey information only. This is unsatisfactory, the information available is largely on relative changes in stocks status and the accuracy is not high. ICES is now documenting estimates of IUU fishing on a stock by stock basis in the assessment group reports and in the database referred to above.

- Review of Historic landing series (Bulletin Statistique)

ICES has over the most recent years reviewed the catch series published and have reviewed corrections and amendments. This review is now close to completion for the period 1950–1972. Eurostat and ICES will discuss how best to include this information in the database. In this review process ICES has noted some major discrepancies between the FAO and Eurostat-ICES database. One such discrepancy seems to be the inclusion of the data reported for “Southern waters” in the FAO database for area 27 while this area is within area 34. ICES will discuss the resolution of this discrepancy with FAO.

### ***Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)***

Although NAFO receives relatively complete fishery statistical data in a fairly timely manner, the data collection process and data quality can still be improved. In addition, the reliability of statistical data was questioned by Scientific Council in 2004. Accordingly, the Scientific Council recommended in 2005 that all Contracting Parties take measures to improve the accuracy of their catch estimates. To give Contracting Parties more time to prepare a high quality data submission, NAFO rescheduled the submission date for the 21B catch and effort data from 30 June to 31 August. To ensure, however, that the annual catch reports are available prior to the main Scientific Council meeting in June, the submission date for STATLANT 21A data was shifted forward, from 15 May to 1 May.

With the introduction of an all-electronic “Statistical Bulletin” NAFO “lost” the date on which statistical data became final (i.e. the year of print). It was suggested that the Secretariat determines when a dataset becomes final (upon input by national statistical agencies and after quality control) and keeps “provisional” submissions in a separate section of the Web. NAFO still publishes the database on CD-Rom (upon request).

The FISHSTAT Plus software (from FAO) does not install properly on the computers of the NAFO Secretariat and therefore, NAFO can still not create its own data files. Very generously, David Cross (retired from Eurostat) will continue to update the data for the next few years, even after his retirement, until these difficulties are overcome. The Scientific Council recognized the usefulness of an interactive Excel application on the Web to allow a quick overview (graphics or table) of NAFO fishery catches ([www.nafo.int/fisheries/stats/NAFOstats\\_Excel.zip](http://www.nafo.int/fisheries/stats/NAFOstats_Excel.zip)), developed by the NAFO Secretariat some years ago.

It has become clear that there are discrepancies between the fisheries statistics databases for NAFO and FAO. These discrepancies arise from a variety of reasons. FAO, NAFO and EUROSTAT have agreed to a study in the summer 2006 to determine the extent of the problem and to investigate methods of eliminating the existing discrepancies and of preventing the recurrence of the problem in the future. The Executive Secretary will report back to the committee on the progress of these discussions and on discussions of this issue at CWP.

One interesting development in NAFO has been the permission for Scientific Council to use, in summary form, the highly confidential NAFO VMS data for assessment purposes. These data can be used to calculate catch within the NRA and effort in terms of days at sea and Scientific Council recognized their potential value in assessing the status of stocks. NAFO requires 2-hourly position reports along with catch reports on entry, exit, and transshipment. Also, in 2007, NAFO introduced an alternative monitoring scheme according to which the presence of observers can be drastically reduced if the master of the vessels transmits daily electronic catch reports.

Recognizing the importance of using the identical measurement device on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean, STACREC recommended that the new mesh gauge OMEGA be adopted as the standard for scientific purposes.

NAFO has started a reform of its mandate, structure and decision-making process. The final outcome will be reported in 2009. However, here it is interesting to note that NAFO widens its mandate to safeguard of the marine environment from any negative effects of fishing. In this context, NAFO has committed to use an “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”; it closed four seamounts to bottom fishing and requested the Scientific Council to assess sensitive (corals) habitats on these seamounts. This requires new approaches towards assessment and poses quite a few challenges to the NAFO Scientific Council, e.g. collection of relevant data and new expertise for the analyses of the new data types.

In addition to the closure of seamounts, NAFO has taken first steps towards the Ecosystem Approach by adopting a resolution (06/1) to protect and study sea turtles and by banning shark finning in the Northwest Atlantic (NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Article 13). However, it was noted that a detailed reporting on elasmobranch species, which is required by NAFO since 1998, has not been followed by all NAFO Contracting Parties and that this situation will be reviewed in September 2007.

In 2006, NAFO hosted the Symposium on “Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic – What Influences Marine Living Resources?” ([www.nafo.int/science/research/conferences/2006/symposium06.html](http://www.nafo.int/science/research/conferences/2006/symposium06.html)). In 2007, NAFO will, in cooperation with PICES and ICES, host a Symposium on “Reproductive and Recruitment Processes of Exploited Marine Fish Stocks” (1–3 October 2007, Lisbon, Portugal).

NAFO also announces a revision of the 1983 guide to early fish stages in the Northwest Atlantic. It is hoped that the update of this important book will improve identification of fish larvae. This two-volume hard-cover book is distributed by the NAFO Secretariat for US\$ 100 (including shipment) (<http://www.nafo.int/publications/fahay/fahay.html>).

