

International Council for the  
Exploration of the Sea.

C.M. 1955

ICE - CH - 1955 - Consultative Committee - F Consultative Committee

Synoptic Charts.



At the last Bureau Meeting in May I presented a short statement putting forward some questions concerning the Synoptic Charts. It was resolved that I should write a similar statement to the Consultative Committee as a background paper for their consideration and possible resolution.

At the Council Meeting in October 1950 the following recommendation was adopted by the Sub-Committee for Organization of Combined Hydrographical-Biological Investigations:

"That monthly charts of surface temperature, surface salinity and surface phosphate distributions and also of wind be prepared and circulated with the minimum delay to fishery-biologists".

The recommendation was based on a memorandum and surface charts laid before the committee by Lt.-Commander J. R. Lumby. The recommendation was passed by the Council.

As no facilities or staff were available at the Central Office at that time, the charts were prepared in Lowestoft. At the next Council Meeting, October 1951, it was strongly recommended by the Hydrographical Committee that these charts be continued, and "if it be not possible to continue the charts in their entirety it is nevertheless hoped that an adequate wind service may remain in operation" (Rec. 4. b.). The Consultative Committee did not pass this recommendation, but "It is hoped that the charts of sea surface conditions may be continued for the time being". (Rec. 4. Co-operative Work, (b) ii.).

Finally, at the Council Meeting in 1952, it was recommended: "(i) that production and publication of the hydrographic synoptic charts, now carried out by the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft, should be undertaken by the Service Hydrographic, from 1st November 1952; (ii) that participating countries should be entitled to receive a limited number of sets gratis, a charge being made for any additional sets required by these countries and also for sets required by ~~these countries and also for sets required by~~ institutions in non-participating countries, and (iii) that the Hydrographer of the Council should pay a visit to Lowestoft to take over the production of the charts". (Consultative Committee's Rec. 4.b.).

According to this it appears that the charts were produced at Lowestoft during the period 1950-1952 and since then at the Central Office in Copenhagen.

In 1952 it was estimated that the whole cost of production would amount to Kr. 4,800.- and that Kr. 400.- would be covered by sale. The actual cost is now running to between 6,500.- and 7,000.- kr. and in 1953 the sale amounted to kr. 480.00. It appeared also that the space available for this new kind of work was unpractical and insufficient. This was what made me send a circular letter to the President and the other members of the Bureau and to all Senior Delegates on 3. March 1955. From the Senior Delegates the following answers were received:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Belgium:        | Charts normally used in the laboratories, Considered as indispensable. |
| Denmark:        | Charts used part of the year for herring investigations.               |
| United Kingdom: | Charts in use. Indispensable.  |
| Finland:        | Charts never used. Not indispensable.                                  |
| France:         | Thought the question should be put before the Consultative Committee.  |

Germany:	Charts in use.	Indispensable.
Holland:	Charts in use.	Indispensable.
Iceland:	Not concerned.	
Ireland:	The charts are used to some extent.	
Norway:	Very little used, not indispensable.	
Portugal:	Not concerned.	
Spain:	Not concerned.	
Sweden:	Very little used, not indispensable.	

About 80 sets of the 125 sets of charts produced are now distributed annually. If these sets could be sold at for inst. 50.00 kr. a set, which I think is a very reasonable price the income would be 4.000.- kr. and would cover the major part of the cost of production.

It must be mentioned that provision have been made to provide for more practical arrangement of the space available.

Charlottenlund, October 1955.