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International Council for the  
Exploration of the Sea

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Fisheries Improvement Committee

Report on the First Meeting of ICG of GIPME

1. The International Coordination Group (ICG) for the Global Investigation on Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) had its first session at Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, London from 2 to 6 April 1973. Mr. A.J. Lee (UK) was elected Chairman, with Captain L.D. da Silva Souza (Brazil) as Vice-Chairman. The group was composed of representatives of seven countries, namely Brazil, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom and United States of America, together with experts nominated by the Organizations - FAO, IAEA, IMCO, UNESCO and WMO. Seven international specialized agencies (UN, FAO, WMO, IMCO, WHO, UNESCO, IRES) sent observers, as did SCOR, ACMRR, ICES and GESAMP. In addition, the United States Office for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IDOE) and the non member state of Chile, sent observers.
2. ICG has the following terms of reference:
  - (a) the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the implementation of GIPME, including specific recommendations for long term co-ordination of the programme and the establishment of priorities for the projects contained in the plan;
  - (b) in the development of this plan for GIPME, the Group should give special consideration to the relevant recommendations of the Stockholm Conference, the report and recommendations of the ACMRR/SCOR/ACOMR/GESAMP Joint Working Party on GIPME, relevant sections of the GELTSPAP Report, the reports and recommendations of GESAMP, and the relevant recommendations of the ICOSS Working Committee;
  - (c) the Group should also carefully review the work accomplished in this area by the Commission and its various advisory bodies, other international organizations, regional bodies and member states.
3. The main topics of the meeting were to 1) consider reports and recommendations from international conferences and working groups, e.g. ACMRR/SCOR/ACOMR/GESAMP Working Party on GIPME, UN Conference on the Human Environment, GELTSPAP, GESAMP, ICOSS Committees, 2) review relevant work carried out by IOC and its advisory bodies as well as by member states and regional and international bodies, and 3) develop a comprehensive plan for the implementation of GIPME.

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4. The ICG devoted much of its time to reviewing relevant actions taken within different organizations. As a contribution to this point a presentation was made by the ICES representative of the Conference paper IOC/GIPME(I)/12. Additional information on recent activities was given, based on reports from the Working Group on the Pollution of the North Sea and its Effects on Living Resources, the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Pollution of the Baltic Sea and the ICES involvement in the WHO pilot project on An Early Warning System in the Oslo fiord.
  
5. The definition and scope of GIPME, together with preliminary plans for its implementation, were developed and the adopted recommendations are annexed to this report. It will be noted that these recommendations call on inputs also from ICES with its regional programmes on marine pollution. The experience gained through the ICES exercises in the North Sea was appreciated, and it was felt that ICES, through its Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution, could contribute significantly in the implementation of GIPME.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Adopted by the First Session of the International Co-Ordination Group (ICG) for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME)

The International Co-ordination Group for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment recommends that:

1. The definition and scope of GIPME should be as follows:

GIPME is an international co-operative programme of scientific research concerned with marine pollution. It deals with the sources and inputs of marine pollutants, their transfer and transformation by physical, chemical and biological processes, their effects on marine organisms, and their fate in the marine environment. The investigation is directed primarily toward the coastal zone and the shelf-seas and, where appropriate, the open ocean; takes into account the consequences of marine pollution, especially those related to human health, living resources and their exploitation, climatic effects and amenities, as well as the more indirect ecological effects; and defines and provides the scientific basis for a programme of marine pollution monitoring (paragraph 2.2);

2. Regional baseline studies should be given every support (paragraph 2.4(a));
3. The IOC Secretary should take the initiative in preparing a preliminary report on the "Health of the Ocean" and should appoint a Consultant as soon as possible to compile and analyse relevant data. IOC member countries and regional and other international organisations should assist in making the necessary information available. The draft report should be reviewed by appropriate experts and submitted to the ICG for its endorsement (paragraph 2.4(b));
4. Results of the Integrated Global Ocean Station System (IGOSS) Pilot Project to monitor oil pollution should be assessed by the ICG after the first year of operation of the Project. In the light of this assessment and as techniques and capability become available, consideration should be given to extending the sampling programme to cover oil dissolved or dispersed in the water column and oil products in atmospheric precipitation (paragraph 2.4(c));
5. The IOC Secretary should take steps to establish on an ad hoc basis a small group of experts with the following goal:

To suggest practicable and effective means for obtaining information on the quantities of important pollutants, present and potential, introduced into the ocean from land-based sources by whatever route;

Subsequently the IOC should organise the collection of the desired information from national, regional and other sources (paragraph 2.4(d)).

6. The Joint Working Group on Marine Pollution (SCOR Working Group 45) should consider how to encourage research on processes of microbiological degradation and synthesis of pollutants (paragraph 2.4(f)).
7. The ACMRR/IABO<sup>¶</sup> Working Group on the Biological Effects of Pollutants should, at the appropriate time, stimulate the preparation of critical reviews on the status of their subject with regard to various classes of pollutants. Attention should be given to establishing the necessary bases for the formulation of exposure standards (paragraphs 2.4(g) and (i));
8. The ICG should maintain close contact with the Working Group on Training, Education and Mutual Assistance (TEMA) (paragraph 2.4(j)) and the Working Group on International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) (paragraph 2.4(l)) and the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) (paragraph 3.1);
9. The structure of the ICG should not be changed for the time being (paragraph 3.2).

<sup>¶</sup> ACMRR = Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research  
IABO = International Association for Biological Oceanography