### ***North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)***

Since this is the first time reporting to CWP, NEAFC gave detailed explanations on data sources, measures and initiatives of relevance to compile fisheries data, including:

- provisions of monthly provisional catches, weekly catch reports from individual vessels and VMS data as set out in the Scheme of Control and Enforcement published on the NEAFC Web site;
- the provision of logbook data on deep-sea fisheries to the NEAFC scientific advice provider, ICES, according to an agreed reporting format;
- New NEAFC port state control measures will enter into force 1 May 2007. The handling of the information on landings obtained from these measures has not yet been decided, but they may become an important source of landing data;
- NEAFC is contemplating to publish an annual fisheries status report, as proposed by the independent NEAFC performance review panel;
- The use of VMS data for MSC and scientific purposes;

- The management of the North Atlantic Format (NAF);
- Estimates of IUU catches; and
- NEAFC's participation in projects aiming at integrating information from VMS, e-logbooks and other fisheries information.

With regard to IUU fishing, NEAFC informed about their efforts to monitor activities of those vessels included on their IUU list (NEAFC-B list). This has enabled to make rough estimates of the catches of red fish taken by IUU vessels. For 2006, such catches were estimated to be around 20 000 tonnes, corresponding to a third of the TAC.

### ***Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)***

CCAMLR has undertaken further developments in fishery statistics and related information since CWP-21 in 2005 (CWP-22/CCAMLR), which includes:

- Enhancement of a resolution seeking further collaboration with RFMOs to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds arising from fishing;
- The further development of the Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS); and
- The further development of the centralized Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);

In 2004, CCAMLR adopted Resolution 22 seeking further collaboration with other RFMOs to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds arising from fishing. CCAMLR seeks standard information on incidental catches of seabirds and other species taken from fishing on grounds within the geographic range of species found in CCAMLR's Convention Area (i.e. the Southern Ocean, Statistical Areas 48, 58 or 88). Specific RFMOs, including some CWP Members, are encouraged to develop or establish mechanisms to collect, report and disseminate data on incidental mortality of seabirds. In addition, in areas where such mechanisms are currently unavailable or where systematic data reporting has not commenced, Flag States fishing outside CCAMLR's Convention Area are encouraged to provide CCAMLR with summary data on the incidental take of seabirds of species which breed in the Southern Ocean.

The CDS has been extended through the introduction of an electronic, Web-based catch and export documentation system and the publication of landing and trade statistics derived from the Scheme in the CCAMLR *Statistical Bulletin*.

A centralized VMS was established in the CCAMLR Secretariat in 2004 and Contracting Parties are required to report the positions of their vessels operating in fisheries targeting finfish, crab or squid in the Convention Area on a four-hourly basis. Position reports are required to be forwarded to the Secretariat in real-time for those vessels participating in new and exploratory fisheries, and on departure from the Convention Area for other fisheries.

### ***General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)***

The GFCM introduced its institutions and capacity in data collection relevant to fishery statistics:

The Agreement for the Establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was approved by the FAO Conference in 1949 on the basis of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Organization. The purpose of the GFCM is to promote the development, conservation and rational management and best utilization of living marine resources, as well as the sustainable development of aquaculture in the area of competence of the Commission. For this purpose the GFCM keeps under review the state of fisheries and formulate and recommend (binding) management measures, as appropriate.

Since its inception in 1952, the GFCM has followed FAO standards in the collection and compilation of fisheries statistics and participates in various initiatives and programmes of the Organization, such as the FIGIS framework and the FI Statistical Working System. The GFCM has now also established a formal partnership agreement with FIRMS and looks forward to contribute more significantly to this information network.

The establishment of the GFCM autonomous budget in 2004 has opened the door to the re-organization and strengthening of its structure, together with the development of its own databases and information systems, whilst maintaining close collaboration with FAO and its international partners, including through the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics. It is foreseen that existing databases and other sources of information generated independently over the years by various entities will be consolidated to create a regional database and information system.

To date, FAO–FIES collects and disseminates annual capture data by GFCM statistical sub-areas and divisions on behalf of the GFCM. The data are collected through the STATLANT 37A questionnaire and disseminated as a dataset that can be consulted with the FISHSTAT+ software. The database presently covers the 1970–2004 period and is used for trend studies on catches in the Mediterranean and, together with the Mediterranean data included in the FAO aquaculture database, its figures are used to calculate the catch component of the countries' scale of contribution to GFCM.

The establishment of national fisheries statistics and information systems in the GFCM area is given high priority by the Commission. These would ensure the effective monitoring of fishing activities and the provision of accurate, reliable and timely data needed for stock assessment and socioeconomic studies which, in turn, would render sound management advice. Over the last ten years, the MedStat Programme has addressed this issue and has been implemented through FAO Regional Projects (COPEMED, ADRIAMED, MEDSUDMED and MEDFISIS) and the GFCM. Whilst assisting countries to develop their national fisheries statistical system, MedStat aims to create an internationally compatible system, ensuring compliance with data requirements and formats of the GFCM and other international bodies to monitor the state of fisheries resources.

National statistical systems developed by MedStat consist of a set of databases and associated statistical data collection and implementation methodologies and procedures, which primarily cover the fishing vessel register, catch and effort surveys, together with other ad hoc surveys relevant to management issues.

Recognizing the need to compile data, monitor fisheries and assess fisheries resources in a georeferenced manner, the GFCM recently established 30 Geographical Sub-Areas (GSAs) through Resolution GFCM/31/2007/2. Furthermore, the Commission established a multidisciplinary statistical matrix (GFCM Task 1) through Resolution GFCM/31/2007/1, whereby countries would compile and submit data to the GFCM by GSA in a standard format according to a defined fleet segmentation and predetermined parameters and measurement units. This Resolution essentially lays the foundation for the development of the new GFCM database which would assist the Commission in implementing its strategy to manage the fisheries through effort control by Operational Units.

