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**International Council for the Exploration of the Sea**  
**Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer**

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**Click on the titles to the left to access articles.**

## Editor-at-large!

Anyone attending the 1999 ASC in Stockholm – first-timers as well as golden oldies – should be prepared to be badgered by him for their views of the meeting.



John Ramster (left) talking with Dr Ambrose Jearld, NOAA/NMFS, at the 1998 ASC in Cascais, Portugal



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## 1999 ASC Overview

The 1999 Annual Science Conference inaugurates a three-year celebratory period for ICES, culminating in the Centenary of ICES in 2002. The Stockholm Conference in 1899 was the first preparatory meeting preceding the launching of ICES as an officially recognized member of the international scientific community. Historically interested persons will find material in past, present, and future newsletter articles, and also in a book tracing the development of the organization, which is due for publication in 2001.

To mark the beginning of the celebratory period several events are planned for the 1999 ASC in Stockholm. The King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf, will be at the Opening Session, for example, thus providing a link to his predecessor, King Oskar II, in whose name the 1899 Conference had been called. The Open Lecture this year will continue the historical theme and has the title "On the Evolution of ICES". It will be given by David de G. Griffith. The Grand Conference Dinner will be held at the Stockholm City Hall, where the Nobel Prize Banquet takes place.

The Scientific programme includes the following highlights:

**Mini-Symposium:** "Plans for Major International Programmes in the North Atlantic Region over the Next Decade: Should ICES Be Involved?" Conveners: Dr M. Reeve and Professor P. Liss

### Theme Sessions:

Application of Acoustic Techniques to Bottom-Trawl Surveys (J):  
Conveners: J. Massé and O. R. Godø

Application of Coupled Bio-Physical Models in Studies of Zooplankton and Ichthyoplankton Advection and Dispersion (K):  
Conveners: Dr E. Svendsen, Dr F. Werner, and Dr K. F. Drinkwater

Nordic Seas Exchanges (L): Conveners: H. Loeng and Professor J. Meincke

4-D Sampling of the Oceans at Micro- to Mesoscales (M):  
Conveners: Dr J. H. Steele, Dr G. Griffiths, and Dr O. A. Misund

On Management and Mitigation for Harmful Algae (N):  
Conveners: H. Dahlin, Dr L. Edler, and H. Enevoldsen

Global Change Aspects (O): Conveners: Dr R. Hendry and Dr S. Jonsson

Sustainability Criteria (P): Conveners: Dr R. Stephenson and Dr K. Stokes

The Language of Fisheries Science and Management (Q):  
Conveners: Dr E.D. Anderson and O. Hagström

The Relationship between Fishing Capacity, Effort, and Mortality (R): Conveners: E. Kirkegaard, J.-J. Maguire, and M. Pastoors

Evaluation of Complete Fisheries Systems: Economic, Social, and Ecological Analyses (S): Conveners: Dr G. Stefánsson, Dr D. Lane, and Professor J. G. Sutinen

The Bayesian Approach to Fisheries Analysis (T): Conveners: Dr R. J. Conser and M. Azevedo

M74 Syndrome and Similar Reproductive Disturbances in Marine Animals (U): Conveners: Dr B.-E. Bengtsson, Dr D. Honeyfield, and Dr S. Brown

The Northeast Atlantic Environment – The Current Status (V):  
Conveners: Dr P. C. Reid and S. Carlberg

Health and Welfare of Cultivated Aquatic Animals (W):  
Conveners: Dr J. C. Holm and Dr G. Claireaux

Size-Based Processes in the Sea (Poster Session) (X): Convener: Professor J. Pope

Cod and Haddock Recruitment Processes – Integrating Stock and Environmental Effects (Y): Conveners: Dr M. Heath, Dr B. MacKenzie, and Dr G. Marteinsdottir

Ecosystem Management: Can We Make It Operational? (Z):  
Conveners: Professor J. Pope and Dr J. Rice

Microprocessors and “Things that Swim in the Ocean”: Smart Tags in the Study of Marine Life (AA): Conveners: Dr K. Friedland, Dr

G. Arnold, Dr G. Stenson, and Dr L. Karlsson



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A Sunday stroll on the ice. Photo: Richard Ryan, Stockholm Information Service

## Welcome to Sweden

### **Dr Ingemar Olsson and Professor Jan Thulin look forward to greeting participants attending the 1999 ASC**

As the Swedish Delegates, we are very pleased and honoured to welcome to our home country the 1999 ICES Annual Science Conference, a Jubilee Meeting!

Stockholm, famous for its beauty, is called the Queen of Lake Mälaren. It is situated just where the fresh water of this lake meets the salt water of the Baltic Sea. The ICES Inaugural Meeting took place in Stockholm 15–23 June, 100 years ago. So this city is the cradle of ICES!

King Oskar II, the great-great-grandfather of the present Swedish King, had a deep interest in scientific issues. He opened the Conference in 1899, attended by delegates from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. As a curiosity it can be mentioned that during one of the scientific discussions Dr Filip Trybom of Sweden described how salmon caught in fixed gear had been attacked by eels – a diadromous interaction?

In 1983, Sweden had the honour of hosting the 71st ICES Statutory Meeting in Gothenburg on the west coast of the country, where nowadays most of the fisheries administration, fisheries research,

and fishing industry are to be found.

The Grand Conference Dinner in 1999 will take place at the Stockholm City Hall, where many official receptions and banquets are held. Best known is the Nobel Prize Banquet presented by the King of Sweden, Carl XVI Gustaf. We do hope that all of you have registered for the Dinner. Hopefully it will be an evening to remember!

We extend to all of you a very warm welcome to Sweden, to Stockholm, and to the 87th ASC!

*Ingemar Olsson and Jan Thulin*



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## The Stockholm Conference 1899

– outside the meeting rooms

### **Jens Smed** **Former ICES Hydrographer and Chef du Service** **Hydrographique**

*In Issue No. 30 of this newsletter questions about the “housekeeping” for the first meetings were posed: how long did it take to travel to Stockholm, how did the participants get around the town, etc. From some amazing sources Jens Smed has put together the following account of what went on behind the scenes and how it was accomplished.*

The proceedings of the Stockholm Conference show quite clearly that the participants worked hard. Over a few days they prepared the programmes and made the decisions that formed the basis of the future International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Fortunately, however, not all was work. Several social events took place, and the Swedish hosts were very hospitable. For example, at the frontier foreign Delegates received free railway tickets (1st class, also sleeping-car) for travel in Sweden.

