

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA.

North-Western Area Sub-Committee

Chairman: Dr. Å. Vedel Tåning

The Committee met on Wednesday 1st October 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

I. Proceedings.

1. The Chairman welcomed the members and guests and stressed the importance of Germany participating in the work. The Chairman considered briefly the important work carried out in the area by the several research vessels during the year and drew attention to the new annex laboratories which now are or will be in action in Faroe and West Greenland.

The new list of members was approved and the administrative report and the report of the Committee to the "Annales Biologiques" were adopted by the Committee.

2. Communications. The following papers were read and discussed:-

Árni Fridriksson: The pelagic catches of saithe in 1952 (Iceland).

Paul M. Hansen: Cod investigations in West Greenland waters in 1952.

F. Hermann: Hydrographic conditions on West Greenland fishing banks in 1952.

Jón Jónsson: Review of the Icelandic stock of cod with special regard to 1952.

Birger Rasmussen: Hydrography and the cod fishery in West Greenland waters.

The new observations from 1952 will in due course be published in the "Annales Biologiques".

3. The Chairman pointed out that collections of material for supplementing the bibliography on "Climatic Changes" will continue as in previous years.

4. Dr. Å. Vedel Tåning was re-elected Chairman.

II. Programme of Work.

The general programme agreed upon in 1949 was considered, but no alterations or amendments were proposed.

Details of the programme to be carried out in 1953 will be arranged by correspondence, but meanwhile the position is as follows:-

Belgium: no work at sea in 1953 in the area.

Denmark: ordinary routine work in Faroese and Greenland waters, by, inter alia, "Dana" and "Adolf Jensen" and collection of material from commercial catches. Routine hydro-biological sections in the North Atlantic as previously.

England: possibly two cruises, about August, by R/S "Ernest Holt" to South Greenland waters, programmes to be arranged by correspondence.

France: inspection vessel "Aventure" will carry out work in Greenland and Labrador waters, possibly also off Rockall.

Holland: no work at sea in 1953 in the area.

Iceland: ordinary routine work at Iceland as in previous years, especially on cod and herring; the cruises by R/S "Maria Julia" are, however, not yet fixed. Material from commercial catches from trawlers operating in Greenland waters will be secured.

Iceland: no work at sea in 1953 in the area.

Norway: material from catches of liners and trawlers operating in Greenland waters will be secured; hydrographical observations will be carried out and also tagging of cod.

Scotland: research vessels will operate in Faroe, Iceland, and East Greenland waters as in the previous year; the specified programme will be agreed upon later.

Sweden: the research vessel "Skagerak" will operate in Shetland waters and west of Scotland as in previous years.

III. Recommendations.

1. It was agreed to support the recommendation of the North-Eastern Area suggesting that a cod meeting be held at the next annual meeting.

2. It is recommended that the important material of hydrographical observations from the Norwegian Sea collected by the co-operative work carried out during recent years should be worked out and published in the Council's publications at the earliest possible moment.

The Sub-Committee on the Faroe Question.

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The Chairman, Dr. Å. Vedel Tåning, reported on the work in progress, especially that which is carried out by Mr. J. S. Joensen at the annex laboratory in Thorshavn. Also the statistical data available from post-war years were discussed.

As the work on the question is likely to continue for several years in accordance with the programme agreed upon in 1948 (see Rapp. et Proc.-Verb. Vol. No. 124, p. 37, Rec. 1), results on which a proposal can be based will first be obtained later on. It was agreed that the question should be considered again next year.

The members promised to procure some material of interest to the Sub-Committee, especially statistical data from English and Scottish trawlers.

The revised list of members was accepted.