

Report
of
the the Sub-Committee for Telegraphic Communication
of Oceanographic Observations

The Sub-Committee met on Wednesday 30th September.

It was proposed that a pilot scheme should be carried out during January-March 1965 in the North Sea, the Skagerrak and parts of the Norwegian Sea to test the feasibility of this project, followed by a meeting in Bergen in the spring. If the Pilot Scheme proves successful, member countries will then have to decide on the next stage and whether to extend the project to other areas.

For the Pilot Scheme, special frequency allocations will not be required as the relatively few telegraphic messages involved can be passed on existing channels without difficulty. However, if the project is proved and later expands, it will be necessary to obtain frequencies for both the coded messages transmitted by the observing vessels and the digested information sent back by the controlling laboratory; Dr. Fedorov (IOC) gave a brief summary of the objectives of the Working Group on Communications of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission whose work will become relevant if such frequencies are required at a later date. Dr. Fedorov also agreed to uniform Dr. Mario RUIRO, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Marine Research of FAO of the activities of this Sub-Committee.

It was proposed that Norway be asked to run the pilot scheme from the laboratory at Bergen; a suggestion was also made that it might be possible for the Service Hydrographique to take over the project at some time in the future but Mr. Smed stated that this would not be possible without an increase in the staff.

Invitations to participate will be sent out by the chairman to members of the Sub-Committee - Denmark, U.K., Iceland, U.S.S.R. and Norway - and in addition Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands. These invitations will include definite preliminary proposals and specify

- a) The starting and finishing dates for the pilot scheme.
- b) The areas for which data are required.
- c) How frequently observations should be made.
- d) How often cabled messages are necessary.

These details will enable participating countries to estimate the additional expenditure involved which they will be expected to bear themselves.

Arrangements will also be made for Weather Ships, Light Vessels and Commercial Passenger Vessels fitted with thermographs to participate in the scheme and for their observations to be used in the preparation of the synoptic charts; data from Fixed Oceanographic Stations on the Norwegian coast will also be incorporated.

J. Eggvin