The Conference started on Thursday, 15 June. The evening before, the Swedish Delegates welcomed their foreign colleagues at an informal party at the Café Anglais. A. R. Akerman, who was to become President of the Conference, welcomed everyone in English. One of the German Delegates, V. Hansen, replied in German. All the discussions at the Conference took place in English or German, according to the choice of the individual speaker. This apparently did not cause any serious difficulty, except for the Chief British Delegate, W. E. Archer. The official words of welcome to the Conference were expressed in French by the Swedish Minister of the Interior.

King Oskar II had initiated the Conference, and he took an interest in it from start to finish. On Friday, the 16th, at 11 a.m., he received all the Delegates in a ceremonial audience at the Royal

Palace. Each Delegate was presented to the King and was addressed by him. Afterwards the King showed the assembly a message recently received via “bottle-post” from the Polar explorer S. A. Andrée, who had disappeared in the Arctic in 1897. The King discussed this matter in detail with another Polar explorer, Fridtjof Nansen, who was one of the Norwegian Delegates to the Conference. From this the Delegates realized that the King was genuinely interested in scientific questions.

On Sunday, the 18th, the Delegates were invited for an all-day excursion, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., via the steamer “Norden” to Gripsholm, a royal castle on the banks of Lake Mälaren. On the outward passage they had breakfast, and on the way back a late lunch was served. In the fine weather the excursion was most successful. The old castle, so rich in memories of the past and with collections of old portraits, was visited under the guidance of an expert from the National Museum.

On Monday, the 19th, the King invited the Delegates to a formal dinner at the Royal Palace. Other guests included the heads of the British, Danish, German, and Russian Missions at Stockholm and several Swedish and Norwegian Ministers, and the Swedish Crown Prince and Prince Carl were also present with their respective entourages. Fifty people in total were present. After the dinner the King conversed with each Delegate in the most amiable way.

The next day the Delegates were invited by the City of Stockholm to a banquet at Saltsjöbaden. The guests were taken there by the beflagged steamer “Ifillersjö”, being entertained on the way by two quartets and, upon arrival at their destination, with military music.

The menu of the banquet left nothing to be desired:

Hors d'oeuvre  
 Potage tortue clair  
 Sole à la Dieppoise  
 Asperges nouvelles au beurre  
 Poulets rôtis; Concombres  
 Glace napolitaine  
 Fromage; Desserts

During the dinner the company was entertained by both quartets and a military band.

The speech of welcome was given in French by the Prefect of Stockholm. The senior German Delegate, Dr W. Herwig, replied in German. Professor Nansen spoke at length in English about the progress of the Conference. He thought that many of the Delegates

had come with only little hope that any really important results would come from the negotiations. Experience had shown, however, that it had not been difficult to obtain general agreement, and the Conference was now on its way to making unanimous resolutions – a great result which boded well for the future.

On Thursday, 22 June, the Swedish Ministry gave a dinner in honour of the Delegates at Restaurant Hasselbacken on Djurgården. Also present were members of the diplomatic corps and leading Swedish scientists.

The Conference ended on Friday, the 23rd, at 1.30 p.m. In the afternoon the Delegates were invited to travel by the Crown steamer “Sköldmön” to the Royal Summer Palace, Drottningholm, situated on the banks of the Mälaren. The Palace was visited under expert guidance.

During the weekend the Delegates returned to their home countries after a successful Conference and many pleasant social events.

### **Sources**

Report to the German Imperial Minister for the Interior, by the German delegation in pleno.

Report to the Prussian Minister for Ecclesiastical Instruction and Medical Affairs, by the German Delegate, Otto Krümmel.

Reports in the newspaper “Stockholms Dagblad” collected by Artur Svansson.



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The Institute of Marine Research at Lysekil

## Fisheries research in Sweden

**Dr Ingemar Olsson, University of Uppsala, and Professor Jan Thulin, Institute of Marine Research, National Board of Fisheries, Lysekil**

The National Board of Fisheries (NBF) is the body responsible for the work of the three government-supported fishery research institutes in Sweden. These are the Institute of Marine Research in Lysekil on the west coast, which has



The "Argos", one of two Swedish research vessels

had a Baltic Sea Research Station at Karlskrona since 1991, the Institute of Coastal Research at Öregrund on the Baltic Sea coast, and the Institute of Freshwater Research at Drottningholm, on the shores of Lake Mälaren.

The Institute of Marine Research was founded in 1929 and its task is to carry out the research and stock assessments related to the CFP fish and shellfish species. It has at its disposal two research vessels, the R/V "Argos" and the R/V "Ancylus". The Institute is represented on all relevant ICES committees and Working Groups. Since Sweden joined the EU in 1995 the Institute has increased its cooperation with sister institutes abroad and has also been very successful in its applications for the financial support of its projects. Key areas of interest within fishery technology deal with the development of more selective gears for the cod, Norwegian lobster, and shrimp fisheries, while major projects within the stock assessment area deal with improvements in data collection, as well as of the databases themselves. Efforts are being made to increase the number of research topics dealing with the socio-economic aspects of fisheries and with the new genetic techniques in fish biology.

The Institute of Coastal Research (ICR) was part of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency before it joined the NBF in 1991. One of its major tasks is to monitor and assess the status of the coastal fish populations, especially along the Baltic Sea coast. The staff is also heavily engaged in inspection programmes concerning industrial activities, especially nuclear power plants and pulp and paper mills. There is a joint programme with university laboratories to run research projects aimed at increased selectivity and economy in small coastal fisheries.

The Institute of Freshwater Research is responsible for research and stock assessment of fish and crayfish in lakes and rivers. It also has major responsibility for Baltic salmon and, together with the ICR, eel research. At the Institute, which was founded in 1930, basic research is undertaken in the fields of fish migration, intra- and interspecific competition, stock enhancement, and predation studies, as well as genetics.

