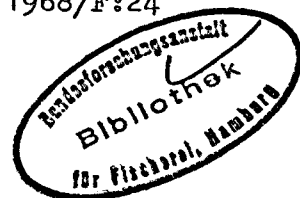


DEMERSAL FISH (NORTHERN) COMMITTEE

Chairman: Prof. G.V. Nikolsky  
Rapporteur: Mr. D.J. Garrod



1. The Committee met on 1st and 4th October. Having welcomed members, observers and guests, the Chairman reviewed the membership of the Committee and noted that Mr. E. Bratberg has replaced Mr. Steinar Olsen as a member for Norway.

The Administrative Report was accepted and it was agreed that this should retain its present form. Comment on the state of national fisheries as suggested at the 1967 meeting will not be included, since this information is available in the "Annales Biologiques".

2. The Committee discussed a number of requests from the Liaison Committee in relation to their advice to NEAFC.

- a) The Committee was asked to provide information concerning a Norwegian coastal fishery for coalfish and having considered material presented to the meeting, established a Working Group to examine the requests in the NEAFC Resolution (NC 6/98, Annex E). For the countries wishing to participate in this work the nominated scientists were:-

Mr. A. Hysten (Norway)  
Dr. H. Reinsch (Federal Republic of Germany)  
Mr. B.W. Jones (U.K.)  
Mr. R. Jones (U.K.)

Mr. Hysten (Norway) was elected <sup>convener</sup> ~~convener~~. The Committee recommends that this Coalfish Working Group should meet <sup>at national expense</sup> for 3 days immediately before the meeting of the North-East Arctic Working Group. (Recommendation—). *Eugen Weyer*

- b) The report of the North-East Arctic Working Group was approved. There remain a number of outstanding problems to be considered by the Group in order to provide the more comprehensive advice that might be requested by NEAFC in their consideration of fishery regulation in this area (NC 6/98 Annex C). The Committee therefore recommends that the North-East Arctic Working Group meet for 5 days <sup>✓</sup> January 13th-17th 1969, in order to complete their assessments of the haddock and redfish stocks of this area, and to consider any new evidence that may be presented relating to the state of cod stocks in this area.

- c) The report of the North-West Arctic Working Group was also discussed and approved. The Committee noted its importance in relation to proposals at present before NEAFC, and also that the Commission has requested ICES to initiate additional research on cod in the Iceland area as set out in NC 6/98 Annex D. (NEAFC)

The Committee recommends that this Iceland planning group should promote the programme at Annex A, by correspondence during the year, and meet at the next Council Meeting to review progress and to plan a further programme to be carried out in 1970. The Committee also recommended that ICNAF be informed of this programme which may include tagging and the analysis of data collected in Greenland waters.

The Committee recommends that the reports of the North-East and North-West Arctic Working Groups be published in the ICES Cooperative Research Report Series.

*Arctic cod  
Delhi cod  
Haddock  
Thick fish  
Redfish*

*✓ in Copenhagen.  
Dec. A (1)*

*Dec. A (2)*

S. S. S. S.  
Argentina



- d) In response to the Liaison Committee request for further information on silver smelt (NC 6/98 Annex A) this Committee noted that data were presented at the Symposium on Pelagic Fisheries in Arctic Waters, and requested members to submit any new material to the Secretary of the Liaison Committee not later than 31st December 1968 for consideration at their mid-year meeting.
- e) Mr. Garrod (England) and Mr. Jones (Scotland) were asked to represent the Committee at the meeting called by the Demersal Fish (Southern) Committee, to consider the problems of hake in Regions 2 and 3. The conclusions and recommendation of that meeting are given in the Report of the Demersal Fish (Southern) Committee.

5. The Committee reconsidered the proposal to establish a Permanent Centre for Synoptic Fisheries Oceanography but had nothing to add to its comment at the 1967 Council Meeting. It stressed again the necessity that, if implemented, the Centre should provide synoptic data on bottom temperatures as being most useful with regard to demersal fisheries.

6. The Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee considered the report of the Assessment Committee on Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and endorsed its conclusions.

