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Progress Report on distribution of information on  
tagging experiments conducted in the ICNAF Area

Following recommendations adopted at the 1961 Annual Meeting (Redbook 1961, p. 11(c)) and the 1962 Annual Meeting (Redbook 1962, Pt. I, pp. 44-45), a postcard system for reporting releases of tagged fish and seabed drifters and drift bottles in summary form was agreed to at the 1963 Annual Meeting (Redbook 1963, Pt. I, Appendices IV and V).

The system is briefly as follows: laboratories conducting tagging experiments send all tagging information to the Secretariat on self-addressed postcards supplied by the Secretariat. This release information is duplicated by the Xerox process on cards of yellow colour for tagged fish and salmon colour for seabed drifters or drift bottles, and distributed to laboratories for publicising among the fishermen and port organizations.

To date (7 March 1964) during the 1963-64 period the Secretariat has processed

A. for 1962 fish taggings, 98 cards received from VNIRO covering cod taggings mainly in Subarea 2, 2 cards from German cod taggings, and 10 cards from U.S. taggings of cod, redfish, salmon and striped bass in Subarea 5 - a total of 110 cards received. Each card was duplicated in 40 copies and issued to 28 laboratories at a total cost of about \$90.00 (ca. 2¢/card including postage).

B. for 1963 fish taggings, 13 cards from Canadian taggings in Subarea 4, 9 cards from Danish taggings in Subarea 1, and 7 cards from U.S. taggings in Subarea 5 - a total of 29 cards received, duplicated in 40 copies and distributed to 28 laboratories at a total cost of about \$30.00 (ca. 2¢/card including postage).

C. for 1963 seabed drifters and drift bottles, 7 cards from Canadian releases in Subareas 3, 4 and 5, 2 cards from U.K. releases in the North Atlantic area and 19 cards from U.S. releases in Subarea 5 - a total of 28 cards received and duplicated in 40 copies at a total cost of about \$30.00 (2¢/card including postage).

From the point of view of the Secretariat, the present system provides the minimum of time, effort and money required and no changes can be recommended. Whether the system effectively improves the standard of recovery of tagged fish and seabed drifters and drift bottles can only be evaluated by the laboratories doing the tagging.

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