Researchers at all three institutes cooperate with scientists at the universities within Sweden in both joint research programmes, as well as being supervisors for Ph.D. students.

There are also three Marine Research Centres situated in the Universities of Gothenburg, Stockholm, and Umeå, respectively.

All three have groups studying various aspects of basic fish biology. At the Department of Marine Ecology at Gothenburg the work is focused on fish ecology. The Centre at Stockholm is chiefly concerned with the application of an ecosystem approach to the problem of fish/fishery/pollution, and their possible effect on changes in the ecosystem. Finally, at the University of Umeå the programme of fisheries research deals mainly with behavioural studies of salmonids and perch.



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## Some reflections on working at the centre

### **Professor Chris Hopkins** **ICES General Secretary**



*This article provides some personal experiences and views of the current General Secretary from his six-year term of appointment that began on 1 January 1994.*

From 1991 to 1993 as Chair of the Consultative Committee (i.e. Chief Scientist), and from 1994 onwards as General Secretary (Chief Executive Officer), it has been my privilege to work at the centre of the ICES community during one of the most stimulating periods in the evolution of the organization. This period has included, for example, the birth of the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment, the establishment of the new style Annual Science Conference hosted each year in different Member Countries, and the founding of the new interdisciplinary Science Committees to develop a better ICES response to emerging issues. Internally the restructuring of the ICES Secretariat according to a matrix management and Workplan approach with full economic costing of the component projects has taken place. Externally, as it were, the elaboration of important new relationships—through the signing of Memoranda of Understanding with the ICES Partner Commissions, viz. The European Commission, The Helsinki Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Marine Environment, The International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, and The Oslo and Paris Commissions for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic—has occurred. Finally, a range of stimulating preparations for the forthcoming ICES Centenary have been planned.

## The job

Although many of us believe that we know ICES well, it is only on actually becoming a member of the Council's staff of civil servants that the fact that the "crossroads" of ICES really do meet in the Secretariat at ICES Headquarters is realized. Only then is it possible to experience in all its manifestations the knowledge, output, and professionalism of the many things that together form the ICES community and to see the extent to which they are supported and overseen on a daily basis by the Secretariat staff. Although ICES is known by many as "the best kept secret in Copenhagen" it soon becomes clear from within that it is, in fact, a substantial and wide-reaching community.

The General Secretary—the Chief Executive Officer of ICES—heads a group of Professional and General Service category staff currently numbering about 35 persons, who together form the Secretariat, based at ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen. This body provides the administrative, secretarial, editorial, and publication services for the Council, and serves as the communications link for the 1500 or so scientists involved in ICES activities located in the 19 Member Countries, the four Scientific Observer Countries, as well as with approximately 40 other relevant international organizations. More than 700 scientists annually attend meetings at ICES Headquarters that are supported by the staff and in-house facilities. The Secretariat is also responsible for ensuring the organization of the Annual Science Conference, Symposia, and Dialogue Meetings in Denmark and abroad.

The generator of the ICES "powerhouse" is the Council Meeting of National Delegates that takes place at the Annual Science Conference in late September to early October. This represents the forum for formulating—through Council Resolutions with terms of reference (i.e. tasks) for the various Committees and approximately 90 subsidiary Study/Working Groups—and agreeing the ICES Work Programme that comprises the Core Science Programme and the Advisory Function. The Core Science Programme forms the mechanism by which ICES conducts its Research and Development activities and maintains its cutting edge in marine science under the direction of the Consultative Committee and the seven interdisciplinary Science Committees. The Advisory Function, which is overseen by the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management, ACFM, and the Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment, ACME, responds to the requests for scientific information and advice for management and regulatory purposes from Member Countries and the appropriate international Commissions they have established in the ICES Convention area. Thus, besides the products of the Core Science programme, ICES

provides through the Advisory Function the “best available, scientifically objective and politically independent advice”. There is a very real partnership, in fact, between ICES, its Member Countries, and the international Partner Commissions.

Having worked at the heart of ICES for a decade, I am pleased to register my immense gratitude and respect for the productive, professional, and, above all, amiable collaboration that is put into the whole enterprise from the “grass roots” scientists of the Study/Working Groups, the Science and Advisory Committees, the Bureau (Executive Bureau) and the Council. Last but not least, I wish to express my special esteem for my friends who form the staff of the Secretariat and provide such a dedicated service for ICES while forming such a relatively small group. The ratio between the size of the Secretariat and the size of the whole ICES enterprise is a statistic of hard work that speaks for itself. It is remarkable that the Secretariat remains essentially the same size now as it was in 1993, despite the appreciable increase in the extent and nature of the ICES Work Programme since then. As someone who recognizes the meaning of hard work, I am concerned as to whether the current workload in ICES as a whole, and in the Secretariat in particular, is sustainable in the longer term. This emphasizes the dilemma that ICES is facing; a point that I will expand on below.

### **Some key developments in ICES**

Looking back over my term as the twelfth General Secretary of ICES I would like to highlight some of the key features that have occurred during my custodianship and also point up what I believe are the foremost challenges facing ICES.

#### *1997 Intermediate Ministerial Meeting on the North Sea*

In my view ICES finally came of age, as it were, at the March 1997 Intermediate Ministerial Meeting on the North Sea (IMM97) held in Bergen, Norway. The “Statement of Conclusions” made by the Ministers for Fisheries and the Environment of the North Sea States, and by the Commissioners responsible for these areas in the European Commission, recognized the role of ICES as the international scientific organization for research and independent scientific advice on living marine resources and environmental issues and acknowledged the need to secure and maintain the role of ICES.

The Council of ICES Delegates, at the 1997 Annual Science Conference in the USA, noted with satisfaction the role played by ICES in IMM97. It also recognized the importance of further

developing the Science Core Programme and the Advisory Function of ICES to meet future challenges, which include working towards the Fifth International Conference on the North Sea (5NSC) that will take place in or about the year 2000. ICES is also expected to respond to the challenge of Agenda 21, Chapter 17 issues of UNCED (1994 UN Conference on Environment and Development, "Rio Summit"), which receives increasing attention at international conferences and within conventions. This area requires further research and development work within the Core Science Programme of ICES, as well as the bridging of the current areas of responsibility of the two ICES Advisory Committees.