The GFCM also started work on the establishment of a record of vessels over 15 metres authorized to operate in the GFCM area (Recommendation GFCM/2005/2) within the framework of the FAO Compliance Agreement and the International Plan of Action on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

The Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean (SIPAM) consists of a regional network of databases which has been active for over 10 years and has recently been reorganized under the aegis of the GFCM and with the coordination of the FAO MedFisis project and the SIPAM Regional Centre in Tunis. The objective of this revitalization is to improve the visibility and the effectiveness of the SIPAM system with the aim of enhancing and facilitating the circulation of specialized information on Mediterranean aquaculture.

The geographical area of competence of the GFCM covers the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea, including the Azov Sea and connecting waters. The following States or Economic integration organizations are presently Members of the Commission: Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus,

European Community, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

### ***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)***

As a part of FAO reform process, the former “Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (FIDI)” of FAO Fisheries Department has changed its name to “Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service (FIES)” under Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department starting from 1 January, 2007. Accordingly, e-mail addresses for statistics provision and external statistical and information inquiries were changed to FIES-e-Forms@fao.org and FIES-Inquiries@fao.org, respectively.

FIES has maintained the global statistics of capture fishery production volume, aquaculture production (volume and value), production and trade of fishery commodities, fishing fleet (data only available up to 1998), number of fishers, and Supply/Utilization Accounts and Food Balance Sheet, based on international classifications and standardized data submission procedures. In addition, FIES compiles and disseminates capture production statistics by subareas/divisions on behalf of three regional organizations: CECAF (Eastern Central Atlantic), GFCM (Mediterranean and Black Sea), RECOFI (part of Western Indian Ocean); and for the Southeast Atlantic fishing area. It also maintains and updates High Seas Vessels Authorization Record (HSVAR) following the requirement by the Compliance Agreement.

Data are usually obtained from national reporting offices and, wherever possible, verified from other sources. Estimates are produced when data are lacking or are considered unreliable. The statistics are stored in databases and disseminated through publications, electronic media, and the FAO Internet site. Those outputs are widely used internally and externally for global analyses and policy and trend studies. External statistical and information inquiries (an average in-flow of 4–5 per day) are handled through a specific e-mail account – FIES-Inquiries@fao.org – on a daily basis. Support to capacity-building for fishery statistics is mainly provided through FishCode-STF Programme which was launched in November 2004 under the FishCode.

Major activities and improvement in the individual statistics in 2005 and 2006 includes:

- Establishment of capture database in RECOFI region (part of Western Indian Ocean);
- Inclusion of culture methods into aquaculture statistics for further analyses in future;
- Development of “Strategy for Improving Status and Trends Reporting for Aquaculture”
- Revision of nutrition conversion factors for main groups of species by product forms which are used in estimation of SUAs and FBSs. This is a preparatory work done to obtain a more accurate coverage even in the light of the separation between the main groups of “freshwater fish” and “diadromous fish”, as well as between “small pelagic fish” and “large pelagic fish”; and
- Release of FishStat Plus version 2.32 with more flexible and user friendly administration module

FAO informed that in 2006 a new “FAOSTAT” was launched disseminating SUAs and FBSs related data that are estimated through an automated calculation module. These statistics are not comparable with those disseminated by old “FAOSTAT”. In the meantime, FIES decided not to use this automated calculation module due to several technical problems as well as methodological differences. Due to the substantial time lag to reflect fisheries data submitted to the FAO Statistical Division in the new “FAOSTAT” Web site, FAO advised to use the FIGIS Web site <http://www.fao.org/figis/servlet/static?dom=root&xml=tseries/index.xml>, for more updated fisheries information.

### ***Commission for the Conservation Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)***

The CCSBT authorized vessel list was enhanced during 2005 to include all vessels authorized to fish for SBT regardless of vessel size. The CCSBT is cooperating with the other tuna RFMOs in the provision of information for the global list of authorized tuna vessels that is displayed through the tuna-org Web site. In addition to its annual data exchange process, on 1 January 2006, the CCSBT implemented a monthly catch reporting system to improve the management and compliance regimes for the fishery.

During 2006, reviews were conducted of southern bluefin tuna farming and market data. The reviews indicated that southern bluefin tuna catches over the past 10 to 20 years may have been substantially under-reported. This in turn has resulted in uncertainty regarding the reliability of past catch and effort series that have been used in assessing the fishery. As a consequence, implementation of the CCSBT management procedure has been postponed and the CCSBT is holding a CPUE modelling workshop with terms of reference that include: determining whether it is possible to correct past CPUE series; and to develop robust CPUE series to use in the future.

At its annual meeting in October 2006, the CCSBT decided to strengthen its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures, to include:

- Reporting of initial quota allocations and final catch per company/vessel;
- Catch Documentation Scheme including tagging and measurement of individual fish;
- Mandatory Vessel Monitoring System; and
- Regulation of Transshipment by Large Scale Fishing Vessels.

The first of these measures has been implemented and the others are currently targeted for implementation during 2008.

### ***Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)***

The IATTC has expanded its reporting of fisheries statistics on its Web site, and is in the process of developing query-based data to users of its fisheries statistics and reports. Advances have been made in methods of data acquisition required by resolutions of the Commission, but further steps are being taken to encourage compliance with reporting requirements to ensure quality and integrity of data received into IATTC systems.

