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12TH MEETING OF BUREAU AND CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (UNESCO) 1-6 MARCH 1971: SUMMARIES OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTEREST TO ICNAF

Recommendation No. 12.2: That the Seventh Session of the Commission considers the possibility of organizing the next Joint Oceanographic Assembly in 1976.

Recommendation No. 12.4: Calls upon the Secretary to transmit the report of the IOC Group of Experts on Long-term Scientific Policy and Planning (GELTSPAP) to other relevant bodies for their examination and possible comment prior to the Seventh Session of the Commission. Invites consideration and comment by FAO, WMO, ICES, ICNAF, IHO and associated organizations on the proposals directly related to their programmes. (Only two proposals are of direct interest to ICNAF. These are in paras 26 and 34 of the report and are given below.)

Recommendation No. 12.5: That the Seventh Session of the Commission should establish the Global Investigations of Pollution in the Marine Environment recommended by GELTSPAP as one of the major exercises in the Long-term and Expanded Programme of Oceanic Exploration and Research (LEPOR). The investigations should be organized and coordinated by IOC in cooperation with appropriate bodies.

Recommendation No. 12.11: Calls upon the Secretary to distribute the reports of the three meetings held so far of the IOC/ICES/ICNAF Joint Coordination Group on Cooperative Systematic Studies in the North Atlantic. These reports are to be distributed to Member States of the Joint Group through IOC channels. Requests Member States of the Joint Group to study carefully these reports with a view to their coming forward with proposals for reinforcing their efforts in the systematic study of the North Atlantic.

Relevant paragraphs of the GELTSPAP Report

Para 26 Continuing Global Evaluation of the living resources of the ocean and of their condition. Biosciences Exercises 2.1

One of the most important aims of the Expanded Programme is to obtain more complete and more precise estimates of the potentials of the living resources in the world ocean, and most, if not all, of the projects enumerated in Section 2 of the Outline are directed towards this general aim. We felt that the approach must, at this stage, be essentially

regional. Direct global studies of primary and secondary production are not proposed now because methodology and knowledge of these fields are not sufficiently developed to permit meaningful results to be obtained at that level. It is hoped, however, that general studies of marine productivity, comprising all levels from the enrichment processes to the fishery resources, undertaken in different types of "enrichment conditions" in the oceans, will lead to a better understanding of the complex processes involved and to better methods of quantitative measurements, and hence to more direct studies of global production. Meanwhile, it is expected that fishery surveys and assessments undertaken on national and regional bases will steadily improve our knowledge of the world's resources of marine organisms. We were aware of the recent issue by FAO of "The Fish Resources of the Ocean", which contains a review of all available knowledge on the subject, and we propose that this document should be revised at suitable intervals and thus form an up-to-date record of global resource evaluation.

Para 34 Bioscience Exercise 2.8 - Ice research in relation to Polar Oceanography

Having been informed of the interest indicated by various nations in a study of ice in the polar seas, particularly in the Arctic and its relation to oceanography and meteorology, we considered the possible biological aspects of such studies. Perhaps more than in any other region, environmental conditions at high latitudes influence the biological processes where conditions are often marginal for living resources. Examples of important biological problems demanding study are (i) variations in productivity of adjacent arctic and sub-arctic seas following fluctuations of the fronts; (ii) the mechanisms inherent in determining stock size fluctuations in these seas; and (iii) major biological processes in polar seas, and (iv) special biological studies of interest to pollution research in these seas. We propose that a Polar Ice Research Project should be developed in the Expanded Programme. In view of the importance of including research on living resources in such a programme, the Commission should request ICES and ICNAF to assist.

The Seventh Session of the Commission will be held at UNESCO, Paris from 26 October to 6 November 1971.

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26 April 1971

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