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FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr G. Berge
Rapporteur: Dr J.E. Portmann

The Committee met on 1, 4 and 5 October 1973 and held a special joint meeting with the Shellfish and Benthos Committee on 3 October. The Chairman welcomed the members and observers and checked the membership. The Agenda was adopted.

Administrative Report

The Administrative Report C.M.1973/E:1 was presented, there were no additions or corrections and it was accepted in entirety.

Report of the 15th Meeting of the Marine Pollution Subcommittee of IMCO and the Preparatory Committee for the 1973 Marine Pollution Conference

The report on this meeting (Doc.C.M.1973/E:2) was presented by Dr J.E. Portmann. The outcome of the meeting had been the completion of a Draft Convention to be considered at a Conference in London, 8 October - 2 November. The Convention seeks to extend the controls on pollution of the sea by oil and to introduce controls on the discharge of chemicals from bulk chemical carriers in the form of tank washings, spillages, etc. Controls may also be introduced on the discharge of sewage and garbage from ships; there will however be special provisions which will exempt the discharge of netting and fish offal from fishing vessels and a size exemption for sewage discharges such that ships below 200 tons will not be included in the provisions of the Convention. The various extensions and additional controls take the form of a number of Annexes to the Convention. The meeting tentatively agreed that only those Annexes dealing with oil and discharge of chemicals from bulk chemical carriers would be mandatory for signatories to any Convention which may result from the London Conference. It was agreed that ICES should be briefed on the outcome of the Conference and Mr A. Preston (United Kingdom) will be acting as observer for ICES.

Report of the First Session of the International Coordinating Group (ICG) for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME)

The report (Doc. C.M. E:4) on the First Session which had been held in London 2-6 April 1973 was presented by Mr G. Berge. The ICG had been given the task of preparing a comprehensive plan for the implementation of GIPME in the light of the various preparatory work which had been done and especially bearing in mind the resolutions from the Stockholm Conference. Much of the work of the ICG had been devoted to reviewing existing work of relevance to GIPME including that of ICES in the North Sea and Baltic Sea areas. Several of the recommendations which were ultimately made by the ICG were of interest to the Committee. These include the support of regional baseline studies; a recommendation for monitoring of oil pollution, initially as tar balls but possibly being extended to other forms as the results of the early exercise are assessed; and a recommendation that research be encouraged or studies of the microbiological fate of synthesis of pollutants.

5th Session of GESAMP, 18-23 June 1973

A report (Doc.C.M.1973/E:26) of the proceedings of this meeting which had been held in Vienna was given by its Vice-Chairman, Dr H.A. Cole. The agenda had covered a range of diverse topics and had established several working groups to work intersessionally. All of these will be considering topics of interest to the Committee. These are :

1. The continued revision and expansion of the Review of Harmful Substances.
2. The development of guidelines for developing coastal water quality criteria for the marine environment.
3. The identification of scientific problems related to marine pollution monitoring systems.
4. Enumeration of problems related to marine pollution monitoring systems. | = ?
5. Evaluation of the impact of oil on the marine environment.

The Committee noted that its Chairman had been elected Chairman of GESAMP for the 6th Session.

Report of the Working Group on the Introduction of Non-Indigenous Marine Organisms

A report on a meeting of this Working Group (Doc. C.M.1973/E:5) held from 26-28 June was presented by Dr H.A. Cole. The Working Group had considered a proposal by France to introduce Macrocystis pyrifera for use in the alginate industry and had concluded that this could potentially affect a number of countries, and therefore full discussions should be held with all countries concerned.

It was noted that the discovery of Sargassum muticum in U.K. waters had been reported to the Working Group which, after a full discussion of the implications of this introduction had recommended vigorous action be taken to prevent the weed becoming established (Rec.A(1))

The Committee noted that the Working Group had developed a Code of Practice which it recommended should be adopted by member countries and agreed to endorse this recommendation (Rec.A(3)).

Following consideration of the Report of the Working Group the Committee reaffirmed the need for members to submit annual reports on existing and proposed introductions in accordance with Council Resolution 1972/4:7.

A proposal by the Working Group that it be given permanent status as an Advisory Committee was referred back to the Working Group in view of potential difficulties over membership and rules of procedure. |||

Report of the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the Baltic

This report (C.M. Doc.1973/E:7) was presented by Dr G. Kullenberg, who had chaired the meeting of the Working Group held in Kiel, 28/29 June 1973. The Committee noted that the study was now under way and that

national reports on inputs of pollutants to the Baltic had been received. As with the data on North Sea Inputs, this was not as complete as had been hoped and attempts were to be made to rectify this. The collection of samples of fish and shellfish would take place in late 1973 and two analysts were visiting laboratories with a view to recommending methods of analysis. The methods to be used for analysis would be discussed at a meeting of Analysts which was planned to be held early in 1974 (Rec.A(4)) and these would be intercalibrated with the North Sea Survey by use of the same intercalibration samples as used by the Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the North Sea.

