

Report of the Working Group Meeting on the
Bløden Tagging Experiment
30th September, 1969, Dublin

1. Participants

J.J. Zijlstra	Netherlands (Chairman)
A.C. Burd	United Kingdom
K. Popp Madsen	Denmark
A. Lindquist	Sweden
S. Haraldsvik	Norway
G. Wagner	Germany
J. Møllær Christensen	ICES (Secretary)

2. Review of Experiment

2.1. The members of the Working Group, having been able to follow the experiment, through frequent reports, expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out so far.

2.2. It was noted that up till September 26th, 24,800 herring have been tagged, most of these in Area III and IV and none in Area II. About 500 tags have so far been recovered. Less than 10 were returned from Norwegian and German factories, the rest from Danish factories.

2.3. Mr. Popp Madsen informed the Working Group about the estimates of magnet efficiency for the Danish factories which show great variations within a factory, in time, and which differs considerably from factory to factory. This is mainly due to installation of new devices for manufacturing meal.

However, frequent and regular checks of magnet efficiency, split-up of catch etc., should allow for a safe estimate of an overall efficiency rate on a weekly base, being at present about 50%.

Similar estimates were reported for Norwegian, German, English and Swedish factories.

The Chairman suggested that magnet efficiency experiments should be carried out frequently during the coming two to three years, in order to ensure coverage of the entire tagging experiment.

2.4. It was noted that the three mortality experiments carried out so far, had shown rather high mortality rates, higher for the tagged fish than for the untagged. These experiments, however, could not be regarded as fully reliable since the temperature in the tanks at the time of the experiments was extremely high.

3. It was agreed:

3.1. that when further mortality experiments had been carried out, so that a series of results was available, these should be tabulated and circulated together with the experiment reports for consideration of the Working Group members.

3.2. that participating countries, when sending in lists of recaptured tags, should supply information about the number of tags recaptured per experiment, and that this information should be stated in the Experiment Reports.

- 3.3. that assisting research vessels should report to ICES Secretariat at the end of each cruise, and that these reports should be circulated to the Working Group members.
 - 3.4. that the Secretary of the Experiment should prepare a lay-out of tables for punching, and should see that all information is put on punch-cards before the final work up of data which will take place in 1971.
 - 3.5. that Mr. A.C. Burd should contact Mr. K.P. Andersen in order to discuss the use of discriminant function analysis to allocate the proportion of Downs, Banks and Buchan fish in the catches of immature herring.
 - 3.6. that the Working Group should meet for one day in connection with the Annual Meeting of ICES in 1970, in order to discuss how the data should be worked up.
 - 3.7. that before this next meeting of the Working Group a preliminary assessment should be carried out, based on the data collected during the first two months of the experiments. This should be done only as a pilot experiment in order to see whether all necessary information is collected.
4. The Working Group recommended:
- 4.1. "that Mr. Sangolt, after the end of the tagging, assists the Working Group in working up the data, that he participates in meetings, so that all details concerning the taggings and the mortality experiments can be explained if necessary."
 - 4.2. "that Swedish authorities are contacted as soon as possible and requested to grant permission to "Gerda Marie" to fish herring for tagging within the Swedish territorial limits."
 - 4.3. "that the General Secretary approach the Managing Committee to request whether funds can be provided within the Budget of the Experiment for 10 technicians and Mr. Sangolt to meet in April 1970 (possibly in Esbjerg), and carry out analysis of approximately 150 deep-frozen samples collected during the nine months of the Experiment."

The Working Group considered it important that the greatest possibly uniformity of the analysing methods is achieved.