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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR



THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

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ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1968

Report of the 55th Statutory Meeting of the
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Hamburg, October 1967

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P.O. Box 638

Dartmouth, N.S., Canada

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15 December 1967

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International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
Hamburg, October 1967

Officers

The following will be the Council's Officers during the session 1967/68:

President	-	Dr A.E.J.Went (Ireland)
1st Vice-President	-	Professor W. Ciegiewicz (Poland)
Vice-Presidents	-	Professor P. Korringa (Netherlands)
		Dr E. Leloup (Belgium)
		Mr R. Letaconnoux (France)
		Professor J.T.Ruud (Norway)
		Professor G. Dietrich (Germany)

Only Professor Dietrich was newly elected.

Chairman Consultative Committee - Mr B.B.Parrish (UK)
 Chairman Gear and Behaviour Committee - Mr S. Olsen (Norway)
 Chairman Hydrography Committee - Professor G. Dietrich (Germany)
 Chairman Statistics Committee - Mr M. Elisson (Iceland)
 Chairman Fisheries Improvement Committee - Dr H.A.Cole (UK)
 Chairman Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee - Professor G.V.Nikolsky (USSR)
 Chairman Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee - Mr J.J.Zijlstra (Netherlands)
 Chairman Demersal Fish (Southern) Committee - Dr F. Lozano Cabo (Spain)
 Chairman Pelagic Fish (Southern) Committee - Mr R. Letaconnoux (France)
 Chairman Plankton Committee - Dr J.H.Fraser (UK)
 Chairman Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee - Dr B. Carlin (Sweden)
 Chairman Marine Mammals Committee - Dr J. Jonsson (Iceland)

Membership

Canada was present as a full member for the first time. Her accession to ICES was generally welcomed. The Americans have expressed their intention to present as full members in 1968.

The New Convention

This awaits ratification by Italy, and her delegates intimated that although this was now before the Italian Parliament it was possible that it would not be received by the Depositary Government (Denmark) before the date in July 1968 set in the Convention. In view of this it was decided to proceed with the preparation of a protocol for signature by those governments which had already ratified to allow the Convention to apply to these governments as from the agreed date or the date of the last signature of the protocol.

Finance

There was considerable discussion of possible schemes for contributions under the provisions of the new Convention, but no agreement was reached. There seemed to be a large majority opinion in favour of continuing on the present basis, each country contributing at least as much as at present, but various suggestions were made for providing any further money required to finance the Council's activities. A small surplus is anticipated in the current financial year.

Proceedings

The New Committee Structure

This worked satisfactorily although both Northern Fish Committees and the Hydrography Committee will require a normal allocation of three sessions in future. The work of the Southern Fish Committees was effective and communications to them provided substantial new information regarding the fish stocks in this part of the Council's area. The contributions on the European hake were particularly notable and in addition there was a United Kingdom contribution on the South African hake.

The new Fisheries Improvement Committee made a good start with contributions on fish and shellfish cultivation, transplantation and pollution, including the Torrey Canyon oil spill.

Arctic Fish Stocks

Arrangements were made for further meetings of both the N.E. Arctic and North Western Working Groups, in part concurrently, so as to provide up to date assessments for the North East Atlantic Fisheries Committee. It seems likely that in future these two groups will be amalgamated.

North Sea Demersal Fish Stocks

A new Working Group was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr E. Bertelsen (Denmark) to prepare new assessments of cod, haddock, whiting, plaice and sole stocks in the North Sea. Preparatory work will be done during the coming spring and the Group expects to be able to provide a report for the Commission for its 1969 meeting.

North Sea Herring

Following detailed discussion in the Pelagic Fish (Northern) Committee, the Consultative Committee and the Bureau, the Council agreed to initiate a new tagging experiment on the Bløden young herring fishery to commence, if possible, during 1968 and continue for eight months. The estimated cost is 1,250,000 Danish kroner. The target would be to mark 100,000 fish. A further experiment may be needed in a subsequent year. This is probably the most expensive venture that the Council has promoted and indicates the degree of concern for the future conservation of herring stocks in the southern North Sea. It seems likely that the cost will be shared among eight or nine member countries. The provision of adequate statistics of the Danish fishery in the Bløden area is an essential feature of the exercise.

North Atlantic Salmon

There was a well-attended meeting of the Working Group on North Atlantic salmon which reviewed the latest data and made recommendations for further programs of work in 1968, to include if possible a closer study of the off-shore fishery at West Greenland. Information was provided on the development of a rather substantial high seas fishery off the northern coast of Norway, mainly by Danish vessels.

Training Course in Acoustic Methods

With support from FAO, ICES will organize in Bergen, Norway, in October 1968 a training course on the application of acoustic methods in fisheries research. The course will be limited to thirty students, of which at least five will be nominated by FAO.

Training Course in Marine Chemistry

A proposal from the Hydrography Committee for a four week training course in marine chemistry at Oslo, Norway, in 1969 was approved by the Council. Trainees would require at least three years practical experience.

Marine Pollution

Following discussion of the Reports of the IOC Working Group and the Helgoland Symposium in the Fisheries Improvement Committee, the Council decided to set up a Working Group to assemble factual information regarding pollution of the North Sea and adjacent waters with Dr H.A.Cole (UK) as Convenor. The Hydrography Committee will nominate two members. The young fish nursery grounds of the eastern North Sea are thought to be a particularly sensitive area.

Marine Food Chains Symposium

This is to be held at Aarhus (Denmark) in July 1968, with Dr J.H.Steele (UK) as Convenor.

Symposium on the Living Resources of the African Continental Shelf

Plans are virtually complete for this important symposium which will be held at Santa Cruz de Teneriffe (Canary Islands) from 25th-28th March 1968. The President of ICES will preside. Mr R. Letaconnoux (France) is the Convenor. Approximately seventy scientific contributions are expected.

Future Symposia and Special Meetings

At the 1968 Statutory Meeting there will be a Symposium of Herring Recruitment lasting four days.

It was agreed to hold a three day symposium prior to the 1969 Statutory Meeting on the subject of 'Physical variability in the North Atlantic'. In association with the 1969 meeting there will also be a special one day meeting to discuss the application of biochemical methods to fish population analysis.

Future Meetings of the Council

According to established procedure the Council will meet in Copenhagen in 1968. For the 1969 meeting the Council accepted an invitation from the Republic of Ireland to meet in Dublin.

H.A.Cole
19 October 1967