Subject to necessary revision on matters of detail the Committee recommended that

Rec. A(3)

- (i) the report is transmitted to NEAFC and subsequently published in the ICES Cooperative Research series
- (ii) the scientists in the member countries should consider further the outstanding questions arising from the report with a view to consideration by the Committee at its meeting next year.

7. Following recent development of the stocks of demersal fish in the Baltic the Demersal Fish (Northern) Committee agreed upon the establishment of a Baltic Working Group for stock assessment. Mr. G. Otterlind (Sweden) was elected Convener. The Group met on 1st October, 1968, to discuss a joint programme of cod tagging which should go on during 1969 to have advantage of the intensified hydrographical investigations organised by the Baltic Oceanographers. The Convener was asked to co-ordinate this programme by correspondence during the course of the year.

The Committee recommends that the Baltic Working Group should meet during the next ICES meeting (1969) to consider the results of the 1968/69 tagging project, and the present state of the stocks of demersal fish in the Baltic, with special reference to the cod.

Agreed

8. A list of contributions presented to the Committee will appear in the printed version of the Procès-Verbal. Arising out of the discussion of two of these contributions (Gen:10 and F:14) the Committee noted the urgent need to examine the influence of fishing upon subsequent recruitment to a stock, particularly with regard to the north-east Arctic cod. The Committee recommended that

a further consideration of stock and recruitment in the Arctic cod be included in the Agenda for the meeting of the North-East Arctic Working Group (~~Recommendation~~),

and, noting the world-wide importance of this problem, that ICES should sponsor a Symposium on "The Factors Influencing Recruitment to Fish Stocks". This Symposium should be in the summer to enable research workers from other areas outside ICES to participate, and it should be convened as soon as it is convenient.

strongly endorsed  
70th meeting  
Agreed by ICES  
Autumn/July  
1970

special reference to the stock-recruitment relationship

3-6 days  
Convener  
Parsons  
Ashby

9. Professor W. Cieglewicz (Poland) was elected Chairman in succession to Professor G.V. Nikolsky. Professor Cieglewicz expressed the thanks of the Committee for the excellent work carried out by Professor Nikolsky during his Chairmanship.

Report of the Planning Group for Research at Iceland

The Group met on 3rd October to consider a resolution put to ICES by the 6th Meeting of NEAFC to initiate and co-ordinate a programme of work at Iceland.

Present were:-

Mr. Jón Jónsson, Chairman  
 Dr. Paul M. Hansen  
 Mr. Sv.Aa. Horsted  
 Dr. A. Schumacher  
 Dr. U. Schmidt  
 Mr. A. Hylén  
 Dr. A. Meyer  
 Mr. D.J. Garrod  
 Dr. H.A. Cole  
 Mr. Mar Elísson  
 Mr. R. Jones, Rapporteur

The following programme of research for 1969 was recommended:-

- 1) Trawl samples from areas around Iceland not normally fished by commercial vessels as well as samples from areas that are normally fished.
- 2) Echo survey data from as extensive an area as possible around Iceland.
- 3) Biochemical samples in conjunction with <sup>radio and</sup> otolith samples for otolith type studies.
- 4) During these cruises it was recommended that cod would be tagged whenever possible.

It was apparent from the provisional allocation of research vessel cruises in 1969 that the following cruises may be undertaken in connection with this programme.

Sampling at Iceland			Sampling at West Greenland	
England	W. Germany	Iceland	Norway	Denmark (Greenland)
March/April	March/April	January March/April	1 cruise date not fixed	Sampling throughout the year
July 7 - August 4		July/Aug. November		

During discussions the importance of the <sup>Ø</sup> Dhorn and Jst Bank areas was emphasised. It was recommended that biochemical samples would be collected from these areas and that cod would be tagged there whenever possible.

Existing Material

The discussions showed that a considerable amount of tagging material from the Iceland/Greenland area was in existence, and it was recommended that every effort would be made to work up this material as soon as possible.

Future Meeting

It was recommended that the Group would meet during the next ICES Meeting to make a progress report and to make recommendations for the research programme during 1970.