### *Restructuring of the Science Committees*

Following the recommendations of the Bureau Working Group on the Structure of ICES that were submitted to and agreed by the Council at the 1996 Annual Science Conference in Iceland, 1997 saw preparations for the historic hand-over of responsibilities from the old-style, twelve Subject/Area Committees (i.e., Fish Capture, Hydrography, Statistics, Marine Environmental Quality, Mariculture, Demersal Fish, Pelagic Fish, Baltic Fish, Shellfish, Biological Oceanography, Anadromous and Catadromous Fish, and Marine Mammals) to the new-style, seven interdisciplinary Science Committees (i.e., Oceanography, Marine Habitat, Living Resources, Resource Management, Fisheries Technology, Mariculture, and Baltic) at the 1997 Annual Science Conference in the United States. A major aim behind this transition has been to facilitate more comprehensive integration of the scientific disciplines in order to respond more easily to the Agenda 21 issues arising from UNCED. One of the challenges following the establishment of the new Science Committees is to strengthen the bridge between science and advice. As yet, however, little progress has occurred in this direction although many people view it as essential that a clear and significant role be found for using the knowledge and expertise (i.e., membership of two persons nominated per committee per country) of these Science Committees to strengthen the Advisory Function of ICES.

### *Restructuring of the Advisory Committees*

ICES is recognized as providing the best available scientific information and advice for regulatory and management purposes. This has been further manifested by the recent partnership arrangement between ICES and the international Commissions, the details of which are now defined in numerous Memoranda of Understanding.

Because of the increased workload and the inability of the present

structures to handle it in an effective manner the ICES advisory system is facing imminent seizure. One result is that there is now a marked reticence among qualified people to put their names forward for prominent positions in the organization. The danger is that ICES will lose credibility in very important circles if it does not take up emerging challenges such as the development of the “ecosystem approach” connecting science, advice, and management. The only realistic option, it seems to me, is for the ICES advisory system to become more responsive and flexible but at the same time less resource demanding, particularly with regard to the provision of scientific advice. Some people may feel that this is trying to square the circle!

However, the ICES restructuring process has not yet affected the Advisory Committees. There is now a general appreciation among those closely involved with the ICES advisory system that having two separate Advisory Committees (ACFM and ACME) overseeing the production of integrated fisheries and environmental advice is far from ideal, and that fundamental reforms need to be made to the present structure and its manner of operation. In January 1999, ICES organized the Eleventh ICES Dialogue Meeting (Nantes, France) on the “Relationship Between Scientific Advice and Fisheries Management”, involving high-level representatives of the 19 Member Countries, the Partner Commissions, and other important agencies. The forum considered inter alia how the various stakeholders would like to see the ICES advisory system respond to current and future challenges. After several years of holding meetings and reporting to the Council, the Coordinating Group on ICES Advice has proposed recently that some fundamental changes need to be made to reform the advisory system within a realistically short time frame. These include the establishment of a single Advisory Committee. ICES now faces the challenge of responding to the current situation in a manner that convinces our stakeholders that attention is being paid to their concerns and that changes will be implemented in a determined and timely manner. I very much hope that as I step down as General Secretary at the end of this calendar year that I shall be able to sense with some satisfaction that ICES means business in this area.



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## Poetic advice levelled at the ACFM Chair

**Dr Rob Stephenson**

**Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans St Andrews, NB, Canada**

This piece of high-level poetry was produced by Rob Stephenson to celebrate the out-going ACFM Chair Jean-Jacques Maguire, who made the following comments to provide background: “Not being a native English speaker nor writer, I felt it necessary to get training in writing in English when I started to get heavily involved in writing and editing fishery advisory documents many years ago. I therefore obtained a copy of the book entitled “Writing for Fishery Journals” by J. Hunter and published by the American Fisheries Society (<http://www.fisheries.org>) and dutifully read it. The book contains a long paragraph on the uselessness of the word ‘level’, described as a ‘hanger-on’ that consumes space and could be omitted in 95% of the cases. I have been actively hunting ‘levels’ since then, with variable success I must admit. I have also hunted ‘niveau’ as the problem is as severe in French, as a result of contamination from ‘anglophones’. At one point I considered also hunting for the word ‘abundance’ as in ‘low abundance’. Speaking of low abundance in French is nonsensical. By definition, in French, the word means a lot of something, but English is more flexible, so I gave up hunting for ‘low abundance’. Should we successfully reduce the level of the ‘level’, I will consider hunting for ‘respectively’ as in ‘the average for the last 5 and 10 years have been so and so respectively’. Each time you have to stop reading and backtrack to find out what ‘respectively’ refers to.”

*And now for Rob’s bit:*

For J-J... who with a level head, tried his level best to lower the levels used in ICES advice to levels lower than the level of previous years.

## The Value of the Level

The Chair(man) of ACFM was quite a level guy  
But whenever he saw levels in the drafts would start to sigh  
And his level of frustration would rise up and he would cry  
“remove those levels from the text...just leave them out...bye,  
bye”

For level is a useless word, in English used a lot  
But if you leave the levels out you’ll see you need them not.  
So he hunted out each level and he gave each one the chop,  
So the level of the levels in advice began to drop.

But level has great value...that ACFM needs  
And the value of the level all depends on how it reads  
So the level of the level in advice should all depend  
On the level of the stocks and on the message we intend

Such as:

*“The level of the stock is at the lowest ever seen  
And if the level of the value doesn’t move above the mean  
Then the level of the stock will go to where it’s never been  
And the level of recruitment will be really, really lean*

*So the level of the fishery must be low enough to mean  
That a level of reduction of mortality is seen  
That will boost the level of the stock to up above the mean  
To a level where most things were good...or where before we’ve  
been”*

Now the level of the value of advice like that is clear  
To not have levels...that’s like the Fat Lady without beer!  
The level has such value that a habit it has been  
Perhaps more than that – the level of the levels in the gene!



