



Report
of
the Working Group on the Variability
in the Physical Marine Environment

During the 56th Statutory Meeting of the ICES three scientific papers were presented on the variability in the ocean (C.M.1968/C:14, C:26, C:28). These papers were based on projects which were advocated by the Council, and they were carried out both in national and international programs. These papers emphasized again the existence and the significance of the variations in time and space in the ocean. The detailed results of these investigations were made possible by the development of recording instruments for the different physical and chemical parameters.

A rational explanation of the phenomena leading to this variability is still lacking. There is an urgent need to investigate the underlying processes.

During the session of the Working Group the above features were discussed and the following recommendations were passed:

1. Field experiments under different natural conditions are recommended in the ICES area, to investigate the process causing the variability.
2. An intensive field experiment is planned by the Federal Republic of Germany in the southern part of the Norwegian Sea in August-September 1969. It is recommended that bordering countries support these investigations by participation.
3. The time is ripe to continue the overflow investigations on the Greenland-Scotland Ridge started by the ICES in 1960 on the Iceland-Faroe Ridge. The results of field experiments being carried out at present will give a base for the most effective planning. Such a joined investigation is recommended for 1971 or later.

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