



PRESENTATION OF OBSERVERS' REPORTS FROM COLLABORATING ORGANISATIONS

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RAPPORT DE LA 8ème SESSION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE DE LA COMMISSION  
OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE

par

R. Letaconoux

Le 8ème session de l'Assemblée de la COI a eu lieu à Paris, du 5 au 17 novembre 1973. Elle était la première à avoir lieu depuis l'adoption des nouveaux status qui donnent plus de souplesse à la COI pour collaborer avec d'autres organisations internationales, comme le CIEM par exemple.

Dans le domaine des Sciences océaniques et des recherches en commun, le programme CINECA a été examiné et a fait l'objet d'une résolution VIII-12 notant l'avancement satisfaisant des recherches, mais la nécessité d'accroître les travaux sur les ressources vivantes.

Deux autres projets nouveaux ont également retenu l'attention: l'étude d'El Nino et celle de la circulation et des upwellings dans l'Océan Indien Nord et Centre Ouest.

Un projet de refaire des cartes bathymétriques des Océans a également été examiné.

En ce qui concerne les services, il convient de noter le développement du système IGOSS après le succès d'un projet pilote exécuté en 1973 et un projet pilote de surveillance des Pollutions qui débutera par un contrôle des nappes d'huiles et inclura progressivement d'autres polluants. La surveillance des Tsunami sera également accrue.

Formation, l'éducation et l'assistance mutuelle seront coordonnées par la Commission et des réunions régionales auront lieu pour mieux définir les besoins des pays en voie de développement et renforcer l'infrastructure des Sciences Marines chez les états membres.

Une grande partie du programme de la COI sera réalisée en étroite collaboration avec d'autres organismes et si nécessaire par la mise sur pied d'opérations conjointes où la COI pourra apporter son support.

RAPPORT DE LA 3ème RÉUNION ORDINAIRE DE LA COMMISSION  
INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDÉS DE  
L'ATLANTIQUE

par

R. Letaconnoux

La 3ème réunion ordinaire de la Commission a eu lieu à Paris du 28 novembre au 4 décembre 1973, précédée d'une réunion de son Comité Permanent pour la recherche et les statistiques (du 19 au 27 novembre).

L'examen des captures sur les différentes pêcheries de Thonidés de l'Atlantique, et les résultats des études en cours, ont permis de mieux préciser les possibilités de production des divers stocks exploités. Un modèle de production de l'Albacore Tropical (Th. albacores) a été présenté et une proposition de quota pour cette espèce n'a pas été retenue dans l'attente d'informations complémentaires. Pour le listao (K. pelamis) on estime que la pêche peut être développée avec précaution. Pour le germon, (Th. alalunga) les recherches doivent être encouragées afin de mieux connaître les possibilités de production de cette espèce et les relations entre pêches de surface et pêche à la palangre. L'accent a été mis sur l'état inquiétant du stock de thon rouge (Th. thynnus) dont l'évaluation présente de nombreuses difficultés et dont l'étude mériterait d'être poussée en liaison avec les experts du CIEM. Une réunion spéciale a, à cet effet, été prévue au cours de l'actuelle session du Conseil.

Dans l'ensemble, on a pu noter une amélioration dans la collecte des statistiques et, malgré l'accroissement sensible de l'effort de recherche sur certains stocks, une nécessité certaine d'accroître les programmes d'échantillonnage et de marquage afin de mieux comprendre la biologie des principales espèces et de définir, de façon plus précise, la dynamique de leurs stocks.

Un séminaire, à cet effet, a d'ailleurs eu lieu à Nantes du 2 au 14 septembre 1974 afin d'examiner les problèmes de dynamique des populations, l'état actuel des recherches et la façon de les orienter à l'avenir.

Sur le plan de la gestion administrative, le problème de la taille marchande de l'albacore a été de nouveau examiné ainsi qu'une proposition du même genre, concernant le thon rouge.

La question de l'inspection internationale a également été examinée ainsi que la manière d'accroître le contrôle dans les ports au débarquement des navires.

