

ICG-CH-IST-Consultative Committee-C

Minutes of the Consultative Committee
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Second Session, Monday 31st October at 9.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. R.S. Wimpenny



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Present: Dr. Tåning, Dr. Hult, Dr. Jensen, Dr. Furnestin, Dr. Lucas,
Mr. Rollefson, Dr. Hodgson, Dr. Cuesta, Dr. Ramalho, Dr. Havinga,
Dr. Went, Dr. Böhnecke, Prof. Braarud, Dr. Lundbeck, Mr. Lumby,
Mr. Dobson, Prof. Sverdrup and the General Secretary.

I. Opening Remarks.

The Chairman opened the meeting with hearty words of welcome and congratulations to Prof. Sverdrup, newly elected President of the I.C.E.S. In this connexion he also welcomed the new Chairman of the Hydrographical Committee, Dr. Böhnecke, who was now taking office before the first of November, having succeeded Prof. Sverdrup in the Chairmanship. Dr. Ramalho was also welcomed in his capacity of new Chairman of the Scobriform Fish Committee, the former Chairman, Prof. Frade, being absent.

The Chairman regretted that the Committee was now seeing the end of office of Dr. Hodgson and Prof. Braarud, the last-named having relinquished his Chairmanship in the Plankton Committee. He wished Dr. Hodgson every happiness in his retirement and hoped that he would continue to show interest in the Council's research work.

II. Reports of Committees.

The reports were laid round the table and the Chairman asked for comments and approval, exclusive of the recommendations involving expenditure, which would be dealt with separately.

Distant Northern Seas:- Dr. Tåning gave a short survey of the work carried out in the Sub-Committee on the Faroe Question. It had now been decided to dissolve this sub-committee, which was first established in 1938. Dr. Tåning showed a map of the Faroes indicating (a) the spawning grounds which had been investigated with regard to closure and (b) the new fishery limits agreed upon between Denmark and the United Kingdom. Recent statistics showed that there was less cause for anxiety about the stocks of haddock and cod than had been felt earlier and it was not possible to report any significant relationship between the numbers of recruits to the commercial stocks and the size of the spawning stocks. Furthermore Dr. Tåning informed the members that it had been decided that he should draft a short report on the Sub-Committee's work to be submitted to the Chairman of the Consultative Committee for later insertion in one of the Council's publications.

Near Northern Seas:- agreed.

Baltic-Belt Seas:- agreed.

Atlantic:- Dr. Furnestin reported that the complete separation of the Atlantic, the Sardine, and the Scobriform committees had been impeding the work of the Atlantic Committee. It had now been decided that questions concerning the morphology and biology, sensu strictu, of the clupeids and the scombriforms should be referred to their relevant committees, but questions of a more general nature should be treated in the Atlantic Committee. In addition, Dr. Furnestin raised a question of general interest to the Consultative Committee; he wondered if the hake, a fish of vital interest to the southern countries, should be dealt with in the Gadoid Committee where it as species rightly belonged, or in the Atlantic Committee. After some discussion in which most of the members took part the Chairman advised the Committee not to take any decision about this question at this stage but let the two chairmen concerned agree on some mutual arrangement.

Comparative Fishing:- Dr. Lucas mentioned that two papers submitted to his "gear" committee should possibly go to the Statistical Committee. Moreover he drew attention to the fact that the two recommendations of his Committee was really an answer to questions put to the Comparative Fishing Committee by the Permanent Commission.

Gadoid Fish:- Mr. Rollefson reported that the whiting was at present being treated in the Near Northern Seas Committee but it ought to be transferred to the Gadoid Fish Committee. The Chairman replied that this case was a particular one, the whiting being part of the now well-known question of "industrial" fishery in the North Sea, but otherwise it should be dealt with by the Gadoid Committee.

Herring Committee:- agreed.

Sardine Committee:- agreed.

Scombriform Fish Committee:- agreed.

Shellfish Committee:- agreed.

Salmon and Trout Committee:- agreed.

Hydrographical Committee:- Dr. Böhnecke wanted to express his gratitude to the many who were co-operating in the work in preparations for the International Geophysical Year.

The General Secretary drew attention to a paragraph in the hydrographical report in which the Committee expressed its great satisfaction with the amount and quality of the work carried out in the Service Hydrographique in the past year; he wanted to know if this should be interpreted as satisfaction with the Bulletin Hydrographique being 4 years behind the current year. Dr. Böhnecke replied that because of lack of man-power in the various institutes co-operating it was not possible to get the data necessary in time. Dr. Tåning suggested the publication of the Bulletin might be advanced by leaving out the data not received in time, but Dr. Böhnecke thought it a break with tradition to spread information pertaining to a certain year over different years; next year he would examine the whole matter and see what could be done about it.

Plankton Committee: Prof. Braarud informed the members that it had been decided to abolish the Sub-Committee for the Standardization of Zooplankton Methods.

Statistical Committee:- agreed.

