

**REPORT OF THE
ICES/GLOBEC NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL
COORDINATION GROUP**

**Cascais, Portugal
18 September 1998**

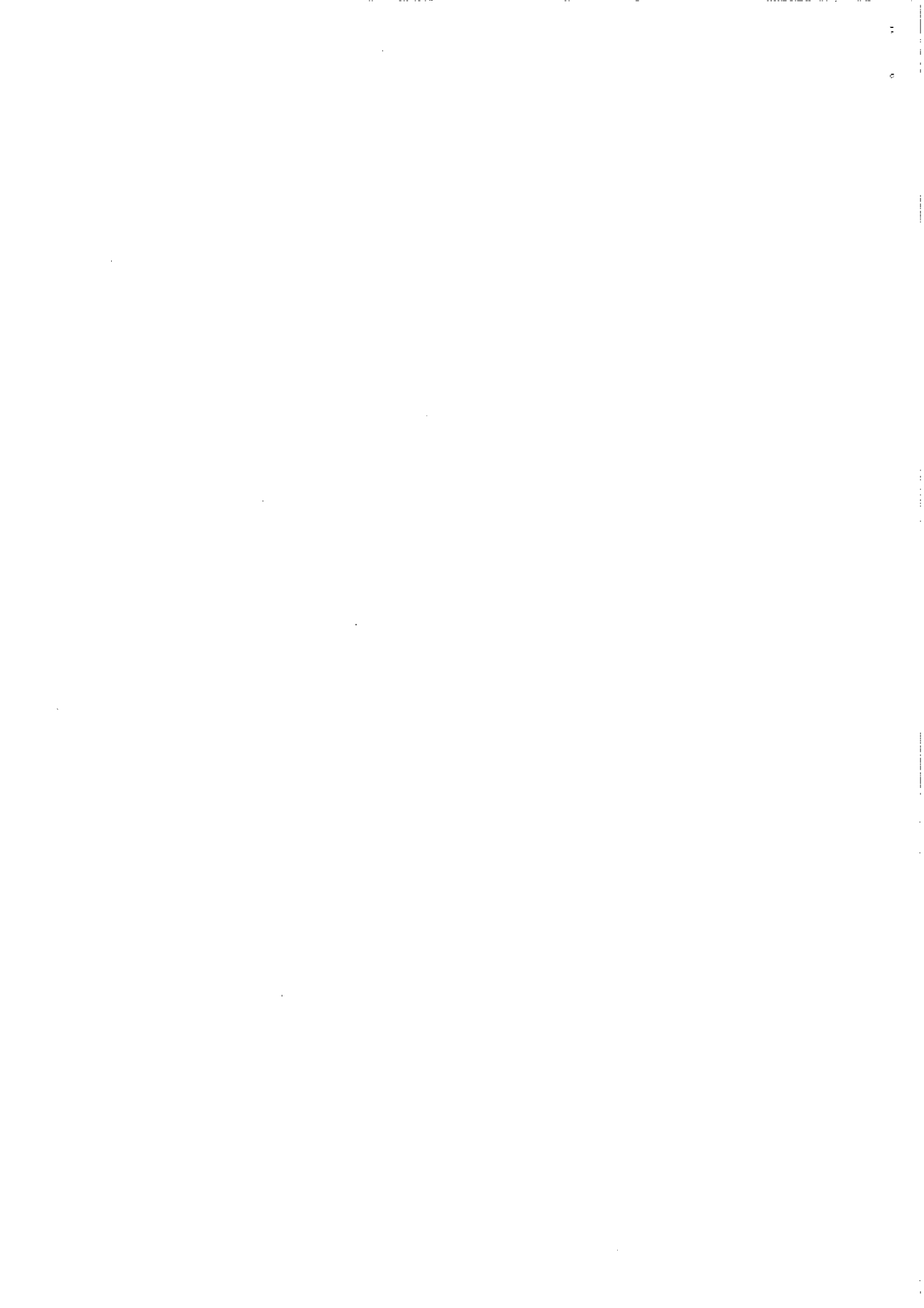
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1 INTRODUCTION

Council Resolution 1997/2:8 specified that the fifth meeting of this group should take place in Woods Hole on 9 May (report is ICES CM 1998/C:9). The sixth meeting, with the same terms of reference, took place on 18 September (1330–1500) in Cascais under the chairmanship of Dr M. Reeve. Participants at the meeting are given in Appendix 1. The Agenda is given in Appendix 2.

The RCG will work by correspondence in 1998/99 (C.Res 1998/2.1.7) and the report of this meeting is therefore included with the report for the year

1.1 Terms of reference

As in Council Resolution 1998/2.1.7

2 CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE ICES/GLOBEC OFFICE

A projected final balance sheet for the two year period (ending in August 1998) was presented to the Bureau in June 1998. The balance for the period was zero and a footnote explains that "ICES absorbed the budget deficit to 31/7/98 out of its accumulated Overhead owing to Dr Brander having spent a higher proportion of his working hours on non-GLOBEC ICES work". Another table set out the committed annual contributions for the two year period ending in August 2000 (Bureau Doc 1095 and CM 1998/Del:18). The total sum committed is 885,000 DKr each year, which is about 85% of the total required to fund the project at a minimal level. The Documents note that further funding will be sought, in particular from Norway.

