



## ICES Historical Landings 1903-1949

### 1. Background.

The original historical ICES Catch Statistics data from 1903 - 1949 were a set of 20 documents referring to each of the 20 countries that submitted data from that period (see appendix notes). Although this dataset was available from ICES web page, changes in species names and areas made it difficult to collate and use for further analysis. Therefore, in 2012, all the data have been compiled into a single datasheet in the excel file called *"1903-1949\_Catch\_data\_all"*.

Data user Ian Thurlbeck (Glasgow University) detected several data discrepancies between the original data sets and the 1903-1949 dataset. He sent a Report with the issues, and in 2014 the outstanding issues were solved in an improved version of the ICES Historical Landings 1903-1949 dataset.

Before using this dataset, please refer to the documentation associated with it (table 1) and the appendix 1 in this document.

Table 1. Documents associated with 1903-1949 Historical Catch Statistics.

| Document name                            | URL  |
|--|--|
| Disclaimer_Landings_1903-1949            | <a href="http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx">http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-</a> |
| Lassen et al., 2012                      | <a href="http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/dataset-collections/Pages/Fish-catch-and-stock-assessment.aspx">assessment.aspx</a>  |
| ICES Historical Landings 1903-1949_notes |  |

### 2. Task for the EuroBasin project

**(EuroBasin deliverable 4: Dataset 2: Available total landings by stock area)**

1. Extract all the catch data from 1903-49 for all 20 countries into one unique spreadsheet called *"1903-1949\_Catch\_data\_all"*.
2. Extract the comments from original countries-spreadsheet into a unique spreadsheet that can be associated with the data spreadsheet *"1903-1949\_Catch\_data\_all"*.
3. Clear all redundancies and miss-spellings in the species\_original column from the *"1903-1949\_Catch\_data\_all"* document grouping them by the unique FAO\_codes column and document the changes in a new spreadsheet *"species\_mapping"*.
4. Perform an overall Quality Check on the data with ICES expert Hans Lassen.

5. Upload the new data to ICES and PANGAEA.

### 3. Data collation

From the 940 spread sheets (one for each of the 20 countries and 47 years data (03-49) on each) all data were extracted and collated into a new spreadsheet ("*All data\_plain*": Country, Year, FAO\_Area, FAO\_Species\_code, FAO\_Species\_Name, Scientific name and Landings).

In addition, all the comments from the individual values (i.e. landings, year, area...) in the original countries excel files were extracted and a new spreadsheet was included to document these comments ("*comments*").

Also, each of the original countries excel files had some "*notes*" that have been compiled together with the country name and code into the spreadsheet: "*Country\_notes*" (also in appendix 1).

Codes other than numbers from the Landings values are documented in the spreadsheet "*other\_codes*" and in table 2.

Table 2. Codes included in Landings.

| sign    | meaning   |
|---------|---|
| :       | not available   |
| -       | no reported catch (may be included elsewhere)   |
| P       | < half ton  |
| 0       | no catch  |
| (blank) | species was reported by the country at least once between 1903 and 1949. Blanks are created by the data export procedure. |

The spreadsheet "*ICES\_areas*" shows the 67 entries for areas from the original data and the 48 areas after cleaning spelling mistakes, spaces, duplications, etc.

The spreadsheet "*species\_names*" shows the unique 3 letter FAO Code, scientific name and common English name from all species reported.

The spreadsheet "*species\_mapping*" shows the original 406 species names and the new 108 FAO\_name species. The spreadsheet documents all the different original common names merged into a unique FAO\_name from the original data.

The final spreadsheet "*All data\_plain*" has a total of 87795 entries, 108 different species, 48 areas and 813 comments extracted into "*comments*".

### 4. Criteria to group common names.

When a discrepancy, redundancy was noted, the 3 letter code was used and a unique common name have been allocated following the FAO ASFIS species list, <http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/asfis/en>)

1. All the original codes have been kept or corrected when a clear mistake was observed. When the code was not a FAO\_code a common name and scientific name has been composed (table 3).

Table 3. 3-letter codes not belonging to FAO code list.

| 3A_CODE | Scientific_name               | English_name   |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| SOO     | <i>Solea spp</i>              | sole nei       |
| TBZ     | <i>P. maxima + S. rhombus</i> | Turbot & Brill |

2. When same common name is used for two or more different FAO codes (i.e. 'monk' for MNZ and MON) the unique English common name from ASFIS list has been allocated for each one (i.e. MNZ = 'Monkfishes nei' and MON='Angler(=Monk)').
3. When several common names refer to the same FAO code (i.e. 'monk', 'Angler/Monk', 'Angler', etc, for MNZ ), then the unique English common name from ASFIS list has been allocated (i.e. MNZ = 'Monkfishes nei')
4. When an obvious spelling mistake has been found, a unique common name has been allocated for all the entries (i.e. 'American plaice' and 'American place', all = 'American plaice').

## 5. Data quality improvement

In-depth data check by Ian Thurlbeck located some data quality issues based on erroneous references or failed data transfer.

The main issues were:

SOURCE: DNK/1928.csv: records assigned to wrong year (1929).

Action: In original sheets 1929 label was repeated twice for 1928 and 1929. Data corrected on both 1928 and 1929.

SOURCE: NLD/all years: wrong country code used?

Action: Country code corrected from NDL to NLD

SOURCE: NOR/most years: missing altogether. Data extracted was only for 2012.

Action: New dataset extended with all available years, total of 5994 inputs.

In addition, some records were missing in the Belgian, French, Faroese, and Irish records, which are now added to the dataset.