III. Administrative Reports.

The Chairman resumed the discussion, deferred from the first session, and asked for comments from the members. Dr. Went referred to the report from his committee where the question had been thoroughly dealt with. He thought the Administrative Report a valuable document if it could only be made somewhat shorter and, to avoid overlapping, that cross references be put in wherever needed. In his opinion it should contain a synopsis of progress and actual results. Most of the members shared in this view and on the proposal of Dr. Went the following recommendation was carried:-

"The Committee recommends that Administrative Reports be continued as before and that they should be brief, concise and give, when necessary, cross references. It also recommends that the General Secretary should be authorized to edit the material sent to the Council through the Chairmen of Committees."

IV. Synoptic Charts.

The question of the continuance of the Synoptic Charts had been discussed in all committees and the general opinion was that the Council should continue to issue the charts, but free of charge to member countries. According to a wish

put forward in some committees it was promised to examine the possibility of extending the area covered by the charts to northern and southern latitudes. The following recommendation, proposed by Dr. Lucas and seconded by Prof. Braarud, was carried:-

"The provision of Synoptic Charts to members be continued free of charge and the possibility of extending the area covered by the charts be considered by the Hydrographical Committee."

V. Recommendations involving Expenditure.

1. Dr. Hodgson commented upon the recommendation of the Herring Committee which ran as follows:-

"It was decided to hold a Special Scientific Meeting on Herring "Races" on Thursday 27th September before the next Council Meeting and allow for three working days for the proceedings."

The examination of herring races was a great task and it was necessary to hold a rather lengthy meeting. Upon a question from the Chair as to who should bear the cost of such a long meeting it was made clear that in some earlier cases the respective governments had borne the cost for its member. The meeting would be convened by Prof. Bückmann and reported by Mr. B. B. Parrish. The recommendation was passed after having been moved by the General Secretary and seconded by Dr. Hodgson.

2. The numerous recommendations from the Hydrographical Committee was then discussed and Prof. Sverdrup explained about the recording of surface data on punched cards. The amount asked for, kr. 9,000, should not deter the members from accepting this recommendation, the Council's financial situation was not strained at all thanks to the retiring President's efforts to bring in Russia and Poland as members. The amount asked for was so low thanks to a generous offer from the German Hydrographic Institute in Hamburg to do the punching. It was a long job, lasting at least two or three years, but when it was finished the current expense would only be a small sum.

The kr. 1,000 asked for in Recommendation 1, c of the Hydrographical Committee would cover the travelling expenses involved in sending the Hydrographer of the Council to Hamburg in connexion with the various new undertakings to be carried out in the Service Hydrographique.

The recommendations were passed, moved by Dr. Böhnecke and seconded by Dr. Lucas.

3. The General Secretary dealt with the recommendation from the Statistical Committee that kr. 1,500 be allocated for the purchase of 10,000 punched cards of the Paramount System. These cards would be extremely useful when compiling and **filing** the new effort-statistics from the Council's area. The Paramount System was a much cheaper one than that to be introduced in the Service Hydrographique but it would suffice in this case. The recommendation was adopted.

VI. Other Recommendations.

1. A draft in French and English of a recommendation submitted by Prof. M. Fontaine in continuance of his lecture on "The necessity for protecting the Oceans from the Dangers of radio-active Pollution" was laid on the table. After a minor alteration in the wording of the recommendation it was unanimously accepted; it ran as follows:-

"The I.C.E.S. urge that the deposition in marine waters of waste products from atomic industries should be a matter for international study. The Council strongly recommend that any commission or commissions attending to the disposal of the atomic waste products should comprise scientists engaged in the study of the physics, chemistry and biology of the sea, as well as in submarine geology."

2. Dr. Tåning reported on Dr. Kesteven's paper presented in the Distant Northern Seas Committee and proposed that the Consultative Committee recognize this paper in endorsing a recommendation to F.A.O. This was agreed. The recommendation was worded as follows:-

"At the meeting of the Distant Northern Seas Committee Dr. G.L. Kesteven presented a note on the "Fisheries Resources of the I.C.E.S. Area" by F.A.O. of the U.N. The Committee received the information on the subject with great interest and recommends that all relevant information of the kind indicated should be given whenever possible, though it was emphasized that our knowledge as to the size of the living aquatic resources even in the much explored North East Atlantic is very fragmentary and that a collaboration must unavoidably be of a long-term nature. It is considered that a survey of fisheries resources would be much helped if F.A.O. could implement the Recommendation of the Consultative Committee at the 1954 meeting on the desirability of setting up a world fishery bibliographic and abstracting service."

3. Under point 4 of the Agenda (Other Business) various suggestions for improvement of meeting techniques were put forward and in view of the great demand this year for copies of papers submitted to the various committees it was decided that there should be furnished at least 150 copies of all papers submitted next year. A whole set of papers should be available for each member attending the Council Meeting, and a particular effort should be made to see that Delegates and all Chairmen of Committees should have a complete set.

On the proposal of Dr. Tåning it was agreed that each paper should contain a synopsis of no more than 700 words to be read at the meetings. Papers distributed in advance of the Council Meeting should not be read at the meetings.

Mr. R.S. Wimpenny was re-elected Chairman.

The meeting terminated at 12.30 p.m.

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