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REPORT OF THE
ICES/GLOBEC NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COORDINATION GROUP

Woods Hole, USA
9 May 1998

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1 INTRODUCTION

As specified by Council Resolution 1997/2:8 the fifth meeting of this group took place on 9 May (0830–1030) in Woods Hole under the chairmanship of Dr M. Reeve. Participants at the meeting are given in Appendix 1. Acronyms used in the report are given in Appendix 2.

1.1 Terms of reference

Council Resolution 1997/2:8

The ICES/GLOBEC North Atlantic Regional Coordination Group [GLOBEC] (Chairman Dr M. Reeve, USA) will meet in Woods Hole on 9 May 1998 to:

- a) provide oversight and direction for the North Atlantic Regional Office of GLOBEC, including primary ICES advice regarding selection of the planning officer;
- b) integrate country activities into a co-ordinated GLOBEC implementation plan and continuing oversight of the implementation phase;
- c) provide scientific direction for liaison with other regional bodies (e.g., PICES) and global organisations (IOC, SCOR, IGBP) and nominate representatives to those bodies as appropriate;
- d) recommend the establishment of subsidiary groups to provide expert advice as necessary, but always first seeking to enlist the help of existing ICES committees and Working/Study Groups by providing them with specific terms of reference as appropriate;
- e) identify and direct the North Atlantic Regional Office of GLOBEC to implement appropriate ways to engage the widest possible involvement in scientific development and communication through Workshops, the ICES Annual Science Conference and special sessions at other scientific meetings

GLOBEC will report to the Oceanography Committee at the 1998 Annual Science Conference

1.2 Opening and Adoption of Agenda and Timetable

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Barthel and Dr Valdes.

Present: Drs Reeve, Steele, Loeng, Drinkwater, Frank, Alheit, St. John and Brander.

Dr Reeve opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He expressed his satisfaction that after a prolonged period of uncertainty the future funding for the ICES/GLOBEC Office now looked more secure, at least for one or two years and he looked forward to the eventual integration of this work into the core activity of ICES. He welcomed Dr Drinkwater, attending in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on Cod and Climate Change (WGCCC) and Dr St John who was standing in as Danish representative.

Dr Brander reminded participants that the function of the RCG related in part to the management of the ICES/GLOBEC Office and in part to the scientific programme of GLOBEC activities in ICES. Representatives of the funders of the ICES/GLOBEC Office form the Steering Group, but in practice this Group has never met separately from the RCG and is simply a sub-set of that Group.

A number of other groups, including the Bureau Working Group on Strategic Planning, The Oceanography Committee and the WGCCC also have a role in planning the future programme of GLOBEC activities in ICES and in practice the meeting of the latter, which took place in the three days immediately preceding the RCG meeting and involved most of the RCG members, had already discussed many elements of the Science Plan for the next 3–5 years.

2 CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ICES/GLOBEC OFFICE

Dr Brander outlined the funding balance for the first two years of the ICES/GLOBEC Office. A considerable proportion of his time (roughly 40 %) was taken up with non-GLOBEC activities within the ICES Secretariat. In recognition of this, ICES provided 3 months of assistance (a period appointment) and had also waived the expected overhead charge, which brought the total income and expenditure into balance. The final balance sheet for the two year period (which ends in August 1998) will be presented at the next RCG meeting in Lisbon in September.

Several members asked questions about the way in which costs were attributed to the GLOBEC project within the Secretariat and Dr Brander explained that it does not have a separate account and is treated in exactly the same way as other projects. Further questions were asked about attributing costs to the GLOBEC project which would normally be costed to ICES in any case (e.g., production of Working Group reports). Dr Brander explained that most of those costs were not attributed to the GLOBEC project and that in any case there was some *quid pro quo* at the margins on all of these costing exercises. In future Dr Brander expects that up to 25 % of his time will be spent on non-GLOBEC activities within the Secretariat and this has been explicitly acknowledged in the agreement with one of the five current funders. He has been assisting some of the Fisheries Assessment Working Groups recently, in Dr Baileys absence, and will also help with the ACFM meeting and report.

Further funding for the ICES/GLOBEC office has now been committed by Canada, UK, Iceland and TASC. The US will continue with its funding, at a lower level than previously from October 1998. Norway has dropped out of the funding group this year. The amount and duration of the continued financial support is adequate for one further year, but several contributions will have to be renewed or replaced beyond that.

There was a brief discussion about the possibility of other funding becoming available and Dr Brander mentioned that the Norwegian Delegate had been approached again and that a message received from Dr Barthel indicated that the ICES/GLOBEC Programme Office might have a role to play if the plans for an EU-GLOBEC programme go ahead.

3 REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND PLANNING OF FUTURE WORK

Dr Brander briefly reviewed progress over the past year, which had also been sent to participants in the form of the annual review document which is part of the ICES Secretariat Workplan. Most of the targets and activities set out for the year were achieved, but the time spent on other ICES work has held back some of the data and information exchange and the preparation of material for comparison and synthesis. Production of the reports of the two Workshops held since September 1997 has been held up because the conveners have not produced them and this is a source of great concern, since it means there is little visible output from the collective effort which went into these Workshops. The Chairman of the Oceanography Committee is taking this up with the Workshop conveners.

