

Document No. 31THIRD ANNUAL MEETINGTime of Annual Meeting

The following is an attempt to point out the main circumstances to be considered in fixing the time for holding annual meetings.

1. It should be possible at the meetings to deal with statistics of the preceding year.
2. To consider the collecting and compiling of statistical data for the coming year.
3. Reports on results of researches during the previous calendar year should be delivered and considered.
4. Programs of researches for the coming year should be considered and elaborated.
5. The appropriations for the following year should be approved.
6. Financial statements for the last year should be reported on.
7. The meeting should not be in a period with most home-work for administrative persons.
8. The meeting should not fall within the period of the most extensive field research work.
9. The meeting should not take place in the main holiday season.
10. Owing to the extensive preparative work before the meeting it should not be held too closely after the holiday season.
11. The meeting should be held at a time when travelling is easy and pleasant.

If all the objections arising from the abovementioned considerations should be paid full attention to, no date at all could be found. Therefore a compromise is necessary.

Point 1, reporting on statistics, calls for a consideration of 1) that it is desirable to have statistics reported on as early as possible after the end of the year in question, and 2) that a certain period is necessary for collecting and reporting. According to this year's experience, the end of May is too early. For the end of June a provisional report could be prepared, detailed enough for meeting requirements. A final, complete report could be given in the autumn of the year.

Point 2, planning of future statistical work, could be dealt with at any time of the year, but most efficiently when the latest year's reports on statistics are available.

Point 3. Reports on results of research work should be ready as soon as possible after the end of the calendar year. It is the impression from this year that the time up to the end of May is just the minimum period required for reporting. This year it has not been possible to circulate all reports well in advance of the meeting. Taking this into consideration the meeting should not be earlier than late June.

Point 4. The research program of the same year could only be dealt with at the same year's meeting if it was held very early in the year. In any other case only next year's program could be dealt with, and that at any time during the year, but the better the later in the year, when the results of the year's researches were known, and the means available for next year's research work could be more precisely estimated.

Points 5 and 6. For the question of approval of appropriations and recording of financial position the meeting should be as close to the end of the financial year as possible.

Point 7. The period with most home-work for the administrative people would no doubt be around New Year and around the shifting date from one fiscal year to another.

Point 8. The period with the most extensive field work for scientists would be from March-November.

Point 9. The main holiday season is July-August.

Point 10. The period close to holidays is August-September.

Point 11. The period of easy travelling would be from April to October.

The following table is an attempt to sum up the abovestated considerations. The lines off the various "matters" are drawn through the periods, when - judged from that matter - the meeting could be held; a stippled line means a somewhat less preferable period. In the last line are summed up for each month the points given it (number of lines).

Point matter    Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May    June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec.

1. Rep. on Stat.											....	....
2. Plan. of Stat.											....	....
3. Report on Research											....	....
4. Program of Research					....							
5. Approval of Appropriat.					....							
6. Statement of Financ. Sit.												
7. Home-duties												
8. Field Research										....		
9. Holiday seas.												
10. Staff work.												
11. Travelling												
Points	3	3	2	3½	6	10	6	6	7	8½	5½	4

It appears that June and October are those to be preferred for annual meetings, as they meet the demands of the largest number of matters. It should be noted that June was the month chosen for our Second Annual Meeting and October the month chosen by ICES for its annual meeting.

Against June is of course the one serious objection that it falls within the period of most intensive research work, but so does any month between March and October.

June has the highest number of points. Judging from the experiences of the Secretariat the latter half of June would be the best time for annual meetings, as it coincides with the shifting from one fiscal year to another, and as it allows a due treatment of statistical and biological reports from the previous calendar year.

In dealing with date for the annual meetings I would finally point out that the annual meetings should be held at approximately the same time every year. This would secure the advantage of 1) having to deal always with a whole year, in case of biannual meetings with two whole years, but never with fractions of years, and 2) that deadlines for i.e. the forwarding of material to headquarters and the distribution of documents from headquarters would be the same from year to year.

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