The Committee noted with special interest the comprehensive proposals for a Research Programme in the Baltic Sea and agreed that this represented a very useful guideline for studies in the Baltic area and recommended that after a series of proposed amendments had been made it should be published (Rec.A(4)). *Dr. Kallenberg*

Report from the Working Group for the Study of Pollution of the North Sea

Mr A.J. Lee, Chairman of the Working Group presented a report of the progress made by the Working Group. The Committee noted that although it had not been possible to produce a draft report in time for the Council Meeting, its preparation had reached an advanced stage and that it was hoped to have the Baseline Survey Data available for a meeting of Analysts which was proposed would be held soon after the 1973 Council Meeting. The Committee agreed that this Working Group should be convened with a view to coordinating national monitoring programmes so as to provide a comprehensive system of monitoring of the North Sea, especially in the coastal regions and a recommendation was drafted on this subject for approval by the Council (Rec.A(5)).

The Committee further agreed with a suggestion by the Working Group Chairman that a meeting of the full Working Group be held early in 1974 to approve the draft report with a view to its publication as soon as possible in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series. (Rec.A(2))

Report on the Meeting of a WHO Working Group on the Hazards to Health and Ecological Effects of Pollution of the North Sea

A report (C.M. Doc. E:24) on this meeting was presented by the General Secretary, Mr H. Tambs-Lyche. The meeting had been held in Bilthoven (6-8 December, 1972) and had been attended by several representatives of ICES. It had attempted to identify fields of joint interest between marine scientists and public health administrators. It had recommended that use be made of the existing information on pollution of the North Sea collected by both national institutions and international organizations such as ICES and FAC. In accordance with a further recommendation a pilot study had been established in the Oslo fjord area with a view to examining a marine ecosystem in relation to its possible function as an indicator system of potential risk to human health.

Possible areas of Active Cooperation between EIFAC and ICES

A paper on this subject (C.M. Doc. 1973/M:20) was presented by Prof. H.A. Mann. The Committee noted that several of the fields of interest of EIFAC are the same as its own and that the work of EIFAC had been linked with that of GESAMP in the field of possible development of Water Quality Criteria. ^{*} Although there was general agreement that joint working groups would not be appropriate at this stage, The Committee considered that contact should be strengthened between the two organizations and a recommendation was drafted to this effect. (Rec. A(6)).

Report of the meeting of the Planning Group for a Symposium on Causes of Changes in the North Sea Fish Stocks

The report on this meeting was presented by Prof Dr G. Hempel. The Planning Group had met in IJmuiden (20/21 August 1973) to make detailed proposals for the Symposium. The Committee noted the success the Planning Group had achieved in its deliberation, but requested that eutrophication should be considered as one of the possible causes of changes in North Sea Fish Stocks (Rec. A(9)). *check.*

Communications

A total of 51 contributions had been submitted or referred to the Committee. These covered many aspects of cultivation, rearing and pollution. The Committee considered a number of papers on the effect and fate of oil, these aroused considerable interest and it was generally agreed that this was a subject on which much more information was required. The Chairman accordingly requested members to submit reports on work in their countries to the 1974 Council Meeting.

The Committee noted with interest the report on the use of seals as indicators of pollution; it was agreed that the basic conclusions that seals were of limited value as indicators of fine detail pollution should be conveyed to the Working Group on Pollution of the North Sea.

The Committee considered that the submission of papers on marine dumping were of special relevance now that ICES had a responsibility to provide advice to the Oslo Commission and agreed that these provided a useful base on which subsequent advice by the Marine Pollution Advisory Committee could be formulated.

Two papers on the introduction of Nor]ndigenous Marine Organisms were submitted to the Committee which after considerable discussion were referred to the Working Group on this subject with a recommendation that it should be convened early to ^{consider} give the proposal to introduce Macrocystis pyrifera to France. (Rec. A(10)).

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15.2
The Committee discussed the increasing interest in the extraction of sand and gravel from marine resources and requested that details of national systems of control should be submitted to the 1974 Council Meeting. It was agreed that this activity was of international interest and the Committee agreed that a Working Group should be established under the Chairmanship of Mr A.J. Lee to make a preliminary appraisal of the problem. (Rec. A(8)).

The Fisheries Improvement Committee asked Dr T. Anderson to act as its observer at the meeting of the Data Management Group on the proposals by the Statistics Committee for the establishment of a series of punch cards for the storage of pollution data. The full details had yet to be enumerated and the Committee noted that the codes to be used would be discussed with members of appropriate disciplines especially biologists.

Mr. A. J. Lee ^{was} ~~acted~~ as the committee's representative to the IGOS contact meeting ^{situation}.