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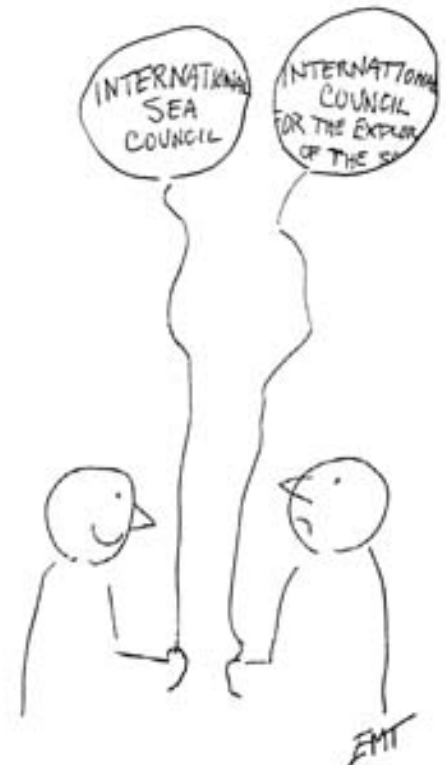
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## ICES: the invisible organization

### Ed Thomasson Former ICES Information Officer and Librarian

*Ed Thomasson was the recipient of the second ICES History Award and Conceiver and Editor of the 1981 edition of the book "Study of the Sea". He also received The Danish International Study Program's Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution to international education in biological and ecological studies. He retired from ICES in 1996.*



Let me come right to the point. Surely we are not taking our horse and buggy name, The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, into what Dr Michael Sissenwine recently called our "second hundred years". I find this almost unbelievable! After all the time and work the Council has spent "reinventing" itself into a streamlined and exciting scientific organization, what do we do? We continue to answer to a name that conjures up Edwardian men in bowler hats standing on the deck of a turn-of-the-century research ship (see the famous ICES 1904 "Poseidon" photo below).



A cold meeting in 1904 aboard the German vessel "Poseidon"

How many times did I hear during my 23 years as ICES Information Officer/Librarian that ICES was "the best kept secret in Copenhagen"? For years this remark was common knowledge among many members of the Secretariat and even occasionally mentioned at ICES Annual Meetings. Right here in Denmark the general public to this day, barely, if at all, knows of ICES' existence. People always look surprised when I tell them ICES has been here for almost a hundred years. The situation is no better in the rest of the world. Probably worse!

Why is this? The reason is simple. To illustrate my point: some years ago when Dr Emory D. Anderson was the ICES General Secretary he appeared on Danish TV explaining some facet of ICES' activity. He did his usual capable job. However, when friends told me they saw Emory on television, none of them could remember what organization he represented. Emory was visible, but for all practical purposes the ICES organization was not. Why? Because no one could remember its formal name, nor could they remember its acronym.

For some members of the ICES community this may be hard to fathom. To them and maybe to some outsiders having sustained contact with ICES, the Council's name is as familiar as their own. However, in all likelihood ICES means absolutely nothing to anyone who is not in one way or another involved with its activities. Unlike UNICEF, we don't sell cute Christmas cards, nor does our name indicate the line of work we are in as in the case of the salmon, tuna, and whaling organizations. As Frank Powley, a

Canadian journalist and former Associated Press editor, who has covered Scandinavia for many years, said, "It's too bad ICES has no public profile because it really does very important work."

The irony of this situation is that we have a wonderful logo. Thanks to ICES Senior Editor Judith Rosenmeier, who designed it, we have a logo that is a pleasure to see. But a striking logo is not enough! Anyone who has had to work with our name or explain it to the public knows that it is a name only its mother could love. As I wrote in a past ICES newsletter, our name is not "user friendly". It's too long, clumsy, and ambiguous. It is not meant for the new millennium. No General Secretary I worked under knows this better than Professor Chris Hopkins. For he has tried to push ICES' name out into the greater world more than anyone I know, and as he recently said to me (hopefully not in confidence) "it's an uphill effort all the way", or something to that effect.

Any public relations firm will tell you that talented people like to be associated with organizations which have memorable names, commonly called "brand names". That is why corporations value their brand names almost as much as their products. I am told that governments are not immune to this tendency. They are more inclined to dole out money to well-known entities than to unknown ones. In other words an organization's name can have the power to open doors, which might otherwise be closed or difficult to open.

Please don't misunderstand me. I know as well as anyone that we are never going to get name recognition like EXXON, Greenpeace, or United Colors of Benetton. We don't have the marketing power, and frankly we don't have the need. What we do need is a name that is short and memorable and a name that causes the least amount of upheaval in an organization where I understand there is a tendency to sweep this kind of issue under the rug.

Let's start by saying that a century ago our name was not written in marble. Some early documents called ICES, the International Council for the Study of the Sea. The word "Exploration" in our name probably—and this is only a guess—referred to ICES' scientific search for new fishing grounds. Jens Smed, former ICES Hydrographer, who frequently writes on topics concerning ICES' early history, may have a different answer. One thing I do know is that, today, outsiders frequently confuse us with some kind of international organization involved in oil exploration since the word "exploration" in connection with the word "sea" is closely associated with the world of oil.

Well, what can ICES do to correct this situation? I suggest it follows the Twentieth Century Fund, an American foundation,

which decided it had to act on seeing the new century on the horizon and changed its name to “The Century Foundation”. It changed its name, but only slightly. It is still recognizable. In our case, a very conservative approach to the problem, and one that would probably cause the least headache and loss of time, would be to get rid of every word in our name that is not absolutely necessary.

And what do we have – The International Sea Council or ISC. Its obvious advantage is that it is a name considerably shorter, and therefore, and this is the important thing, more easily said and more easily remembered. Our name would still be ambiguous but, on the other the hand, no name could specify accurately the broadness of our multidisciplinary mission. Another plus is that it is quite obvious to our clients that whilst we are the same organization we would appear to be, shall we say, more contemporary. However, if the ICES Bureau feels this suggestion is wanting, then they could form a Working Group to come up with a better alternative. [Editor's note: How about ICS, International Council of the Sea, because it follows our present name even more closely than ISC?]