In conjunction with the other Tuna RFMOs the IATTC has been involved in the development of a global list of tuna fishing vessels. The list of authorized vessels from CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT and IOTC is now displayed on [www.tuna-org.org](http://www.tuna-org.org).

During the year the IATTC raised the issue of standardized fishing gear codes at a meeting of Tuna RFMOs with the aim of harmonizing them to facilitate data exchange and reporting. The current CWP codes are contained in [ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cwp/handbook/annex/AnnexM1\\_fishinggear.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/cwp/handbook/annex/AnnexM1_fishinggear.pdf). The meeting was advised that FAO and the CWP had been developing new gear and vessel codes in order to produce a unique coding system with harmonized codes and that it should be discussed at the next CWP meeting.

The IATTC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which includes the development of a mechanism for the exchange of scientific, fisheries, vessel and other data. The existing IATTC/SPC MOU concerning sharing of scientific data is being used as a starting point.

The IATTC staff has continued input into FIRMS developments, as reported separately at the 2007 FIRMS Steering Committee.

### ***International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)***

The ICCAT Secretariat continues to regularly collect statistical data on Atlantic tunas, tunas like species and sharks. All the information is public and stored in a relational database and can be downloaded from our Web page. The ICCAT Statistical Bulletin has been improved and published in a new format including all the times series on information available in our database.

To improve the quality of information on the catches, ICCAT developed the statistical documentation scheme in 1992 to monitor frozen bluefin tuna. This program was later extended to fresh bluefin, swordfish and bigeye. Discussions on the use of electronic documents were raised in 2006 ICCAT Commission meeting, but no agreement was reached to adopt another system. Nevertheless, at the Commission meeting it was recommended, on a voluntary basis, to start a new pilot program using the electronic documentation. The Commission will review the implementation of this pilot electronic system in 2007.

Recently, ICCAT was very active in developing capacity building and assisting developing member States in data collection and reporting systems. Some fisheries in developing Contracting Parties to ICCAT are artisanal in nature and capture many species, including non-ICCAT species. For this reason, it may be useful to coordinate joint efforts between ICCAT and other agencies that can provide capacity-building assistance for monitoring these multispecific fisheries.

In order to improve the control to ensure the implementation of bluefin tuna management measures, ICCAT adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 06–05]. The control measures defined in this Recommendation include the communication and reporting of catches on a regular basis, using a vessel-monitoring system in accordance with data exchange formats and protocols to be adopted in the next Commission meeting (November 2007). Experience from other fishery bodies regarding this issue will be of great assistance to ICCAT.

ICCAT aquaculture statistics includes only the information on bluefin tuna farming developed mainly in the Mediterranean Sea. This activity is not a closed cycle system, as wild-caught tunas are introduced in cages. This activity started around the year 1997 with a production of 262 t. Since then this practice continues to increase very rapidly and has reached 17 ,000 t in 2005.

### ***Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)***

The representative from WCPFC provided an overview of the CWP-related activities by SPC. He noted that in addition to data and trends for tuna and tuna-like species, the SPC supports activities among its 26 member countries, with a focus on its members that are island countries and territories, relating to aquaculture and coastal fisheries. This is supported by SPC's Coastal Fisheries Programme. He reported that the most recent meeting of SPC's governing body had requested the Secretariat to provide regular reports to it on the status and trends for all marine resources in the area of concern to SPC. He noted that FAO and SPC had collaborated in several initiatives concerning coastal fisheries in the South Pacific, including capacity building in coastal fisheries data collection and monitoring. However, he noted that the summary table of the FishCode–STF Web site implied coastal fisheries statistics from the South Pacific as an area that requires ongoing support.

In relation to tuna and tuna-like species, the Oceanic Fisheries Programme of SPC has been contracted by WCPFC to provide data management services. This includes the provision of annual catch estimates by gear type, fishing nation and major species of tuna and billfish, annual catches of non-target species caught by longliners and purse seiners, port sampling and observer data and biological data. Future work will extend to supporting data related responsibilities associated with the WCPFC's work on broader ecosystem issues associated with WCPO tuna fisheries and supporting data exchange and information sharing with other organizations with which the WCPFC collaborates.



### *Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)*

Meeting with FAO officials in June 2005 at SEAFDEC Secretariat in order to discuss the follow-up actions from CWP21 and FAO-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Improvement of Fishery Data and Information System held in Bali in February 2005, including the issues on a) The new Framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin in Southeast Asia; b) The proposed change of geographical areas for reporting of fishery statistics of Indonesia and Malaysia of the demarcation between the Fishing Area 71 and 57, to be consistent with the national reporting system, and considering the EEZ of the relevant countries; and c) The termination of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC in compilation of tuna fisheries statistics for the Southeast Asia Region (Fishing Area 71).

Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics was organized from 18–21 October 2005 in Thailand with the objectives to identify future directions to be undertaken in improving fishery statistics and information in the region; to finalize the regional guidelines on fishery statistics as well as proposal for new framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia; and to enhance cooperation among SEAFDEC and Member Countries through the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics. Besides, the Consultation also took note on the termination of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC on Collaboration of Tuna Fishery Statistics for the Southeast Asia Region (FAO Fishing Area 71).

Meeting with an FAO official (Dr Sachiko Tsuji) in August 2006 in Bangkok to discuss various issues on a) Finalization of the Framework of the new Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia; b) Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC; c) Collaboration in the promotion in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia; and d) Preparation of issues for the discussion at the twenty-second session of CWP.

The Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics, Information and Indicators as organized from 27–29 November 2006, Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting suggested the following areas to be undertaken by SEAFDEC and Member Countries in improving fisheries statistics, information and indicators, and their usage for fisheries planning and management, including a) Support implementation of Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia; b) Investigate and promote linkages among fishery-related statistics, data, information and indicators for usage in development planning and management; c) For fishery statistics continue to streamline framework for Regional Statistical Bulletin. Besides the Meeting concluded the immediate future actions and collaboration on Development of National and Regional Status and Trends of Fisheries of Southeast Asia (STF), and Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management.

Progress in implementation of the project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region” (2006). With the project aimed to support the member countries to improvement of better usage and linkages of fishery statistics, data and information at national level in terms of quality, availability, reliability, accuracy and timeliness of statistics and other data and information in line with the minimum requirements and the regionally standardized definitions and classifications for fishery statistics to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange, as well as ways and means to present information in user-friendly manner for management and decision-making, the following activities were implemented:

- The Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics was published as part of the Supplementary Guidelines on Co-Management Using Group User Rights, Fishery Statistics, Indicators and Fisheries Refugia in March 2006;
- Development of minimum requirement on fishery statistics and harmonization of standard definitions and classification for fishery statistics in Southeast Asia – the final draft is finished;

- Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to SEAFDEC and FAO through harmonized questionnaires – the preparation of questionnaire of SEAFDEC to be streamlined with FAO is going on;
- Compilation and published the regional fishery statistical bulletin for the Southeast Asian region – the manuscript of Bulletin 2004 is ready for published and for 2005 is going on.

SEAFDEC also informed on the new approved project on “Towards Better Utilization and Harmonized Information for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (2007–2009)”. With the overall objective of the project to improve better understanding and knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture in the region, the project will promote maximizing usage of data and information for fisheries management, which can be achieved through development of status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in the region based on effective utilization and harmonization of information for fisheries management at national level under the harmonized definitions, standards and classification of fishery statistics at regional level.

For issues for future collaboration with CWP members, SEAFDEC proposed the following:

- New framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia
- SEAFDEC inputs and contribution on behalf of the region, based on the Aquaculture Department (AQD) expertise and experience, to assist development and improvement of aquaculture statistics.
- Collaboration in the promotion of the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia, with the FishCode STF Project of FAO, and other initiatives of FAO.
- Collaboration based on the proposed activities of the project on “Towards Better Utilization and Harmonized Information for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (2007–2009)”, SEAFDEC would like to invite and welcome cooperation from the CWP and the RFBs Members, and FAO (including projects initiatives e.g. FishCode–STF).

## ***PRESENTATIONS BY OBSERVERS***

### **Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS)**

The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) is a Regional Maritime Organization responsible for the coordination of the maritime policies of its Member States which are Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The Organization was established on the 18th of August, 1952, as a result of "Declaration on the Maritime Zone" subscribed in Santiago by the Governments of Chile, Ecuador and Peru. Colombia joined the organization on the 9th August, 1979.

The CPPS is a strategic alliance in the Southeast Pacific, established to consolidate the presence of its coastal States in this important geographic zone; another function of CPPS is to extend its influence to adjacent zones, and further its relationship with the Pacific Basin countries.

CPPS's coordinating, promoting and executing organ is the General Secretariat, who works in compliance with the mandates established by its General Assemblies. The Secretary General coordinates the political matters of the organization, and is assisted by an Under-Secretary who oversees the legal themes; a Scientific Director and an Economic Affairs Director also assist the Secretary General in the oceanographic, atmospheric and living resource management (including fisheries) areas. The Secretary General is also the Executive Secretary of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific. Panama is a participant of this Action Plan.

The relation between the CPPS and the Governments of its Member States is through the National Sections, subordinate to the Ministry of Foreign Relations of each State.

Within CPPS, the production of fishery statistic has been very important and constantly mentioned as a priority in its General Assemblies. However, due to external factors, its production as a region has been discontinued since 2001. Before that 13 publications and two triptychs were published.

CPPS had published thirteen Fishery Statistics Bulletins for the South East Pacific since 1989 till 2001. Furthermore, CPPS also produced some triptychs with condensed five year information on fisheries statistics. These publications were suspended due to the fact that two of its member countries almost discontinued their production of fishery statistics.

As mentioned by Ecuadorian fisheries authorities, in the year 2000, the fishery statistic unit was eliminated within the Under Secretariat of Fisheries with the purpose of being outsourced, but this never happened. Moreover, the Colombian Government decided in 2001 to eliminate de National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture INPA created in 1984 and trespassed some of their responsibilities to the National Institute of Rural Development INCODER. The production of fishery statistics was abandoned at this time.

CPPS coordinated a workshop on fisheries statistics in October 2006, in Lima, Peru, with the technical assistance of FAO. Previous workshops were coordinated in the past, even working groups were organized, but these stopped in 2001.

