

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967Decision taken to March 1967 relating to Kort's proposal for the
Study of the North Atlantic (IOC Resolution IV-14)

1. Dr. Kort's proposal for an international project to study the North Atlantic dynamics and hydrology is presented to the 17th Annual Meeting of the Commission as ICNAF Res. Doc. 67/1. The proposal has now been studied by FAO's Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). Both bodies have taken decisions.
2. The following recommendations on Kort's proposal was passed by ACMRR at its Fourth Session, 16-21 January 1967:

6.3.6 Proposal for International Project of
studying the North Atlantic
Dynamics and Hydrology.

The proposals for this project were recently received from Prof. Kort, and it was noted that SCOR have also been asked for advice. Considerable discussion ensued on this subject, and strong comment was made to the effect that this proposed project was much larger than any previous expedition, and raised once again the question of variability in the oceans. This question had been considered during a SCOR Symposium in May 1966 and SCOR had not favoured a large-scale variability experiment at that time on the grounds that (a) the capabilities of moored instrument arrays have not yet been adequately assessed; (b) the procedures for the analyses of time series data have not been fully formulated. In addition the question was raised as to whether existing data in the area had been fully utilized. The Secretary of IOC amplified some of the points and outlined correspondence between Professor Kort and himself. It was recognized that Professor Kort had taken account of existing data and considered that his scheme avoided the difficulties envisaged by SCOR. Further detailed discussion, however, posed two major questions: (a) was the requisite ship time available; (b) was Professor Kort's proposed methodology appropriate, particularly with respect to the absolute measurement of heat fluxes. Further, even if these two questions were to be answered satisfactorily, and there is great scientific merit in the proposal, is it necessary or wise to tie up all the existing oceanographic resources in this project, particularly when its direct fisheries content is small? The Committee noted that, apart from the question of ship and instrument resources, they were advised that the methodology is not yet sufficiently advanced for this proposal to be effectively carried out.

3. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Bureau and Consultative Council at their Seventh meeting, 30 January - 2 February 1967 did not discuss Kort's proposal as they are awaiting the advice of SCOR on this matter.
4. The following decision on Kort's proposal was taken by the SCOR Executive Committee at its meeting in Israel, 6-10 February 1967:

"The SCOR Executive decided to invite the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to circulate this proposal to governments and instructed the SCOR secretary to circulate it to national committees, to selected experts, and to appropriate scientific bodies with a request for comment and recommendation. The results of these inquiries would then be circulated to members of the Executive Committee for discussion by correspondence and at a subsequent Executive meeting.

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I would hope that ICNAF would be able to consider the proposal and to send its comments sometime during the next few months."

(Extracted from a letter dated 22 February 1967 written to the Exec. Secretary of ICNAF by Warren S. Wooster, Secretary of SCOR)

5. Members of the Environmental Subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics of ICNAF are requested to consider the Kort proposal under Item 6 (d) of the agenda for the meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics in May/June 1967. Comments will be sent to the Secretary of SCOR and other bodies as required.