German sole and lemon sole species references in 1904 data were erroneous, which is now corrected.

For more detailed information on the changes performed in the dataset, please send a request to [catch.data@ices.dk](mailto:catch.data@ices.dk)

## References

Lassen et al., 2012. One hundred years of catch statistics for the Northeast Atlantic. ICES COOPERATIVE RESEARCH REPORT No. 311.

**Appendix 1.** Country Codes and associated notes extracted from the original countries Catch Statistics excel files:

| Code       | Country and notes  |
|------------|--|
| <b>BEL</b> | <p><b>Belgium</b></p> <p>Data for all years except 1903, 1913-1919, 1921, 1927 and 1940.</p> <p>Data for 1923 -1926 are for landings in Ostend only.</p> <p>No shell fish data until 1929.</p>   |
| <b>DEU</b> | <p><b>Germany</b></p> <p>Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.</p> <p>In the Bulletin Statistique for 1951 the following note was included: "The figures for the German fishery in 1948 given in previous volumes are revised according to new data received." Percentage increases for some species are: herring 8.9%, cod 7.3%, haddock 8.2%, plaice 3.0%, common sole 0.5%. However no more information available.</p> <p>No data for 1945</p> <p>No shellfish data until 1911</p> <p>In the Bulletin Statistique for 1937 the following note was included "in previous years 'Lobster' includes 'Norway lobster'"</p> |
| <b>DNK</b> | <p><b>Denmark</b></p> <p>Data recorded as "Common shrimp" in the Bulletin Statistique is thought to be "Common prawn". This is based on footnote for some years that has not been repeated for other years.</p> <p>Data recorded in Bulletin Statistique as division "XIV, XV" is thought to refer largely to Division "XV" that is, NW Atlantic, and thus omitted from these worksheets.</p> <p>Data for all years 1903-1949</p> <p>No shellfish data before 1911</p> <p>For 1936 - 1946 reports of "Freshwater (formerly Brackish water) fish" have been included in "Marine/various fish"</p>   |
| <b>ESP</b> | <p><b>Spain</b></p> <p>No data for 1903-1924, 1926-1927 and 1929 - 1939.</p>   |
| <b>FIN</b> | <p><b>Finland</b></p> <p>Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.</p> <p>Data for 1903 and 1905-49</p> <p>No shellfish data</p>  |
| <b>FRA</b> | <p><b>France</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT NOTE:</b> A great deal of difficulty has been experienced in interpreting the <i>Bulletin statistique</i> data for 1921-24. The data should be used very cautiously.</p> <p>Data (including shellfish) for 1921-49 Oysters, mussels and clams reported in numbers (not included)</p>  |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>FRO</b> | <p><b>Faroe Islands</b></p> <p>No data for 1939 and 1946-49</p> <p>No shellfish data</p> <p>It has been assumed that all catches in divisions "XIV,XV" were made in the NW Atlantic and thus omitted from these tables.</p>   |
| <b>GBE</b> | <p><b>UK England and Wales</b></p> <p>From 1928 - 1939 (and possibly other years) the England &amp; Wales data may include Scottish landings in foreign ports.</p> <p>Reports of data for Division "XIV, XV" are thought to be for Division XV (the NW Atlantic) and are thus omitted from this table.</p> <p>Data for 1903-1949</p> <p>No shellfish data until 1918</p>  |
| <b>GBS</b> | <p><b>UK Scotland</b></p> <p>Scottish landings in foreign ports are included in the data for England and Wales.</p> <p>Data for 1903-1949</p> <p>No shellfish data until 1911</p>   |
| <b>GBU</b> | <p><b>UK England and Wales and Northern Ireland</b></p> <p>Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.</p>   |
| <b>GRL</b> | <p><b>Greenland</b></p> <p>No data are available until 1938.</p> <p>From 1938 data are reported for "Divisions XIV, XV, XX" or for "Divisions XIV,XV". Divisions XV and XX are not in the ICES area and, although firm evidence is absent, fishing activity in this period was minimal in Division XIV. Thus it is likely that Greenland had little fishing activity in the ICES area in the period 1938-1939.</p>  |
| <b>IRL</b> | <p><b>Ireland</b></p> <p>From 1930 onwards data for Ireland excludes data for Northern Ireland which will be found in the file GBU_23_49</p> <p>Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.</p>  |
| <b>ISL</b> | <p><b>Iceland</b></p> <p>Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.</p> <p>Over time there has been an improvement in the statistics for Iceland. Therefore care should be taken in comparing data over time.</p> <p>There have been no reports for shellfish for 1923-1935, 1938 and 1942-1949</p> |
| <b>LVA</b> | <p><b>Latvia</b></p> <p>No data until 1924 and 1939-49</p>  |
| <b>NDL</b> | <p><b>Netherlands</b></p>   |
| <b>NOR</b> | <p><b>Norway</b></p>  |

Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.

Data recorded in Bulletin Statistique as Division "XIV,XV" have been assumed to be for NW Atlantic and thus excluded from these tables.

Fish and shellfish for 1911-31 are for Skagerrak only

Shell fish for 1932-49 are for Skagerrak only

**POL Poland**

No data for 1903-1920 and 1940 – 1949

Data in these worksheets are primarily derived from the corresponding volume of ICES Bulletin Statistique. However, in some cases corrections to the earlier data published in later volumes of the Bulletin have been included as have other data from the ICES archives.

**PRT Portugal**

No data before 1927

**RUS Russia**

**SWE Sweden**

For most years no division was recorded for catches of shellfish. These catches were assigned to Division IIIa but some probably came from Division IIIb. For a number of years reports for Common dab include Flounder or vice versa