REPORT ON THE WMO/ICAO CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARY DELEGATIONS TO  
CONCLUDE A NEW JOINT FINANCE AGREEMENT ON NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN STATIONS

by

Jens Smed

The scheme of North Atlantic Ocean Stations (NAOS) came into existence in 1948 under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in order to contribute to a safe and economic operation of commercial air liners over the North Atlantic routes. The primary purpose was the provision of surface and upper-air data for direct operational use, as well as for use in the preparation of the route and terminal forecasts required for each flight.

Since 1954 the NAOS network has comprised nine stations, with the U.S.A. operating four - one of them in conjunction with Canada - on the western side of the North Atlantic, and with European countries operating five stations on the eastern side. In 1973, however, the U.S.A. decided, for budgetary reasons, to withdraw their weather ships from the NAOS scheme. This decision involved vacating two stations on 30 June 1973, a third on 31 December 1973 and, finally, a fourth station on 30 June 1974.

In the meantime the NAOS contracting parties had decided that the 1954 agreement should be terminated on 30 June 1975 and that measures should be undertaken to accomplish a new financing agreement, to take effect on 1 July 1975 and be administered by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The accomplishment of such an agreement was the purpose of the Conference of Plenipotentiary Delegations, held in WMO Headquarters at Geneva on 18 February to 1 March 1974.

The background both for the decision to terminate the existing agreement and for the proposal that WMO replace ICAO in the administration of a new agreement is that during the last 20 years the direct utilization of the ocean weather stations for aeronautical purposes has been considerably reduced. On the other hand, a system of North Atlantic Ocean weather stations is essential to the provision of meteorological services for the North Atlantic and Europe, and indispensable for the development of medium-range weather forecasting. At the same time the ocean station vessels provide important oceanographic information which can be used, e.g. for air-sea interaction studies, for marine pollution monitoring and for the IGOS programme.

Right from the establishment of the NAOS scheme ICES has taken an active interest in the oceanographic work from the NAOS vessels, first by developing an oceanographic observation programme for the vessels, later on by coordinating the collection of oceanographic data from the NAOS stations situated in the area of main ICES interest, i.e. the stations A,I,J,K and M, with the object of ensuring continuity of observations when stations are occupied by vessels of different nationalities. Pertinent is also that ICES has published annual inventories of data collected by all NAOS vessels throughout the period 1963-1972.

The ICES interest in the oceanographic work at the NAOS vessels was stressed in a letter to WMO from the General Secretary of ICES, in accordance with C.Res.1973/3:3. Consequently, ICES was invited to send an observer to the Conference mentioned above.

There the importance of the NAOS stations to oceanography was again stressed in formal statements made in plenary by the observers for IOC and ICES.

It should here be explained that under the 1954 NAOS agreement the services carried out onboard the vessels fall into 3 categories, viz. Primary, Secondary and Other Services where the two latter categories are "those services performed because of the presence of the vessels on stations". Oceanographic observations are categorized as Other Services.

It would seem desirable to have oceanographic work from the NAOS vessels elevated to Primary Services, i.e., oceanographic observations - in particular bathythermograph and temperature/salinity with depth (Nansen cast and STD probe) - should be included in the basic programme under the new NAOS agreement, as also suggested in a document submitted to the Conference by the IOC Secretary.

In the General Committee the ICES observer spoke in favour of such an elevation of the oceanographic programme, again stressing the value of the oceanographic work (physical, chemical and biological) carried out by the NAOS vessels. As a documentation of this he made full sets of the NAOS Inventories published by ICES available to the delegations of the Conference.

For financial reasons there was, however, a compact opposition against raising the oceanographic programme to a higher status in the services. No delegation spoke in favour of such an arrangement, whereas 8 delegations indicated that they were against a change. On the other hand, some of these delegations stressed that they were convinced about the value of the oceanographic observations made onboard the NAOS vessels; the observations should, however, be made as national contributions.

Consequently, "the making of oceanographic and other scientific observations" remained an item under Other Services, and it is stated that "Contracting Parties responsible for the operation of ships shall endeavour for these observations to be made but without charges to the other contracting parties for the extra costs involved".

The question had been thoroughly discussed at the Preparatory Meeting which preceded the Conference and obviously the delegations had already then made up their minds not to support a transfer of oceanographic observations to a higher level in the programme of services.