### **South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO)**

In recent past, and with respects of activities of relevance with fisheries statistics and data collection, SEAFO has accomplished the following:

- Developed and implemented log-sheets and sampling forms for each fishery;
- Established a permanent Sub-Committee to collate fisheries data and prepare the work of the SEAFO Scientific Committee;
- Adopt a port State measure to report on the results of their inspections of foreign vessels to the SEAFO Secretariat. A form for use by port State in collecting such data was developed and implemented;
- Adopt a measure to monitor the fisheries in the SEAFO Convention Area through among others, authorization and notification of fishing vessels, report of entry and exit of fishing vessels, collection and submission of data on catch and fishing effort, introduction of vessel monitoring system (VMS) and a mandatory onboard scientific observer(s) in all authorized fishing vessels
- Adopt a measure declaring area closure to fishing on numerous fragile marine habitats including seamounts until such time when more information on the resources and the ecosystem functioning is available.
- Each Contracting Party has/should designated a scientific coordinator(s) responsible for, among others, training of scientific observers, data quality control and data provision to SEAFO.
- Adopt a measure establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing in the Convention Area.
- Adopt a measure on reducing incidental catches of seabirds and the collection and reporting of data on sharks including prohibition of finning and the release of live sharks in non-shark directed fisheries.

### **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)**

The representative of WCPFC, a recently established tuna RFMO in the western and central Pacific, reported that the Commission currently has 25 members and two cooperating non-members. The

secretariat, which is in the Federated States of Micronesia, has been operational for 18 months. The Commission's data management services are currently provided by SPC. The Commission has adopted a policy on the provision of scientific data, including operational level catch and effort data and, in 2006, established an Ad Hoc Task Group (AHTG) to review the types of data that will be managed by the Commission and the risks associated with management of that data. The Commission has adopted a policy on rules of access to, and dissemination of, Commission data, as recommended by the AHTG, recognising that this would be periodically reviewed as new data needs arise. The Commission has also endorsed the development of an Information Security Policy for the Commission that will aspire to ISO17795 standards. In addition to tuna fleet and catch statistics provided by SPC, the Commission manages data associated with its Records of Fishing Vessels. During 2007, with operationalization of the Commission's High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme, VMS, and regional observer programme and monitoring of data provision obligations associated with conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission, additional data management responsibilities will arise. Work to build capacity for tuna fishery monitoring in Indonesia and the Philippines will also continue.

**List of minimum items to be included in CWP–23 agenda**  
**Intersessional theme: new data requirement and data sources**  
*(Italics indicates those items to be discussed at the intersessional meeting)*

1. *Standards for MCS-related data and VMS, review the criteria used to decided for listing as “IUU”, VMS combining with other information, e.g. catch report,*
  - *(Review of progress of making inventories of use of VMS work )*
  - *Estimation of IUU catch*
  - *Need for data in relation to the area closure*
2. *Type of data useful for Ecosystem management approach? What need collect for? ; Standard for data need for ecosystem management approach including data collection standard for incidental take.*
3. *Consolidated database of RFB’s data*
4. Update on standards on capture-based aquaculture including tuna-farming
5. Follow-up of development of CWP-like body for aquaculture
6. Development of vessel lists (authorized/IUU/global) , harmonization of fields and codes/ unique identifier
7. Methodological description of national data collection system
8. Progress in development of unique vessel identifier for small vessels.
9. CWP Visibility
10. Review of Rules of Procedures.

**CWP address to COFI**

The Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics had its twenty-second session last week in Rome. It discussed a number of matters relevant to global fishery statistics (and to the UN recommendations to this regard), such as our current inability in most cases to separate between catches taken in EEZs and the high seas, the necessity to improve data collections on incidental catches, data requirements for ecosystem management, etc. The CWP would like to specifically inform the COFI Members of the following recommendations which were made:

1. The CWP requested FAO to consolidate regional bodies catch data into one database under general guidance of the CWP.
2. The CWP recommended to explore the utilization of VMS data for scientific and statistical purposes, in addition to their uses in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance.
3. The CWP draws your attention to the fact that the South-China Sea is now the only area in the world with no regional management arrangement for tuna and tuna-like species. This gap not only raises concerns regarding the sustainability of the resource but can cause serious deficiencies in the global collection of data on the species in question.

Thank you very much for your attention.

### Recommendations and agreements

15. While the meeting encouraged the aquaculture experts to continue their efforts to establish a CWP-like body for aquaculture, the CWP recommended that FAO and the Secretariat ensure close collaboration and monitoring of this development and regularly report to the CWP. The appropriate form of the relationship between the current CWP and a CWP-like body for aquaculture should be discussed at the later stage. (FAO/Secretariat)

18. The meeting noted the difficulties in separating the capture fisheries component and aquaculture components of tuna cage culture. .... It remains essential to communicate the existing guidelines as well as to review and update them as appropriate and the meeting agreed this issue to be kept in agenda for the next session. It was noted that the capture-based aquaculture extends to species other than tuna and specific guidelines may be needed for other fishing activities.

19. FAO reminded the meeting that a proposal to simplify the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels (ISSCFV) focusing on the vessel structural characteristics had been developed and approved by CWP-21. .... Although FAO concluded that potential impacts of simplifying ISSCFV seems to be minimal, it suggested that the revision should be postponed until the need of codes for supporting vessels would become clarified corresponding to an ongoing movement toward development of global vessel list including support vessels. The meeting endorsed this suggestion. The need for harmonization of gear codes was also noted.

22. Following the recommendation made by the Expert Consultation on Data Formats and Procedures for MCS, the Secretariat reviewed the feasibility of UN-LOCODE as a template for port code. .... The existence of the UN-LOCODE should be noted when considering coding for ports, although it is premature to recommend it as a standard for fishing port codification. The meeting agreed that the issue of port codes will not be brought to CWP-23 unless further developments that need discussion have taken place.

