

Report of the Working Group for Co-ordinating
the Collection of Oceanographic Data from Ocean
Weather Stations A, I, J, K and M

The Working Group met on 2 October and the following members of the Working Group attended:-

Dr. L. Otto (Netherlands), Mr. D. Kohnke (FRG),
Mr. G. Péluchon (France), Mr. D.J. Dixey (UK) and
Mr. T. Kvinge (Norway).

Also present were:-

Mr. J. Churgin (WDC-A), Mr. J.P. Guitton (France),
Mr. G.K. Schoep (Netherlands) and the Council's Hydro-
grapher.

The status of the publication of inventories of observations carried out by the Weather Ships was considered. During the last year two inventories were published one covering 1972, the other the years 1963/64. The volume covering 1973 is in preparation.

Information upon data collected before 1963 has been provided to the Council. This information is indexed on some 700 record cards and would produce a voluminous report if published in full; it was agreed that the Hydrographer should prepare proposals for issuing the information in a condensed form for the next Statutory Meeting of the ICES.

It was noted that several members had received positive reactions to the use of the OWS inventories.

The ICES Oceanographic Data Lists and Inventory^{ies} No.15, containing data from OWS INDIA 1964-1966, with an analysis by D.J. Ellett, has been published. The members were very appreciative of the work Mr. Ellett had put into this project.

Similar work for OWS KILO 1963-1966 is in progress and hoped to be ready for publication early 1975.

At the meeting in 1973 of the Working Group the Director of World Data Center A (WDC-A) reported that delivery of OWS data to the WDC was very incomplete (C.M.1973/C:46). A reminder has therefore been sent to the countries involved, requesting them to supply copies of outstanding OWS data from NAOS vessels. In response to this reminder the Service Hydrographique has received a considerable amount of data which after screening and punching will be part of the next batch of data to be supplied to the WDCs by the Service Hydrographique.

Mr. D.J. Dixey has prepared a draft bibliography of papers relating to the oceanographic investigations made by the NAOS Weather Stations. The other members of the Working Group considered that this was a useful project and agreed to provide Mr. Dixey with additional information from their national records to supplement the work by the end of 1975. It was thought to be of use to many marine scientists and therefore considerations should be given to its publication by ICES. The interest by IOC in work carried out at the OWS was noted. Recommendation 1 was proposed.

The Council's Hydrographer reported from the 1st Session of the Conference of Plenipotentiary Delegations held in Geneva in February 1974.

Regarding the future of the NAOS no decision has yet been made. The Conference is scheduled to reconvene in November 1974. The W.G. proposed Recommendation 2.

Mr. D.J. Dixey (UK) was elected chairman of the Working Group to replace Mr. T. Kvinge (Norway) who has served for 3 years in the post.

T. Kvinge

Recommendations

It is recommended

- 1) that ICES publish in the Oceanographic Data Lists and Inventories Series a bibliography of papers relating to the oceanographic investigations made at the North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations
- 2) that National Delegates communicate to their national authorities re negotiating the NAOS agreement the importance ICES places upon the NAOS system in view of the valuable time series of oceanographic information the ships provide and in particular the importance they have in establishing base lines for marine pollution monitoring as well as for air-sea interaction studies.