The outcome may appear somewhat disappointing. On the other hand, oceanographic observations are still mentioned among the services. From the above reported indications by delegations during the Conference, and from observations made by delegates outside the Conference, it seems safe to conclude that oceanographic measurements will be made from NAOS vessels under the new agreement much to the same extent as hitherto.

It should not be overlooked, however, that the new agreement will mean a NAOS system much reduced in comparison with that of the 1954 agreement, viz. a reduction from 9 stations to, probably, 4 or 5. No consensus was reached on this point.

Not quite unexpectedly considerable disagreement was revealed when financing of the NAOS scheme came up for discussion. Several problems regarding the question of reimbursement to Operating Parties were raised and not solved. As to the scale of contribution the Conference agreed that a system based on two factors, referred to as "ability to pay" and "meteorological benefit", would be practicable and acceptable. Unfortunately, however, no general consensus could be reached on the definition of either the ability to pay factor or the meteorological benefit factor.

In view of the fact that the delegations could not resolve the difficulties referred to above it was decided to adjourn the Conference and to reconvene later in the year. The continuation of the Conference has now been scheduled for 4-15 November 1974.

RAPPORT SUR LA 12<sup>ème</sup> SESSION DU CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DES PÊCHES  
POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE

par

C. Maurin

La douzième session du Conseil Général des Pêches pour la Méditerranée (C.G.P.M.) s'est tenue du 11 au 17 mars à Varna. Les délégations de l'Algérie, de la Bulgarie, de Chypre, d'Espagne, de France, de Grèce, d'Italie, d'Israël, du Liban, de Monaco, de Tunisie, de Turquie, de Yougoslavie ont assisté à l'ensemble de la session; l'Egypte a été représentée en fin de session.

De plus, des observateurs représentaient diverses organisations internationales, notamment le Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer, la Commission Internationale pour l'Exploration Scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée, l'O.C.D.E., l'Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Nature. Quant à la F.A.O., elle avait délégué l'adjoint au chef du Département des Pêches et divers représentants techniques venant du siège des Bureaux régionaux.

Cette session a été précédée du 7 au 9 mars par un symposium sur les problèmes économiques posés par l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources halieutiques de la Méditerranée.

I. Compte Rendu des Réunions

Les journées du 11 et du 12 ont été consacrées à des réunions de l'Assemblée Générale. Le 10 mars, une excursion des membres du C.G.P.M. a eu lieu à Burgas. Elle a permis la visite du complexe halieutique bulgare implanté dans ce port.

La séance d'ouverture a été présidée par M. Ben Mustapha, président du C.G.P.M.; le vice ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Industrie Alimentaire de Bulgarie et le secrétaire du Conseil de Varna y assistaient.

Après cette séance, le Conseil a approuvé le rapport du Comité exécutif. Il a, par ailleurs, proposé de ne plus confier la sélection des documents présentés lors des sessions au Comité de lecture qui se réunit normalement lors des sessions mais de laisser ce soin au Secrétariat. L'assemblée a demandé à ce que le Président et le Comité exécutif soient consultés. Les journées du 13 et du 14 ont permis la réunion de groupe de travail (Ressources, Statistiques halieutiques, Aquaculture). Le rapport a été examiné le vendredi 15. Dans la journée du 14 s'est également réuni un groupe non officiel sur les pollutions.

Le premier point figurant à l'ordre du jour est l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources en Méditerranée. Il a été rendu compte à ce propos, de la réunion du groupe de travail sur l'évaluation et l'exploitation des ressources, groupe qui, depuis la précédente session, a étendu son activité à l'essentiel des ressources marines et non plus seulement aux ressources démersales. De plus, un document sur l'état des ressources halieutiques de la Méditerranée et de la Mer Noire a été présenté. Le Conseil a émis le vœu que ces études régionales soient régulièrement mises à jour, et qu'un expert soviétique puisse être associé au groupe de travail, pour la Mer Noire.

Il a été constaté que, pour la Méditerranée orientale, les données concernant la production sont très insuffisantes et trop récentes pour donner lieu à une interprétation valable. On a insisté sur la nécessité de développer dans ce secteur, au moins pour l'évaluation des ressources pélagiques, des campagnes de prospection et de détection au moyen de procédés acoustiques. Le développement de la pêche artisanale dans certaines parties de cette région, Chypre notamment, a paru souhaitable.