Remember the old European Coal and Steel Community? Well, after several name changes we know it today as the European Union or EU. It didn't stand still. It changed with the times. And so must we. Nostalgia has its place, but history moves on. Preparations for the celebration of a centenary gives ICES an opportunity for reflection. In my opinion, the year 2002 would be a good time to make the official changeover. I am sure the men in the photograph wearing bowler hats and standing on the deck of the “Poseidon” during the 1904 ICES Annual Meeting would understand.



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## Around the Member Countries

### Spain, Portugal, and France

During 25–27 November 1998, sixty Spanish, French and Portuguese marine scientists met in Santander, Spain, to establish the bases of an integrated science plan for the Bay of Biscay ecosystems. They outlined a research project named Bay of Biscay Regional Experiment (BB-REXP) to be developed from 1999.

### Norway

From 1990 to 1994, the Institute of Marine Research released 125 000 tagged lobsters near the island of Kvitsøy, outside Stavanger, as part of a sea ranching programme. In the autumn of 1998, 60 % of the lobster catch near Kvitsøy consisted of tagged specimens. These statistics, which are unique in a European perspective, prove that it is possible to strengthen the local stocks through controlled releases.

### Iceland

In 1998 the Marine Research Institute, Reykjavík, in cooperation with several other institutions and universities in Iceland, started a Fisheries Training Programme in association with the United Nations University. The course is hosted by the Institute and is part of Iceland's development aid programme. It comprises sessions over six months in each year, with a strong applied slant and tailored to meet the individual needs of up to 15–20 students at a time. The participants are experienced professionals from the developing countries with at least a first degree and one year's work experience.

### United Kingdom

Dr Peter Stewart retired this year, at the age of 57, from his post as leader of the Fish Capture Team at the Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen. Peter joined the Laboratory in 1970 and worked until

1978 on the theory and practice of electro-fishing. He became head of the Sonar Section for a period of three years when target-strength studies were evolving, and then moved to lead the Gear Section, working extensively on fishing gear technology and selectivity. During this period the Marine Laboratory played a leading role in developing more selective fishing gears. In 1988 he became leader of the Fish Capture Team and was then much involved in scientific advisory work for the UK Government and the EU.

Throughout, he has played a very active role in ICES, and chaired or participated in various groups within the old Gear and Behaviour Committee and the Fish Capture Committee. He was Chair of the latter Committee during the transition to the new structure, when it became the Fisheries Technology Committee. In addition he was one of the UK Delegates from 1996 to 1999. His colleagues at the Marine Laboratory and in ICES wish him a happy retirement. Peter intends to maintain his interest in fisheries and ICES and have an active retirement. He will be replaced by Dr Bill Turrell, Scotland, as the UK Delegate.

### **Latvia**

Are herring spawning grounds in the Eastern Baltic in danger from oil pollution? Trying to find an answer, the scientists of the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute in May–June 1999 (as well as in 1998) carried out an intensive underwater video, photo, and sampling survey on main herring spawning grounds near the Latvian open sea coast.

### **USA**

The Individual Achievement Award of the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists for 1998 was awarded to Professor John Blaxter, latterly – amongst other things – Editor of the ICES Journal of Marine Science. A handsome carved wooden salmon with the dedication on a brass plate attached to its ventral surface, and the monetary award that went with it, were presented to Professor Blaxter by Professor Clark Hubbs of Austin, Texas, at, very appropriately, the Environment, Development and Growth of Fish International Symposium held in St Andrews, Scotland, 5–8 July.

### **Spain**

#### *Sardine research in Iberian waters*

Sardine in Atlantic Iberian waters have supported one of the oldest fisheries of both Portugal and Spain. The earliest documents of

Spanish skippers date from the 13th century, and a general description of the sardine species and the associated fishery activity was written during the 17th century. Nowadays the sardine fishery is still artisanal and has important social and economic overtones. Because of its importance both Spain and Portugal have a specific research project to study the biology and dynamics of this population as well as the relevant fisheries.

Being pelagic, sardine occur in shoals and can therefore be studied by means of hydro-acoustic methods, in particular echo-integration, which has made great advances in both precision and accuracy.

A general strategy for acoustic surveys involves covering the distribution area during those periods when fish are on the spawning or feeding grounds. Spain and Portugal began to conduct these surveys in 1983. From 1983 to 1985 surveys were carried out in summer (i.e., the feeding period). Since 1986 Spain has focused its surveys on the spring-spawning period of sardine, whilst Portugal has conducted surveys in the autumn when another peak spawning occurs and recruitment takes place.

In 1987 an ichthyoplankton survey was carried out to define the boundaries of sardine egg distribution as well as acoustic work. Simultaneously, several studies under lab conditions (egg development at different temperatures, ovary studies, etc.) were undertaken. The main aim was to assess the feasibility of estimating the spawning stock biomass through use of the daily egg production method (DEPM). The trials were successful, so in 1988 Spain and Portugal carried out a synoptic survey combining both methods, echo-integration and DEPM.

Because of the decreasing trend in sardine landings in Spain, which was, incidentally, paralleled in the acoustic time series, DEPM was used again in 1990, but only in the Spanish area. In 1997 and 1999, Spain and Portugal coordinated their field studies on sardine, and DEPM was used throughout the area.

During the 1990s acoustic equipment as well as survey strategy and data analysis have changed. Since 1991 the main acoustic equipment has been a 38 kHz Simrad EK-500 with a split-beam transducer. In addition, using geostatistics techniques, the survey design was optimized in order to reduce sampling variance. Under the EU-FAIR project CLUSTER, the aggregation patterns of pelagic fish are being studied as well as the allocation of fish schools to different fish species.

The acoustic time series also shows a geographical age distribution pattern for sardine in Spanish waters. Younger fish are mainly

located close to the Spanish–Portuguese border. From this area there is an age gradient towards the inner part of the Bay of Biscay where most of the older fish are found.

Nevertheless, according to the trends shown in both landings and survey index, in recent years both the age and aggregation pattern have changed. This fact is particularly important since the allocation method used needs to be combined with the mix of fish found at each of the fishing stations.

The spawning area for sardine in 1997 and 1999 has been reduced almost exclusively to coastal regions, where major concentrations of eggs were found, and especially to the eastern area, where the highest egg concentrations were found. This reproductive behaviour contrasts with that observed in previous years (1988 and 1990), when the spawning area was considerably more extensive and reached oceanic waters.

