

Report

of the Soviet-Norwegian meeting on methods used for studying  
distribution and abundance of immature herring

From Friday 18th to Monday 21st September 1964 the R/V "G. O. Sars" visited Murmansk and meetings between Soviet and Norwegian scientists took place, partly at the Polar Research Institute (PINRO) and partly on board R/V "G. O. Sars". This meeting was held in accordance with a recommendation given by the Atlanto-Scandian Herring Working Group (April 1964, Reykjavik).

The meeting was attended by:-

U.S.S.R.	A. P. Alekseev
	S. S. Fedorov
	I. G. Judanov
	A. S. Baranenkova
	K. G. Konstantinov
	V. P. Ponomarenko
	I. V. Korzh

Norway	O. Dragesund
	P. T. Hognestad
	G. Sangolt
	I. Hoff
	O. Boström

Both groups presented reports of their investigations on immature herring, chiefly of the 0-group. They also discussed programmes for future research and methods that are planned to be used.

The groups concluded that the study of the early stages of life of fishes are of great importance for the assessment of the recruitment to the exploited stocks, and recommended to pay special attention to the following questions:-

1. To unify the methods and fishing gears used studying the distribution and abundance of herring (larvae, 0-group and of older age-groups) and other commercial fishes (cod, haddock, coalfish, etc.).

To obtain comparable data in the investigation of the 0-group and older immature age-groups, the first step should be to apply a pelagic trawl. The groups recommended a trawl already in use by the Norwegians for identification purposes.

2. To extend the areas covered the previous years to comprise the easternmost Barents Sea and the north-eastern part of the Norwegian Sea.
3. To carry out annually joint cruises (August to October) in the mentioned area according to a certain programme agreed upon. As the groups proposed to start the joint work already in 1965 it would be necessary to have to the co-ordinated programme ready as early as possible and not later than February 1965.

4. The Soviet and Norwegian scientists considered it desirable if the programmes for the future research on the biology and fishery of immature and mature herring could be discussed as one of the items at the next meeting (May 1965).

During the meeting the Soviet scientists informed the Norwegian scientists about investigations carried out on the biology and fishery of other commercial fishes in the Barents Sea.

The Soviet scientists were invited on board the R/V "G. O. Sars" where the Norwegians showed them the hydro-acoustic devices used for detection of fish and fishing gears applied in the investigations. The Norwegian scientists also gave the Soviet investigators a number of 700 internal metal tags for tagging the 0-group herring in the Barents Sea.

Both groups considered it useful to continue regular contact between scientists from both countries.