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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1959Report on the 46th Statutory Meeting of ICES in Charlottenlund, DenmarkSeptember - October, 1958

by the Executive Secretary, Erik M. Poulsen

Dir. Gunnar Rollefson, Norway, and the Executive Secretary attended the 1958 Annual Meeting of ICES as observers for ICNAF.

The meeting was held at the ICES headquarters, Charlottenlund, Denmark, 29 September to 4 October. Around 130 delegates from the sixteen member countries, and ca. 25 observers and guests participated. A Symposium on Salmon was held just prior to the meeting.

The opening meeting of the General Assembly was convened at Christiansborg Castle, Copenhagen, and chaired by the first Vice-President, Dr. Furnestin who after having welcomed the participants expressed sorrow at the death of Dr. Åge Vedel Tåning, President of the Council, and stressed the important work he had rendered in the services of the Council and for the promotion of the science of the sea.

Reports from ICES observers to meetings of various international fishery- and marine research organizations were tabled and briefly reviewed. As a report on the 1958 ICNAF Annual Meeting had not been delivered owing to the observer's Dr. Tåning's illness and subsequent death, the Executive Secretary was called upon to give a verbatim report on that meeting. When doing so he also extended an invitation to ICES to co-sponsor, on the same level as ICNAF, a Symposium on Redfish in 1959.

On the following days meetings of delegates and of experts continued, and on the last day of the week the Final Meeting of the General Assembly was held.

In a meeting of delegates, Dr. J. Furnestin, France, was elected President, Mr. G. Rollefson, Norway, First Vice-President, and Dr. E. Leloup, Belgium, Mr. A.J. Aglen, U.K., and Dr. J. Hult, Sweden, Vice-Presidents.

The meetings of delegates dealt with a large number of administrative and financial matters. The ICES budget for 1958/59 was estimated to the amount of 474,000 Danish Kroner or ca. 68,000 dollars. It might be of interest to note here a comparison between the ICES and the ICNAF budgets:

Budgets 1958/59 in dollars:	ICES	ICNAF
Salaries, President and Chairman	4,143	0
Salaries, Staff	27,395	26,300
Office expenses	9,257	10,700
Travels	3,143	5,400
Publications	17,857	5,500
Pensions	5,892	2,100
Total \$	67,687	50,000
Number of member countries	16	12

The delegates considered increased expenses for the year arising mainly from (a) increased staff salaries following increased salaries paid by the Danish Government to her officials, (b) mechanizing of office work, (c) general increases due to a raise in price-level. To cover these increases the delegates proposed that Governments' contributions to the budget be increased by 25%.

It was noted that U.S.S.R. had invited the Council to convene its 1960 Annual Meeting in that country.

The invitation to ICES to co-sponsor the Redfish Symposium was considered and accepted; this Symposium to be held in the week following the 1959 ICES meeting, not as proposed by ICNAF in the week preceding it, for which week a special hydrographic meeting already was planned.

The experts of the Council met in the established committees. These are partly regional (f.i. Northern Seas), partly according to subjects (f.i. Hydrography, Gadoid [cod sp.]); a Consultative Committee sums up the work done by the other committees to be dealt with by the General Assembly.

A series of meetings were held by the large Hydrographic Committee, chaired by Dr. J.B. Tait, and its various sub-committees. Plans for hydrographic researches were elaborated, and the extensive work of the hydrographic group of the headquarters' staff was considered. Twenty-three papers were presented to the Committee.

The Statistical Committee, chaired by Prof. J. Lundbeck, considered the increased demand for detailed statistics arising from the Permanent Commission, and possibilities and means for meeting these demands. The ICNAF observer drew attention to certain discrepancies in statistical data for the NW-Atlantic in the ICES and ICNAF "Bulletins". The Committee expressed the wish that the Secretaries of the two bodies should meet and try to clear this matter. In the days after the meeting I met the General Secretary of ICES and a satisfactory solution was arrived at.

The Distant Northern Seas Committee, which covers the whole Northern Atlantic including the W-Greenland area met, chaired by Dr. J. Jónsson. Icelandic scientists reported on the considerable fishery for redfish started by Iceland off the Hamilton Inlet Bank in 1958, and on an extensive sampling of redfish, and a hydrographic survey carried out in connection with this new fishery. Two papers of special interest to the ICNAF area were tabled: A. Kotthaus: "Composition of the German redfish landings in Bremerhaven in respect of the different Sebastes types" and J. Magnússon: "Preliminary report on a redfish cruise to the Labrador Sea".

The ICNAF observer outlined the proposals of the last ICNAF meeting for a redfish symposium; the Committee was satisfied with the various subjects for the symposium, but decided to add a further one: "The redfish and the hydrographical conditions". It recommended that ICES should co-sponsor the symposium.

The Gadoid Fish Committee, chaired by Dir. G. Rollefson, considered mainly the Arctic cod in the Barents Sea and off the coast of Northern Norway, and especially the recent decline in growth rate and density of this stock. The matter had been considered earlier by the Committee, and a progress report dealing with relevant data available and a program for future work was tabled. It was agreed that scientists from the countries mainly concerned (Norway, U.K. and U.S.S.R.) should meet and consider the progress report and means for carrying out the program. A recommendation to this effect was passed by the General Assembly.

The cod stock in West Greenland waters was also considered, and reports by M. Ruiivo and G. Quartin on the West Greenland cod stock in 1957 and 1958 were read.

The Comparative Fishing Committee, with Dr. C.E. Lucas in the chair, considered a number of problems relevant to the techniques of fishing (i.e. gear and behaviour of fish caught). Especially considered were the results and the extent of researches on selectivity of trawls and seines of various materials. A survey showed that large gaps in our knowledge still existed. It was agreed that valuable results had been obtained already and that the existing program of research should be continued and expanded in 1959. Special attention was drawn to the value of collaborative work between vessels of several countries fishing the same stocks simultaneously.

Based on eighteen tabled contributions the following subjects were discussed: (a) methods of analysis, (b) effects of cod-end covers, (c) mesh selection factors, (d) variations of these factors in relation to the conditions of particular experiments, (e) mesh measurement methods, (f) other kinds of selection processes, (g) classification of fishing gear, (h) theory of fishing, and (j) changes in length of fish after death.

The Committee made a number of recommendations for the carrying out of researches relevant to the above-mentioned items, including the following: "Information obtained to date suggests that the type of top-side chafer prescribed by ICNAF influences selection less than the usual tightly-fitting commercial cover. Work should continue, however, so as to determine the most suitable type of chafer".

The Committee found that up to date, insufficient attention had been paid to the amount of shrinkage undergone by commercial fish after death, and a resolution was passed calling for further researches on this problem.

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The preceding pages are not to be considered as even a brief summary of the ICES Annual Meeting in its entirety, but rather as a report on those items of the meeting which have special interest for ICNAF, dealing with problems either already under consideration by ICNAF or expected to be so in the near future.

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