#### *Recent and future research work*

With the aim of increasing the knowledge and the assessment of this fish species a project funded by EU-FAIR called JUVESU is being carried out. The project is led by AZTI (Spain) in partnership with IPIMAR (Portugal), IEO (Spain), INTA (Spain), and IFREMER (France). The main objective of this project is to study the juveniles of the main pelagic fish as in the Bay of Biscay and in the Atlantic waters of the Iberian Peninsula and their relationship with environmental conditions. Juveniles of pelagic fish species such as sardine or anchovy are mainly distributed in the upper layers of the water column. When shoals are close to the sea surface echosounders may underestimate the biomass because of nearfield and avoidance problems. Thus, an alternative to the shipborne equipment has been found in airborne devices (i.e., LIDAR).

To test whether this kind of device is useful for assessing the juvenile fraction of the main pelagic fish species experimental surveys have been planned. Survey time has been decided according to the prior knowledge of juvenile distribution inside the area. In order to check the influence of “avoidance” in the acoustic estimates, sonar will also be used. “Real-time” synthesis of data from echosounders, sonar, CTD casts, and thermo-salinometer or fluorimeter continuous records and airborne devices such as LIDAR or DAEDALUS, or even satellite images, will help in assessing the juvenile fraction of sardine and in characterizing the environment.

The springtime series of acoustic surveys continues. Since 1997

acoustic activities have been coordinated with Portugal and France. After two planning meetings it was decided to present a Study Project under the auspices of the Common Fisheries Policy. In this study, whose main objective is the acoustic assessment of sardine and anchovy, several additional biological and oceanographic variables as well as new statistical tools will be used to improve the abundance estimate of these fish species. The real challenge for this project is the combination of the acoustic records and the collation in a continuous way of ichthyoplankton samples. For this purpose a CUFES (Continuous Underwater Fish Egg Sampler) will be used. Moreover, CUFES will also be tested to ascertain its feasibility as an alternative to the Calvet/Pairovet tows when DEPM is used.

If it is feasible then echo-integration and DEPM will be used jointly but simultaneously on the same ship, thus saving ship's time. In addition either egg distribution or adult distribution can be used as an auxiliary variable to model the spatial distribution of adult fish and eggs.



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Meetings and conferences coming up that may be of interest

Coastal and Marine Environmental Assessment: Putting Theory into Practice –

London, 9 November 1999

Contact [bob.earll@dial.pipex.com](mailto:bob.earll@dial.pipex.com)

Coastal Management for Sustainability – London, 8-10 February 2000

Contact [bob.earll@dial.pipex.com](mailto:bob.earll@dial.pipex.com)

Littoral 2000 – Dubrovnik, Croatia, 13-17 September 2000

Contact [littoral@zg.biol.pmf.hr](mailto:littoral@zg.biol.pmf.hr)



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## ICES update

### A change at the top

In the spring an advertisement was circulated relating to the post of General Secretary. The process of choosing the next incumbent is continuing at the time of publication [Editor's note: 30 September: David Griffith has been chosen as the next General Secretary, effective 1 January 2000. See the profile of David under Welcome (Keynote Speaker).] Elsewhere in this newsletter Chris Hopkins writes about his experiences over the last six years.

### Who's who at HQ (2): Inger Lützhøft

Money money, money! Do you like the sound of it? And how about the intoxicating smell? Even if I do not see many of the notes and coins these days because of the electronic media having taken over, I'm the "money-lady" at HQ, and I love it!



Photo: I. Bache

When I first came to ICES in 1978—we were still at the Castle in Charlottenlund then—I was placed in Mr Tambs-Lyche’s famous threadbare, below eye-level, greyish guest-chair and read out my duties. For the next few years I was part of the team dealing with secretarial matters: mail, papers, letters, and typing reports on old-fashioned typewriters. A duty I have maintained from these early years is handling dusty, as well as fresh papers/documents, in the Documents Room at ICES Annual Science Conferences in Denmark and, more often, abroad. This part of the job I have always enjoyed because it includes the pleasurable tasks of socializing during cocktail parties and representing ICES outside Headquarters. You meet interesting people in the Documents Room, at receptions, and in meetings, even if my field of conversation is mostly on the non-scientific side!

Working with ICES finances (well-deserved salaries, bills, payments to ICES officers, chairs, and honoraria to editors (VIPs like John Ramster, etc.)) gives me a good chance to keep an eye on activities going on all over the “ICES Ship”. I have been kept on course by the many Captains I have served under (Hans Tambs-Lyche, Basil Parrish, Emory D. Anderson, Chris Hopkins). Having participated in the preparation of the various budgets and final accounts, it is very satisfying to see the result of all your efforts crystallized in the final presentation at Bureau Meetings and Finance Committee Meetings.

Dealing with money gives you this feeling of “pulse”, dealing with people gives you good feedback on how they feel and think, and both elements make you alert; you cannot postpone either of them too long without consequences!

I’m often asked “How do you keep so fit?” Well, one answer to this question is that I tend to walk quickly down the corridors and I prefer to run down the stairs to see a colleague instead of using the phone (I talk fast, too). I’ll not miss the chance either when asked to participate in the “dancing entertainment” which has become popular at ICES parties (Christmas Party, Birthdays, Farewell Parties, etc.). I want to save some energy for my life outside the ICES family, though, – my husband (Anders) and two kids (Marie and Gustav) deserve that – and I cannot keep my tennis partners waiting, can I?

Another role I play in the ICES HQ community relates to the well-being of my colleagues. Because I work in an international environment in my own country I can help them with queries about local authorities, welfare, social security, insurance, money-matters, family-related questions, etc., etc.

Some people think working in the same place for 21 years is too long: I don't – I am like a fish in the sea, the environment here suits me perfectly. Nothing is the same – or so we're led to believe – the working environment changes, people come and go, working procedures change, but the ICES spirit stays intact. One thing that hasn't changed too is the Queen's Guard: every day at ten-to-twelve they march down Bredgade playing music and warning us that it's time for lunch!

