

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 3526
(D.c. 9)

ICNAF Res.Doc. 75/47

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

Ernst Haeckel joint cooperative herring work in SA 5

by

Richard C. Hennemuth
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Center
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543

On 18 March 1975 scientists from the USA (Woods Hole), USSR (PINRO) and the GDR (Rostock) met aboard the *Ernst Haeckel* to exchange data and discuss cruise plans for the vessel. Fortuitous circumstances permitted the vessel to work in SA 5 from 2-26 March, a more extensive period than originally planned. The *Ernst Haeckel* joined the *Poisk* (USSR), *Wieczno* (Poland), and *Walther Herwig* (FRG), already participating in the joint herring survey work, as well as the *Delaware II* (USA), in a joint hydroacoustic experiment. The *Albatross IV* (USA) conducted a standard groundfish survey in the area during the time period of the other activities.

A set of standard trawl logs and randomized trawling stations had been previously delivered to the *Ernst Haeckel* after initial radio contact had established its availability for cooperative work. A set of 34 trawl stations were occupied in strata 9, 10, and 13 from 11-17 March. Copies of the trawl logs were provided by the GDR scientists and the data thus will be available for the STACRES Meetings in April in Woods Hole. Trawl data from the other participating ships should be made available to the GDR, continuing the full data exchange protocol of the cooperative cruises.

The general objectives and plan of the herring juvenile surveys were discussed. The importance and use of the data in making assessments of the status of the herring fishery were reviewed. A set of plans, charts, and manuals describing the standard survey procedures was provided to GDR scientists.

The *Ernst Haeckel* participated in the joint hydroacoustic experiment conducted on Georges Bank starting 19 March. The objectives and plans for the experiment were reviewed and the schedule of work for the *Ernst Haeckel* was outlined and agreed upon. The *Poisk* and *Delaware II* worked along a pre-selected hydroacoustical sounding track. The *Wieczno* and *Ernst Haeckel* conducted bottom and mid-water trawling on specified target schools to provide data on species and size compositions.

The GDR scientists and captain expressed their appreciation for arrangements that made it possible to join the work in progress. They emphasized that the recent membership of GDR in ICNAF (November 1974) would permit increased future participation in the research program coordinated through ICNAF, and they looked forward to sharing in the cooperation and benefits of the program.

