



PLANKTON COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. J.H. Fraser

1. Proceedings

The first session was held on Tuesday afternoon, October 1, and continued on Thursday afternoon, October 3. After welcoming the members and guests the Chairman commented on the agenda, and then called the attention of those present to relevant documents presented to other committees or listed under the title "General".

The only change in representation noted was that Messrs. M. Duran of Mallorca and J. Corral of Santa Cruz would replace Messrs. Massuti and Margaleff for Spain.

The Administrative Report was discussed and minor amendments made. The contribution from Canada was greatly appreciated, and Dr. Dickie informed the Committee that contributions could be expected in future years. The proposal of the Hydrography Committee to consider the inclusion of charts showing the positions of stations worded was mentioned and given general approval. If it was agreed to have such Administrative Reports produced in the future the Plankton Committee would like to add to these charts the position of plankton stations. They would not ask the Council to produce separate charts for the plankton stations.

The programmes of plankton work to be undertaken by the various countries in 1968/1969 were submitted to the Committee for information.

International Working Groups and Meetings

The Chairman referred to the request made last year by Mr. Gulland for studies on fish eggs and larvae towards the FAO.

Indicative World Plan.

Only three papers were to be presented at this year's session of the Plankton Committee, but Dr. Fraser referred to work at Aberdeen on M. poutassou, which was in progress but not yet ready for presentation. The Committee then approved the suggestion that this request from FAO should be placed on next year's agenda (Recommendation C(1)).

The final report of the ICES/SCOR/UNESCO Working Group 13 was now published as a UNESCO monograph entitled Zooplankton Sampling, and this Working Group could now be considered to have completed its work. Dr. Vagn Hansen referred to the progress made by Working Group 23 on methods for the preservation of zooplankton samples for taxonomic study and biomass determination. After some further research on the problem involved the results would be published as a manual (not as a UNESCO monograph), and this might be expected in about three years' time. The Chairman mentioned the Working Party on C14 and the work done. This organisation had just had its tenth birthday and had produced over 151,000 ampoules to date.

Paper Gen:7 by Mr. Gulland on the FAO studies on "Marine Resources Appraisal in Northeastern Atlantic" was referred to, the Chairman explaining that members had already had the opportunity to comment on the first draft, and that today the 2nd draft incorporating the amendments was presented, and that this was therefore the last opportunity to comment. No amendments were suggested.

### Other relevant meetings and documents

No report on the Aarhus Symposium was given as this was to be the subject of Dr. Dickie's address at the Open Session. The interest shown in food chains and the part they played in the effects of pollution in the sea led to the formulation of a Recommendation (Recommendation B(1)).

No one was present at the session to present a report on the plankton session of the Symposium on the Resources of the African Continental Shelf, but the Chairman tabled the document.

The Chairman then referred to papers C:4, C:5 and C:6 on the Data Centre and explained that it was not the intention of the centre to extend their work to include biological data, but that biologists could expect to get great benefit from the hydrographic data, which would be made available in this form.

Paper A:2 - Synoptic Fisheries Charts - was discussed, and the Committee elected Dr. A. Lindquist to be their representative at the Working Group meeting to be held under the convenorship of Dr. Dietrich on Friday, October 4. The Plankton Committee had no amendments to suggest to the wording used in "Gen:3" para K (p. 5) defining their responsibilities.

### Open Session

Referring to the request from the Consultative Committee for suggestions for their considerations concerning a speaker for the Open Session in 1969 the Plankton Committee agreed to re-submit a suggestion made last year, i.e. Professor Raymont (Southampton) be invited to lecture on "The significance of biochemical studies on zooplankton research". This subject might be specially relevant in view of the one-day symposium on biochemical methods. It was, however, with some diffidence that the Committee made any recommendation for this session as the past three have all been subjects of major interest to us (Madame Furnestijn, Mr. Glover and Dr. Dickie).

### Herring Recruitment Symposium

Dr. Hempel addressed the Committee on those aspects of the symposium on which advice was sought from the planktologists. This led to much lively discussion and exchange of views which then resulted in the formulation of a recommendation (Recommendation C(2)), which is given at some length to contain those points specified from the symposium and to help plankton workers to decide on which particular aspect they could work.

### Papers

Three papers of special interest to hydrographers were re-allocated to the Joint Session.

M. J. Dardignac very kindly presented paper L:18 in the absence of the authors and M. A. Vincent Papers L:19, L:2, L:3 and L:4. Dr. Lindquist presented his own paper. No representative from Poland was present at the 2nd Session to give papers L:7 - L:15 inclusive and the Chairman tabled each of these singly, commenting and giving opportunity for comments.

B-Recommendation from the Plankton Committee  
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- B(1) In view of the present and potentially serious effects of pollution in the sea the Plankton Committee recommends that when possible member countries should undertake research into the effects of pollutants of all kinds on planktonic organisms.

C-Recommendations from the Plankton Committee  
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- C(1) The Plankton Committee recommends their members to endeavour to comply with the FAO request, as stated in the Indicative World Plan, to further research on the distribution and abundance of fish eggs and larvae as a means of assessing fish stocks. This research should be on stocks at present exploited and on those possibly capable of exploitation.
- C(2) The Plankton Committee recommends that their members should, wherever possible, undertake research towards furthering the understanding of the ecology of the planktonic stages of herring.

In particular the following aspects require urgent attention:-

- (a) Assessments of the abundance and distribution of the food of larval herring, the degree of selectivity and the types acceptable to different size ranges of herring larvae. The abundance and distribution of food in volumes of water comparable to those searched by a herring larvae in 1 day are particularly required - i.e. of the order of 50 - 100 litres, and these samples would best be taken by water-bottles of 5, 8 or 10 litres capacity.
- (b) Assessments of the abundance of species predatory on herring larvae, their distribution and their effects on larval mortality.
- (c) Assessments of the numbers of early larvae (1-6 days old) very close to the bottom on the herring spawning grounds.
- (d) To collaborate in the surveys arranged by the Herring Committee from August to October by undertaking the analyses of the samples taken for herring larvae and the associated plankton.
- (e) To further research with the best methods to sample herring and other fish larvae in the most efficient way.

Papers on the topics given in these recommendations would be especially welcome at the 1969 Session of the Committee.