In early June Dr Brander received a two year renewal of his contract, beginning on 1 August 1998. Dr Brander explained that in order to complete some activities, such as preparing data sets for workshops and synthesis of published material on Cod and Climate, additional help would be needed, and this might require funding above the minimal level set out in the projected budget.

The RCG discussed possibilities for other funding. Mr Loeng will make enquiries about possible Norwegian funding in his capacity as chairman of the Oceanography Committee. Once the planning for the next EU Framework programme has been concluded (in March 1999) there may be opportunities for making funding applications in relation to specific elements of the planned work programme.

As noted in the report of the previous RCG meeting, (ICES CM 1998/C:9) Dr Brander expects that up to 25 % of his time will be spent on non-GLOBEC activities within the Secretariat in future and this has been explicitly acknowledged in the agreement with one of the five current funders.

3 REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND PLANNING OF FUTURE WORK

The Oceanography Committee had received a detailed 5 year plan of future work from the Cod and Climate Change WG and this will form the basis for the work of the ICES/GLOBEC office. The principal activities over the next year will be to help with the next Backward Facing workshop in March 1999, to prepare for a proposed workshop on cod growth in winter 1999/spring 2000, to assist with production of the Cooperative Research Report on the last Backward Facing report, plus other ongoing activities such as the Newsletters, Theme Sessions, the TASC Symposium and liaison with national and international programmes. The Coordinator will take part in a meeting on North Atlantic Climate in Reykjavik on 23-26 September 1998 and in national GLOBEC related meetings in Canada, UK and France during the autumn.

The Cod and Climate Change 5 year plan includes synthesis of research information on cod stocks as one of its longer term objectives. The RCG discussed the possibility of setting up a series of studentships or even post-doctoral fellowships to tackle aspects of this work and also to assist with specific parts of the preparation for workshops, for example on cod growth. Dr Brander will follow up on this proposal and will also consider other ways in which synthesis of existing information can be brought about. Some material for updating the Cooperative Research Report (205, 1996) on Spawning and Life History Information for North Atlantic Cod Stocks has already been assembled. An EU Concerted Action may be one vehicle for carrying this kind of work forward.

Dr Frank asked about development of a tagging database for cod. A recent meeting in Norway looked at the available evidence for large scale migrations of cod throughout the North Atlantic. Dr Brander will enquire about the outcome of

this meeting and also include a proposal to develop a tagging database for possible funding by the Norwegian Research Council.

Dr Dooley asked what was being done about data access and data archiving in connection with the various workshops. For example the Backward Facing workshop on Ocean Climate of the NW Atlantic during the 1960s and 70s and Consequences for Gadoid Populations had brought together a range of physical and biological data, some of which is not available through regional data centres and is mentioned, but not included in the report (CM 1998/C:9). Will it be possible to archive this material for future use, or at least maintain an inventory of its existence? Dr Brander responded that he will try to ensure that as much as possible of the material provided during workshops is archived, however there are a number of tricky issues involved, which have been explored, but not necessarily resolved (see especially the report of the ICES/GLOBEC Cod and Climate Database workshop CM 1996/A:7). The Cooperative Research Report on the Backward Facing workshop will refer to data sets which can be made available in electronic form.

There was a brief discussion of the activities of the Recruitment Processes WG and its relationship to the Cod and Climate Change programme. There is some overlap of interests and this group will be consulted, particularly in relation to the work on synthesis of existing information and the updating of Cooperative Research Report 205.

A number of proposals for Theme Sessions which are relevant to GLOBEC have been put forward for next year, in addition to the one already proposed by RCG on "What ICES should know about international plans for major programmes in the North Atlantic region over the next decade."

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Dr Klaus-Günther Barthel

Dr Keith Brander

Dr Harry Dooley

Dr Ken Drinkwater

Dr Ken Frank

Mr Harald Loeng

Dr Mike Reeve

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA FOR 6th ICES/GLOBEC REGIONAL COORDINATION GROUP Estoril, 18 Sept 1998 1330 - 1530 (Sintra-Setais room)

- I. Opening and Adoption of Agenda and Timetable
 - Apologies
 - Order of Agenda and additional items to be covered
- II. Report on progress with the programme.
 - Cod and Climate
 1. Working Group (Ken Drinkwater)
 2. WKEDSA
 3. Backward Facing 3
 4. Backward Facing 4
 - TASC (information item, since TASC is a semi-detached component of the programme)
 - 5. Symposium preparations
 - 6. Follow up Theme Session
 - Development of data and information exchange
 7. Web site
 8. Newsletter
 9. Data and information requirements for Workshops (BF4 and Growth)
 10. Work on synthesis
- III. Existing plans for future work, including the workshops, theme sessions, symposia etc.
 - 1999 ASC Theme Session
- IV. New directions which the programme should try to develop in relation to the science and its applications.
 - Scope of the programme.
 - Ideas on linking science and advice
- V. Organisational and financial developments needed to maintain the programme.
 - Brief review of current financial position
- VI. Relationships with other Programmes (International GLOBEC, PICES, EU-GLOBEC, GOOS, WMO)
 - Review of developments
 - Issues to communicate to these other programmes
- VII. Schedule for Future Meetings
- VIII. Any Other Business

