Conversion Factors Used by the United States in Submitting Statistics to I. C. N. A. F.

by

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The conversion factors used by the United States in producing statistics for ICNAF differ somewhat from those listed in the ICNAF Statistical Bulletin. Both sets of values are presented in Table 1. Conversion factors have not been routinely included with the annual statistical submission to ICNAF at least for the past two years; the origin of the erroneous figures listed by ICNAF is not known.

The basis of the U. S. conversion factors is obscured in history. The original data used to calculate them is not available. Presumably these factors were determined from data collected in the 1930's. There have been attempts to verify at least some of these statistics since then. No major discrepancies have been found but the samples taken to study conversion factors have generally been small and not designed to evaluate changes as might be caused by such factors as season, area, etc.

Only for haddock do the recent data approach adequacy. In analyzing these data seasonal trends were not found and size differences did not seem to affect the conversion factors. A value of 1.15 appeared to be the best estimate available for converting gutted to round weight. This is close to the 1.14 figure now used.

There are, however, seasonal changes in the processing of haddock and these are not at present considered in converting dressed and round weights. From November through March the fish are gutted, but during the other months the gills are also removed. A limited number of samples indicate that for converting gutted and gilled to round weight a figure of 1.18 would be more

accurate than 1.14. However, if this seasonal change in processing is taken into consideration, only a 2 percent increase on the yearly estimate of metric tons landed results. This difference is not large enough to warrant the extra effort involved in adjusting for changes in processing.

Table 1. --Factors used to convert landed weight of certain fish and shellfish to round, fresh.

Species	U. S. factors gutted (dressed) to round, fresh	Factors listed in ICNAF Bulletin
Bluefish	1.09	1.2
Cod	1.17	1.2
Cusk	1.13	1.2
Haddock	1.14	1.2
Hake (white)	1.34	1.35
Halibut	1.15	1.15
Pollock	1.13	1.2
Shark	1.20	1.2
Silver hake	1.66	1.67
Sturgeon	1.20	1.25
Swordfish	1.25	1.25
Tilefish	1.09	1.2
Wolffish	1.20	1.6
Weakfish	1.09	1.2
Misc. round fish, etc.	1.00	1.0
Scallops	8.333	8.3
Clams, hard	7.1	7.1
Clams, soft	3.9	3.9
Clams, razor	2.8	2.8
Conchs	3.9	3.9
Oysters	9.8	9.8
Periwinkles	4.1	4.1
Mussels	3.5	3.5