The Fisheries Improvement Committee recommends that :

A(1) ICES should call the attention of all member countries to the potential dangers of Sargassum muticum becoming established and recommended that in any country where it is discovered steps should be taken to effect its eradication by any method considered appropriate, *delegates.*
with Council. for
Dr. Cole.

A(2) The Working Group for the Study of Pollution of the North Sea should meet early in 1974 to discuss the draft report of the North Sea Study with a view to preparing it for publication in the Cooperative Research Report Series as soon as possible. *7-9.*

A(3) The Council endorse the Code of Practice developed by the Working Group on the Introduction of Non-Indigenous Marine Organisms and recommends its adoption by all member countries. *working*

A(4) ICES note the value of the Report of the Baltic Working Group on the "Research Programmes for Investigation of the Baltic as a Natural Resource" in view of marine pollution problems and suggested experimental research tasks in providing a guideline for scientific studies in the Baltic area and accordingly recommends that

- a) after addition of a preface the report be published by ICES and SCOR and
- b) the Baltic Working Group should continue its activities along the lines suggested in the Report.
- c) a meeting of the working analysts from institutes concerned with the Baltic Pollution be convened early in 1974, to discuss analytical problems and agree on the methods to be used for the baseline survey. *(for two days)*
- d) a special meeting on circulation modelling of the Baltic should be held in 1974. *(for two days)*

A(5) An ad hoc group of analysts with strong support by biologists should be convened as soon as possible after the 1973 Council Meeting with the following terms of reference :

for two days

.. / continued

Fisheries Improvement Committee

A(5)
continued

To coordinate and suggest possible extensions to National Programmes of monitoring in the North Sea using the 1972 Baseline Survey Data as a basis for its recommendations; it should also take into account any available information on variations in residue concentrations with age, season etc. The Group should report the results of its discussions to the Working Group for the Study of Pollution of the North Sea.

*AB + 1/4g
Porter
on meeting item.*

A(6)

Through its Chairman the Fisheries Improvement Committee establish contact with the EIFAC Secretariat to identify problems of mutual interest with a view to future cooperation in these fields. It is further recommended that EIFAC be invited to send observers to the appropriate ICES Working Groups.



The meeting

The Fisheries Improvement Committee recommends that :

A(7) The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea; following the recommendation of its Fisheries Improvement Committee; referring to the Rule 26(a), adopted by the Council at its 60th Statutory Meeting in 1972, according to which

"The Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution shall be responsible for providing scientific information and advice on marine pollution and its effects on living resources and their exploitation to Member Governments and any intergovernmental body for the control of pollution which may request such advice";

considering that the Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution will have an important task in fulfilling the obligations of the Council in relation to the preservation and exploitation of the living marine resources and that the said Committee will for its own function continuously be in need of most appropriate, up to date information on the stage of the marine pollution and factors having a bearing thereon in the critical regions of the Council's area of activity;

recalling that the Council has taken early action in laying the scientific and methodological basis for monitoring pollution, particularly in the North Sea and the Baltic, through the Working Group for an International Study of the Pollution of the North Sea and its effects on Living Resources and their Exploitation as well as through the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the Baltic Sea;

decides that the said Working Groups be developed, after the forthcoming conclusion of the ongoing introductory stage of their work, into bodies to be in charge both of the preparation of arrangements for any appropriate field work and of the continuing collecting, summarising and dissemination of the available, pertinent scientific information in the field of marine pollution and related factors to the Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution and thereby to the Member Governments and those intergovernmental organizations requesting such information and advice from the Council.

The Fisheries Improvement Committee recommends that :

- A(8) A Working Group should be established to
- a) identify the effects (direct or indirect) and their international implications of different methods of marine sand and gravel extraction on fisheries particularly in the North Sea, English Channel and the Baltic;
 - b) review techniques for studying these effects;
 - c) compare national codes of practice for the control of dredging activities.

The Chairman of the Group should be Mr A. T. Lee and it should hold its first meeting in *early 1974. for three days. London February.*

- A(9) A "Symposium on Changes in North Sea Fish Stocks and their Causes" should be organised by ICES in 1975 along the plans outlined in Doc. C.M.1973/F:44. The Committee would welcome inclusion in the programme of a consideration of the possibility of eutrophication, particularly in the southern North Sea.

- A(10) a) the Working Group on the Introduction of Non-Indigenous Marine Organisms should meet as soon as practicable (*for two days*) to consider further the proposed introduction of Macrocystis to France in the light of the detailed assessment prepared by Pérez et al., taking into account the discussion of this question at the 61st Statutory Meeting of ICES.

b) In view of the all the affected countries are requested that to send representatives

The Fisheries Improvement Committee recommends that :

- C(1) more attention be given in the research programmes of member countries to predators, parasites and diseases which might affect fisheries and especially culture systems.