Dr Brander apologised that the plans for future work only extended to August 1998. This is partly because of uncertainty over his own post (he has still not been offered a new contract) and partly because most of the detailed planning for the programme did not take place until the WGCCC meeting in Woods Hole on 7–8 May (the two days preceding the RCG meeting). A detailed set of work objectives can now be drafted for the next RCG meeting. The main activities will be workshop support, continuing to develop the data and information exchange and future work on comparison and synthesis. Dr Frank asked about the proposal to establish a pan-Atlantic cod tagging database and Dr Brander replied that the RCG had kept this on the list of work objectives, but agreed that it was a major undertaking and should not be a high priority.

The relationship between TASC and ICES was discussed and Dr Brander explained his role on the TASC Steering Committee and in producing the TASC Newsletters. The TASC Symposium will be encouraged to solicit papers which explicitly address the question how new knowledge about copepod population dynamics will be applied to understanding variability in fish stocks.

Dr Brander described the work which his assistant had carried out in collating and analysing published material for the comparison of cod stocks and to update the existing reference lists. He said that he would be interested in suggestions on how to continue with this work, by encouraging M.Sc., Ph.D. or post doctoral work on specific projects. Dr Frank said he thought additional in-house assistance would be good value for money.

4 LIAISON WITH OTHER REGIONAL BODIES AND GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS

The discussion moved on to the relationship between the ICES/GLOBEC Programme, international GLOBEC and other international programmes. Relations with the international GLOBEC SSC and with IGBP are good. There is cross-representation and a Letter of Agreement on GLOBEC Sponsorship has been signed by IGBP, SCOR and IOC which recognises that ICES and PICES are active in organising GLOBEC at a regional level, that they are regional co-sponsors of the programme and that their interests should be considered in the governance of GLOBEC. IGBP seem now to be more interested in the applied aspects of GLOBEC and in the dual role which ICES plays in co-ordinating science and advice.

The relationships with other parts of the IGBP Programme were discussed briefly and also relations to other international programmes, including CLIVAR, GOOS, PICES and AMAP. Dr Drinkwater was requested to discuss links with CLIVAR with Dr A. Clarke and will report back to the Oceanography Committee. Dr Brander was requested to write a short section on how ICES should develop its links with other parts of GLOBEC for consideration by the Oceanography Committee as part of the 5 year plan.

The possibility of a Theme Session on the interaction between ICES and ongoing international programmes was discussed and in particular the role of ICES in the next wave (see proposal below). Dr Reeve was asked to take the lead on this and a number of names for potential speakers was put forward. Dr Brander was also requested to raise the issue with the Consultative Committee, so that it could be considered for inclusion in the programme in 1999 or 2000.

Proposed Theme Session:

WHAT ICES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT INTERNATIONAL PLANS FOR MAJOR PROGRAMMES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION OVER THE NEXT DECADE

Although ICES was heavily involved in the development and implementation of major oceanographic programs in the North Atlantic in earlier decades, it has been virtually invisible in the past 15 years. The recent establishment of the ICES North Atlantic GLOBEC Coordination Office, and a Memorandum of Understanding between ICES, PICES, IOC and IGBP with respect to GLOBEC responsibilities, gives ICES a more active role in an international oceanographic programme. Planning is well advanced for the next generation of major international programmes on ocean climate variability, upper ocean biogeochemistry and productivity, and the establishment of ocean observing, data assimilation and prediction systems. The ICES community has a large stake in all these activities and needs to be aware, early on in the development of these programs, of their status.

We propose a Theme Session in 1999, consisting of no more than 6 talks, by scientists at the center of these planning activities, to outline the scientific rationale, status and opportunities for ICES involvement.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Dr Jürgen Alheit
Dr Keith Brander
Dr Ken Drinkwater
Dr Ken Frank
Mr Harald Loeng
Dr Mike Reeve
Prof. John Steele
Dr Mike St John

APPENDIX 2

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
ASC	Annual Science Conference
CCCWG	Cod and Climate Change Working Group
CLIVAR	Climate Variability and Predictability Programme
ELOISE	European Land Ocean Interaction Study
EU	European Union
GLOBEC	Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics Programme
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
JGOFS	Joint Global Ocean Flux Study
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LOICZ	Land Ocean Interaction in the Coastal Zone
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organisation
RCG	ICES/GLOBEC North Atlantic Regional Coordination Group
SCOR	Scientific Committee on Ocean Research
SPACC	Small Pelagic Fishes and Climate Change Program
TASC	Trans-Atlantic Study of Calanus
VEINS	Variable Exchange In Nordic Seas
WKEDSA	Workshop on the Application of Environmental Data to Fisheries Assessments
WKPDOC	Workshop on Predicting Decadal Scale Ocean Climate Fluctuations of the North Atlantic
WGCCC	Working Group on Cod and Climate Change
WGZE	Working Group on Zooplankton Ecology