## Obituary

### **Eva Christiansen**

Eva Christiansen died on 7 June 1999 at the age of 94. "Auntie", as she was called by ICES staff members, worked in the Statistics Department for many years, dealing with catch data. This was a far from easy task since the data came in long after the stipulated deadline, thus preventing the ICES Bulletin Statistique from going to print. This problem is not unknown to the present staff in the Living Resources section, successor to the Statistics Department!



Eva Christiansen with ICES President R. Letacconnou in 1973 on the occasion of her retirement

"Auntie" was loved by all, and she was always ready to lend a helping hand where and when needed. We all missed her when she left after 45 years of devoted service. After her retirement she moved to Thisted in the northwestern part of Jutland, where she had family. We rarely saw her after this, but in our memory she remains one of the best colleagues and friends from the past.

*Merete Hänschell*



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## Editorial scuttlebutt, autumn 99

### FRS – and a new role for John Shepherd

Colleagues all over the world will have welcomed the news that in May John Shepherd was elected to a Fellowship of the UK's Royal Society. Ray Beverton, David Cushing, and John Gulland have been the more relatively recent Fellows from the ICES world and from this it can be seen that the honour goes to people who have led the field in their areas of science over the years. A little earlier it had been formally announced that John would be moving over from being the first Director of the Southampton Oceanographic Centre to holding a research Professorship there and that his studies will now centre on a new Initiative for Earth System Modelling. The programme will develop new models, which will lead to a greater understanding of natural climate change and the processes behind global warming.

Commenting upon this news, the University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Howard Newby, said, "This is an exciting new initiative for the University, especially with the approach of the next millennium. Existing climate change models make predictions on the basis of data only from the recent past, which has been unusually stable. We need models which allow for the natural variability of the climate system. The programme will seek to explain global change due to natural causes as well as man's activities, and it will therefore assist governments and policy-makers to decide what needs to be done."

The new initiative will develop advanced modelling techniques based on information gathered from all over the world, and from the geological record. It will be the focal point of a national and international effort, involving scientists in many institutions and in other countries. The new models will include the interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans, the ice caps, and the biosphere, and aim to develop an integrated understanding of how the global environment works.

### What do you do when you have finished your MBA...?

My favourite Fleet Superintendent, Captain Brian Kay of Lowestoft, this year's Chair of the European Research Vessel Owners Annual Meeting, has just finished a five-year MBA course at the UK's Open University. These courses are designed to be undertaken at home during time not spent at work, with summer get-togethers as a help to ward off the feeling that it is each student against the system and subject. It really is a hard row to hoe, and once you have completed it, how do you get out of the habit of going up to that workroom for an hour or so each night, etc.? He has sent me a whole page of 34 ways in which you know when you have finished the course, and the following are my favourites:

- You start to feel sorry for Dilbert's boss
- You can spell "Paradigm"
- None of your favourite publications have cartoons
- You use the term "value-added" without falling down laughing
- You insist that you do some more market research before you and your spouse produce another child
- Your "deliverables" for Sunday evening are clean laundry and paid bills

More available on request...

### **Conference Delegate in a new field**

In the 1960s, when venturing to London for meetings, I was very taken by an Underground advertisement by the School of Economics and Practical Philosophy for a course of 12 lessons that could change your life. Over the next 34 years I mused over it time and again as I waited for trains, and when the same advert appeared in a local paper a year ago I signed up.

I have now been to some 40+ classes, been initiated into the practice of Meditation with due pomp and ceremony, and in June I went to a conference organized by the School. It marked the death five hundred years ago of the scholar, Marsilio Ficino, who re-introduced the ideas of Plato to Western Europe during the Renaissance.

Much was all very strange of course because the basic language was new – people talked about the importance of studying the philology, structure, and something else of particular sentences; others argued for twenty minutes as to whether the term "Ficino's School" meant a group of workers or his collection of manuscripts. Then again it was very familiar: the speakers were the usual normal population as far as delivery was concerned, not all the chairs held speakers to time, etc. Moreover, when a chair announced that to

ease the crush the first 250 people should move upstairs to collect packed lunches, my conference experience told me to be in the first 25. It was dead right too: the last lunches were being doled out as the afternoon proceedings started!

### **Struggling with a text**

*ICES Journal of Marine Science* authors should know that I am going through the agonies of rewriting a text after a severe mauling from referees that included the cutting phrase “A personal indulgence of only a little more interest than...”. I thought I had a chapter on “Fisheries Research” for a “History of Sea Fisheries in England and Wales, 1300-1980” in my head last year, but the text did not meet the need at all, apparently. For a month now I have been struggling with the need to do background reading for the next version that needs to be written during August. It is quite enjoyable in the event, but getting back to the discipline of producing an essay to time has been quite a bridge to cross. Van Holliday from Marconi Aerospace (formerly Tracor) supplied me unwittingly with a nice, but negative idea to get in somewhere, viz. “Of all the human endeavours, no activity has been so consistently fruitless as fisheries management” (H. V. Thurman, *Essentials of Oceanography*, 1990).

### **Seen on the bookstands in the UK, Italy, Holland, Germany, and coming to Canada and Australia this autumn**

*Ladies' Man* by John Ramster. But not this John Ramster – the next generation has burst into print as “an outstanding new voice in contemporary popular fiction”. One of the papers described the novel simply as “pleasingly rude”. As a doting father I found it sharply observed, poignant, very funny at times, and able to make you want to read on to find out what happened. I didn't like the explicitness, but that's me. I am currently negotiating with the author serial rights for this newsletter.



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## International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

Issue No. 33

**June 1999**

This is the first ICES newsletter issued solely on the Web. We will learn as we go along how people prefer it to be served up but begin conservatively with the aim of replacing all the contents at regular intervals and thus keeping discrete numbers in being. We have no idea how many members of the community we can reach in this way but hope that for those areas still poorly served by WWW links the institute librarians will run off a few hard copies that can be passed around. After three or four numbers we will take stock by finding out, as best as we can, just what circulation is being achieved and how you think future issues should develop.

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Read about the 1999 ASC as well as recent activities in Issue No. 34 of this newsletter.

Issue No. 33 contains news for the period September 1998 - June 1999.



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**CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL POUR L'EXPLORATION DE LA MER**

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