30. 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 SEAFDEC, in consultation with the Secretariat, should proceed as instructed during the intersessional period and that the Secretariat would report the result to member organizations. It was not considered necessary to include the issue on the agenda of CWP-23. (SEAFDEC, IOTC, Secretariat)

31. Reviews and comparisons of fishery data systems is a long-term ongoing activity of the CWP. Recognizing the importance of methodological descriptions of national fishery statistics programmes for monitoring statistical data quality, the meeting recommended that the CWP Secretariat compile information supplied by CWP members during the earlier sessions and distribute this information to members for review and update. (Secretariat)

37. Despite of recommendation from Expert Consultation on Data Format and Procedures for MCS, the CWP could not identify a concrete issue for collaboration. However, the meeting saw a merit in maintaining contact with and exchanging information and agreed to invite the MCS-network as an observer for future sessions of CWP. (Secretariat)

42. With regard to the potential establishment of a global list of IUU vessels ....., more generally, it would appear that each organization has its own criteria for defining IUU vessels and, in addition to potential legal problems, this inconsistency is likely to represent an obstacle to the establishment of internationally shared lists. In the absence of such global lists, it was recommended that RFBs should facilitate the establishment of links to each others' IUU lists. It was further recommended that CWP should review the criteria used for defining IUU vessels by its various members with a view to provide a basis for a discussion on harmonization. (RFBs, CWP)

43. The estimation of IUU catches is critical for stock assessments and it was recommended that CWP should review existing methods used for such estimates. (CWP)

50. The meeting recommended that FAO establish a consolidated catch database based on the publicly available data and under general guideline established at the time of the previous consolidation exercise. At the same time, FAO should prepare a more detailed proposal with a long term strategy including whether the database should be held under the auspices of FAO or CWP to be considered at CWP-23. (FAO)

55. The meeting suggested the Secretariat should monitor the progress of unique identification numbers for smaller vessels by the IMO/FAO working group and report to the CWP. (Secretariat)

56. CWP had agreed in the previous sessions to eliminate vessel classifications on non-fishing vessels including support vessel from ISSCFV. However, the meeting felt this decision should be reversed and recommended that support vessels should be included in the ISSCFV. The meeting also noted the need to develop a unique identifier for vessel owners.

65. Various such measures were discussed and the following suggested:

- RFBs should include links to the CWP Web site from their sites. (RFBs)
- A statement by CWP will be delivered to COFI. This statement can also be used as a basis for press releases and other information measures by CWP members.
- A reference to CWP will be included on the Web site for UN statistics. (FAO/Secretariat)
- The CWP Secretariat will consult with relevant expertise within FAO to develop an outreach strategy for CWP to be presented and considered by CWP-23. This work will also include investigating possibilities for making the CWP Web site more accessible. (Secretariat)

66. Following a suggestion by the Secretariat it was agreed that there was no need to have an intersessional meeting unless there are particular technical issues that are identified to be discussed. Should such a need arises, an intersessional meeting can be called at a later stage.

67. After reviewing the issues which were identified as those needed for further discussion in future, the meeting agreed to have an intersessional meeting during 2007/2008 period focusing on "new data requirement and new data sources".

70. The Secretariat noted that the Rules of Procedures were last amended in 1995. Some provisions may not be applicable to the way CWP operates currently. It was agreed that the Members review the Rules and Procedures during the intersessional period and provide the Secretariat with potential suggestions for changes. At the same time, it was suggested that Members and meeting



participants may want to pay closer attention to, for example, adhering to deadlines for document submissions ahead of Sessions. (Secretariat, members)

72. The CWP noted that with the lapse of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC and as there is no regional management arrangement for tuna and tuna-like species, there is currently no institutional arrangement in place for the collection and consolidation of tuna catch statistics for the Southeast Asia region (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Australia). The CWP recommended that FAO work with appropriate organizations to address this gap. The result of their work will be reported to the next meeting of the CWP. (FAO, SEAFDEC, WCPFC and other relevant organizations)

73. ICES and Eurostat explained to the meeting the recent separations of the statistical sub-divisions distinguishing between national EEZs and international waters. However, the CWP statistical handbook should be updated accordingly and the meeting agreed to these changes. Eurostat and ICES will provide the definition of this new sub-divisions. (Eurostat, ICES)

75. FAO and SEAFO suggested to conduct in the near future a joint study to analyze if it is feasible to rearrange the statistical divisions of area 47 in a way that would both reduce to a minimum the disruption of historical data series and allow the reporting and compilation of data for the SEAFO Convention area in the future. Results of this study should be presented to the appropriate SEAFO body and reported to CWP at its twenty-third session. (FAO, SEAFO)

77. It was recommended that CWP should move towards refining best practice data standards for monitoring fisheries within their ecosystem context. These issues are becoming important for regional management bodies and it is not clear that sufficient data exist to adequately address bycatch, discarding and other associated topics. (CWP)

