

Report of 2nd Meeting of the ICES Working Group
on the Co-ordination of Hydrographic Investigations
in the North Sea

The participants at the 2nd meeting on 1 October 1974 were H.W. Hill (Chairman), H.D. Dooley and J.A. Durance (UK), G.K. Schoep, A.J. van Bennekom, and L. Otto (Netherlands), G. Pichot (Belgium), H. Duchrow, H. Weidemann and K.P. Koltermann (Fed. Rep. of Germany), E. Ljøen (Norway), T. Winterfeld (USA) and A. Svansson (Sweden).

Report of the Working Group on Permanent Moored Current Meter Stations in the North Sea.

There was a short discussion on final draft of this report and a number of minor amendments were made. The report is now ready for printing.

Input of pollutant to the North Sea

The Working Group discussed at some length various methods by which systematic progress on this problem could be made. It was agreed that the problem required a multidisciplinary approach and might best be studied in depth by national authorities tackling specific estuarine areas such as the Humber, Schelde, Rhine and a suitable Norwegian fjord, bearing in mind the presentation by Prof. Wollast during the current Hydrography Committee meeting. It was agreed that a first step could be a general review by members of the Working Group and particularly certain invited contributors (Wollast, van Bennekom, Talbot) to assess the scope of the problem and break it down into discrete components which can be sensibly handled by individual disciplines e.g. physical and chemical oceanographers, marine pollution biologists, geologists, coastal engineers etc. these individual problems being subsequently co-ordinated in a comprehensive approach similar to the Belgian study described by Prof. Wollast.

Flushing times for the North Sea

Mr. Otto agreed to produce a working document within the next six months, including some provisional estimates of flushing times, and to circulate this among members to stimulate further discussion and analysis of this problem.

Definition of semi-permanent buoys

In response to a request to the Service Hydrographique from the UK designated authority for distributing information on moored buoy arrays, it was agreed to redefine a semi-permanent buoy station as one which was intended to be deployed for at least six months.

Plans for JONSDAP 76

Some doubts were expressed by those members specifically interested in residual circulation concerning the deployment of the majority of the current meter stations along the northern boundary of the experiment. After considerable discussion it was agreed that the present northern boundary should be retained, but that each member participating in JONSDAP 76 should reconsider the deployment of their current meter rigs, both on the northern boundary and internally within the model area and provide at the next JONSIS meeting in Göteborg on 29-30 October details of the location of all rigs which they hope to deploy in the experiment.

It was recommended that ICES should co-sponsor the JONSDAP 76 experiment and that there should be official ICES representation on the JONSDAP Working Group planning the experiment, thus creating a joint ICES/JONSIS Working Group.

Co-operative exercises in 1974 and 1975

Further to the report of the first meeting of the Working Group (C.M.1974/C:5) spatial variability and Stokes' drift experiments were reported during 1974 by Netherlands, Belgium, UK and Norway respectively. It was agreed that a similar program of national cruises directed towards a better understanding of these problem areas before JONSDAP 76 should be continued during 1975.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the combined ICES/JONSIS Working Group to co-ordinate the planning of JONSDAP 76 should be held in Paris in January 1975 in conjunction with the proposed JONSMOD meeting.

Recommendations

It is proposed by the Working Group that

1. The Permanent Moored Current Meter Stations Working Group report should be published in the ICES Co-operative Research Report Series.
2. Member countries be asked to set up national interdisciplinary study groups on the input of pollutants to the North Sea, paying specific attention to typical input estuaries within their own country such as the Humber, Schelde, Rhine and a suitable Norwegian fjord.
3. For the purposes of the six monthly list of semi-permanent oceanographic stations issued by ICES the definition of a semi-permanent station be changed to one that was intended to remain deployed for a period of at least six months.
4. ICES should co-sponsor with JONSIS (Joint North Sea Information Systems) the JONSDAP 76 experiment, nominating official ICES members to a joint ICES/JONSIS planning group to co-ordinate plans for the project.

The next meeting of the joint ICES/JONSIS planning group for JONSDAP 76 should be held at national expense in Paris in January 1975 in conjunction with the currently planned JONSMOD (JONSIS Modelling) meeting.

5. Bearing in mind the regularity with which the standard Norwegian hydrographic section along 59°17'N has been worked in recent years providing a valuable data base for the JONSDAP 76 project,
 - a) all research vessels working in the area should work the section whenever possible until June 1976 (the end of JONSDAP 76) taking observations of temperature, salinity, phosphate, nitrate and chlorophyll at standard depths
 - b) surface and bottom temperature from this section should be transmitted by radio directly to DHI (who will bear the cost).

Attention is drawn to the suitability of the TESAC code for this purpose.

H.W. Hill