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**First Report of Joint Russian/German Project "Assessment of Short-time
Climatic Variations in the Labrador Sea"**

by

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Introduction

A Workshop consisting of V. A. Borovkov (PINRO, Murmansk, Russia), M. Stein (ISH, Hamburg, Germany) and G. Nesvetova (PINRO, Murmansk, Interpreter) met at the Institut für Seefischerei Hamburg (ISH) during 20-25 April 1998. Terms of references and agenda as formulated during the fifth meeting of the previous project „Joint Russian/German Data Evaluation of Oceanographic Data from ICNAF/NAFO Standard Sections in the Davis Strait/Labrador Region“ in Murmansk, August 1997, formed the basis for this Workshop.

Preliminary Results

1. Data Acquisition

By means of data sets, accessible through the INTERNET, the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) Index (http://nic.fb4.noaa.gov/data/cddb/cddb/tele_index.nh), ice cover and ice extent in the Labrador Sea (<http://www.natice.noaa.gov>), and graphical presentation of NOAA air temperature data for this region were made available (http://wesley.wwb.noaa.gov/ncep_data/index_sgi62.html).

2. Software Acquisition

The most recent version (April 1998) of the OCEAN-DATA-VIEW 4.0 software (ODV), as provided by R. Schlitzer from the Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany through the INTERNET (www.awi-bremerhaven.de/GPH/ODV), was used.

For processing of meteorological data (NOAA air temperature anomaly data) the GrADS (The Grid Analysis and Display System) Software (UNIX) (<http://grads.iges.org/grads>), and an X-Server (<http://www.starnet.com/docs/xwin32.html>) were downloaded. Whereas statistical data analysis of the data sets as mentioned under 1. led to promising results, the conversion of the air temperature data to ASCII format could not be achieved, and therefore only graphical output from this data set is available. To solve this problem there was not enough time during this workshop. For a suitable use of the GrADS Software the time period between the first and second workshop will be used.

3. NAO/Ice cover Labrador Sea

A preliminary analysis was done to detect a NAO induced signal in the ice cover of the Labrador Sea. It could be shown that NAO winter (DJFM) index and ice cover during the year correlated significantly with the following months (in brackets correlation coefficient r): January (0.52), February (0.66), April (0.50), and Year mean (0.52).

Next Meeting

The next Workshop meeting within the scope of the project will be held in PINRO, Murmansk, Russia, tentatively during 24 -31 August, 1998.

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