## List of acronyms

ACFR	Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research (FAO)
ADRIAMED	Scientific Cooperation to Support Responsible Fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM)
AHTG	Ad Hoc Task Group (WCPFC)
AIDCP	Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IATTC)
APFIC	Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
AQD	Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC)
AQIIF	Addressing Quality of Information for Inland Fisheries project (SEAFDEC)
ASFA	Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts
ASFIS	Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCSBT	Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
CDS	Catch documentation scheme
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (FAO Regional Body)
CFS	China Fisheries Society
CIRCA	Communication and Information Resource Center Administrator (Eurostat)
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COFI	Committee on Fisheries (FAO)
COPEMED	Cooperación Pesca Mediterráneo (Mediterranean Fish Cooperation, GFCM)
CPPS	Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (Permanent Commission of the South Pacific)
CPUE	Catch per unit effort
CWP	Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EEA	European Economic Area
EEZ	Exclusive economic zone
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EPO	Eastern Pacific Ocean (IATTC)
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBS	Food balance sheet (FAO)
FFA	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
FIDI	Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit (Fisheries Department, FAO, ceased in December 2006, see FIES)
FIES	Fisheries and Aquaculture Information and Statistics Service (Fisheries and Aquaculture Economics and Policy Division, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO) previously FIDI
FIGIS	Fisheries Global Information System (FAO)
FIIT	Fishing Technology Service, Fish Products and Industry Division (Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO)
FishCode-STF	Global Partnerships for Responsible Fisheries – Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries (FAO)
FISHDAB	Fishery Statistical Database (Fisheries Department, FAO)
FIRMS	Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FAO)
GFCM	General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (FAO Regional Body)

GRT	Gross registered tonnage
GSA	Geographical sub-areas (GFCM)
GT	Gross tonnage
HSVAR	High Seas Vessel Authorization Record
IATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
IMO	International Maritime Organization of the United Nations
INPA	Instituto Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura (National Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Colombia, CPPS)
INCODER	Instituto de Desarrollo Rural (National Institute of Rural Development, Colombia, CPPS)
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (FAO Regional Body)
ICSEAF	International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ceased: 1990)
ISIC	International Standard Classification of All Economic Activities (UN)
ISM	Intersessional Meeting (CWP)
ISSCAAP	International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants
ISSCFV	International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Vessels
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
MCS-network	International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network for Fisheries Related Activities
MEDFISIS	Mediterranean Fishery Statistics and Information System (GFCM)
MedStat	GFCM: "An Adaptive Approach for the Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems in Mediterranean Countries". The GFCM has been supported by FAO projects, namely COPEMED, ADRIAMED and MEDFISIS, in the implementation of the MEDSTAT programme.
MEDSUDMED	Assessment and Monitoring of the Fishery Resources and the Ecosystems in the Straits of Sicily (GFCM)
MFRDMD	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAF Format	North Atlantic Format – Fisheries Standard for Electronic Data Transmission
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (previously ICNAF – International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries)
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NewCronos	Eurostat Database (previously known as CRONOS)
NRA	NAFO Regulatory Area (NAFO)
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OFF	Oceanic Fisheries Programme (SPC)
OSPESCA	Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (Central American Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector)
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
RFB	Regional fishery body
RECOFI	Regional Commission for Fisheries (FAO)
RFMO	Regional fishery management organization
SBT	Southern bluefin tuna

SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SIPAM	Information System for the Promotion of Aquaculture in the Mediterranean
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
STACREC	Standing Committee on Research Coordination (of Scientific Council of NAFO)
STATLANT	Statistical Programme for the Atlantic Fisheries (previously STANA)
SUA	Supply utilization account (FAO)
TAC	Total allowable catch
TIS	Trade information system/scheme
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN-LOCODE	United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations
VMS	Vessel monitoring system
WCPO	Western and Central Pacific Ocean (SPC)
WCPFC	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

## CWP Sessions

## CWP – Continuing Working Party on Fishery Statistics in the North Atlantic

Session	Date	Place	FAO Fisheries Report No.
1	25–26 May 1960	Bergen, Norway	<u>a/</u>
2	6–8 June 1961	Washington DC, USA	<u>b/</u>
3	18–21 March 1963	Rome, Italy	7
4	9–12 March 1965	Rome, Italy	21
5	10–14 April 1967	Aberdeen, Scotland	45

a/ Annex J of FAO Fisheries Report No. 3

b/ Annex K of FAO Fisheries Report No. 3

## CWP – Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics

Session	Date	Place	FAO Fisheries Report No.
6	3–7 February 1969	Copenhagen, Denmark	70
7	10–16 November 1971	Rome, Italy	121
8	12–20 September 1974	Paris, France	156
9	17–23 August 1977	Dartmouth, Canada	17
10	22–29 July 1980	Madrid, Spain	242
11	21–28 July 1982	Luxembourg, Grand Duchy	274
12	25 July – 1 August 1984	Copenhagen, Denmark	316
13	11–18 February 1987	Rome, Italy	379
14	5–9 February 1990	Paris, France	429
15	8–14 July 1992	Dartmouth, Canada	473
16	20–25 March 1995	Madrid, Spain	521

## CWP – Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics

Session	Date	Place	FAO Fisheries Report No.
17	3–7 March 1997	Hobart, Tasmania	555
18	6–9 July 1999	Luxembourg, Grand Duchy	608
19	10–13 July 2001	Nouméa, New Caledonia	656
20	21–24 January 2003	Victoria, Seychelles	709
21	1–4 March 2005	Copenhagen, Denmark	777
22	26 February–2 March 2007	Rome, Italy	834

**The report of the twenty-second session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) held in Rome, Italy, from 27 February to 2 March 2007, is presented.**

**Topics discussed were: enhancement of regional fishery bodies and the FishCode Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries partnership; review of progress by member organizations; aquaculture statistics; issues related to vessel and port classification; fishery data quality indicators; FishStat Plus status; review of recommendations from the CWP twenty-first session; review of reports from expert consultations and workshops; improvement in visibility of CWP.**

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