



FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. H.A. Cole

1. The Committee met twice on September 30 and October 3. The membership and representation during the meeting were checked.
2. Administrative Report
The draft report for 1967 was approved after certain additions and amendments had been made.
3. Research Programmes for 1969
Members described their programmes of research for 1969 mentioning items of special interest. During the discussion which arose the need for the establishment of principles to guide member countries contemplating the transplantation or acclimatization of alien species of marine animals or plants was mentioned. There was general agreement on the advisability of giving attention to this subject, and it was agreed that the Committee would return to it in 1969. It was also mentioned that the Organisation International des Epizooties, Paris, was concerned with this matter.
4. Working Group on Pollution of the North Sea
The Chairman introduced the report and thanked the members for their help in assembling a large body of factual data. The Working Group had met twice, in London and IJmuiden. Dr. J.E. Portmann of the Fisheries Laboratory, Burnham-on-Crouch (U.K.) had been coopted as Secretary and had been largely responsible for the drafting of the Report. The Committee's appreciation of Dr. Portmann's efforts was recorded.
It was unanimously decided to recommend that the Report be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report Series (Recommendation A(1)), and in the event of this being agreed by the Council Dr. Cole and Dr. Portmann were asked to assume responsibility for final editing. It was further agreed that it was desirable that the Council should bring the Report to the attention of the relevant international bodies.
During the consideration of further action to be taken following the presentation of the report there was a discussion of the need for additional research and of the fields which should be given priority. Recommendations B(1) and C(1) were adopted.
The Chairman mentioned that at the first meeting of Delegates reference had been made to the need for a similar factual study of the pollution of the Baltic. This subject was further considered at the second meeting of the Committee in the light of the discussions which had taken place with the Chairman of the Hydrography Committee and members representing Baltic countries. It was decided to recommend the establishment of a Working Group consisting of one representative from the Fisheries Improvement Committee of each of the member countries adjoining the Baltic, with the addition of appropriate representatives of the Hydrography Committee. Recommendation A(2) was adopted.

In the event of the Recommendation being approved by the Council Mr. B. Dybern (Sweden) was appointed as Convenor of the Working Group. The Chairman had been informed by the Chairman of the Hydrography Committee that their representatives would be Mr. Fonselius (Sweden), Dr. Voipio (Finland), Dr. Majewski (Poland), and Dr. Weichart (Germany).

5. Communications

It had been agreed, following consultation with the Chairman of the Shellfish and Benthos Committee, that documents K:13, K:15, and K:19 should be transferred to the Fisheries Improvement Committee. They were read and discussed in addition to documents E:2, E:3, and E:4.

Arising out of the consideration of Doc. E:3 submitted by Sweden there was unanimous agreement on the need to obtain information regarding mercury contamination of the environment from other member countries.

6. Election of Chairman

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure Mr. B. Dybern (Sweden) was elected as Chairman for the ensuing 3 years. Dr. Cole was thanked for his services as Chairman during the ^{past} 2 years of the Committee's existence. _{frb}

7. Any Other Business

The attention of the Committee was drawn to Recommendation 5 of the Symposium on the Biology of Early Stages and Recruitment Mechanisms of Herring. It was agreed to give attention to the possible effects of disturbances of herring spawning sites, e.g. by gravel or sand extraction or siltation and to return to this topic during the 1969 meeting. *Emshorn*

A-Recommendations from the Fisheries Improvement Committee

- A(1) The Fisheries Improvement Committee recommends that the Report of the Working Group on North Sea Pollution be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report series.
- A(2) The Fisheries Improvement Committee, recognizing the need for basic factual information on pollution in all areas, recommends that a Working Group be established in association with the Hydrography Committee to consider the situation in the Baltic with terms of reference similar to those of the Working Group on the Pollution of the North Sea.

B-Recommendations from the Fisheries Improvement Committee

- B(1) The Fisheries Improvement Committee noting the Report of the Working Group on North Sea Pollution recommends that member countries be urged to intensify their programmes of marine pollution research with special reference to the examination of ecological effects, the measurement of toxicity of pollutants to all stages in the life cycle, including combined effects of several substances, and the assessment of the effects of sub-lethal concentrations on the physiology, behaviour, growth and breeding of marine life.
- B(2) The Fisheries Improvement Committee, in view of the scattered nature of pollution research, recommends that member countries be asked to supply the names and addresses of their principal research workers in this field, with brief notes on the nature of the work being undertaken.

C-Recommendation from the Fisheries Improvement Committee

- C(1) The Fisheries Improvement Committee recognizing the importance of an understanding of water movements and dispersion in relation to pollution studies recommends that the Hydrography Committee be invited to initiate further studies of
- (a) coastal hydrography with special reference to water movements,
 - (b) theoretical and experimental studies of diffusion processes,
 - (c) the development of mathematical models describing the relationship between environmental factors and the spread of polluting substances.

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