Pour la Mer Noire, compte tenu du caractère particulier de cette mer du point de vue physicochimique, il a été indiqué que, bien que les espèces pélagiques fournissent 90% des captures actuelles, les espèces démersales subissent une exploitation plus intense que les premières. Dans ces conditions, une augmentation du taux de production de poissons tels que anchois, chinchards ou sprats paraît possible, particulièrement sur le littoral sud de cette mer. Des questions se posaient encore sur les raisons des fluctuations des captures de certaines espèces comme la bonite et le maquereau; l'influence des pollutions en Mer Noire a été évoquée à ce sujet.

L'Assemblée Générale a été tenue au courant des travaux du symposium sur les problèmes économiques. Le Conseil a, à cet égard, accepté une proposition selon laquelle le Secrétariat entreprendrait une étude sur les perspectives de production, de consommation et de commercialisation des produits de la pêche en Méditerranée. Il a approuvé une résolution recommandant la création d'un projet régional de formation du personnel intermédiaire et supérieur des services de pêche.

La question suivante examinée par le Conseil est l'aménagement rationnel des pêches en Méditerranée. Il a reconnu l'opportunité d'améliorer et de renforcer l'application des mesures réglementaires existant et le besoin d'uniformiser les réglementations.

Pour ce qui est des statistiques halieutiques, il a été observé que, pour la mise en place d'un système régional, trois types d'activités devront être réalisées: la production des statistiques nationales avec transmission de ces données aux commissions régionales (C.G.P.M.) la compilation, par le Conseil, des statistiques et la préparation des bulletins régionaux.

On a remarqué que la réalisation d'un tel schéma est techniquement possible dans les pays développés; il n'en est pas de même pour les pays en voie de développement. Le Conseil a insisté sur l'intérêt de la collecte de données halieutiques et biologiques. La création d'un poste de statisticien pour la Méditerranée a paru souhaitable.

Après avoir remarqué que, jusqu'à ce jour, le groupe de travail sur les statistiques a rassemblé des données de prises par sous-régions et par espèces ainsi que des informations sur les navires, il a été observé que pour assurer la mise au point d'un système standardisé, il fallait délimiter les différentes sous-régions et produire une liste régionale d'espèces. Un travail préparatoire a été réalisé dans ce sens pendant la session, par le groupe de travail sur les ressources.

Le Conseil a apprécié la réalisation et la publication par la FAO de fiches d'identification pour les besoins de la pêche dans le bassin de la Méditerranée. Il a décidé de fonder en un seul groupe de travail les deux précédents groupes, statistiques et évaluation des ressources.

Pour ce qui est des ressources marines, le secrétariat a préparé une analyse synoptique des différentes mesures de réglementations qui figurent dans les législations nationales. Il a été décidé de créer dans le cadre du C.G.P.M. un comité de l'aménagement des ressources. Toutes les délégations ont admis qu'il est essentiel de renforcer la collaboration internationale pour la rationalisation de l'exploitation des ressources méditerranéennes.

On a conclu qu'il était nécessaire de procéder à une révision de l'accord de 1949 définissant le C.G.P.M. afin de permettre à cet organisme de jouer un rôle plus efficace par l'adoption, la mise en oeuvre et le contrôle des mesures de conservation. Le Comité de l'aménagement des ressources établira un projet dans ce sens.

Le Conseil a examiné le rapport de la cinquième session du groupe du C.G.P.M. sur l'Aquaculture et la Pêche en Eau Saumâtre. Il en a été de même pour le compte rendu de la réunion organisée à Lésina du 8 au 10 mai 1973 dans le cadre du programme coopératif de recherches sur l'Aquaculture (C.O.P.R.A.Q.). A cette occasion, les délégations ont précisé l'état d'avancement des recherches et des expériences sur ce sujet faites dans différents pays.

Les participants intéressés par ces questions se sont d'ailleurs réunis en groupe de travail à ce sujet. Il a été notamment traité des maladies des animaux d'élevages, de l'alimentation artificielle et de l'intérêt que pourrait présenter l'utilisation des eaux chaudes rejetées par les centrales thermiques. Le Conseil s'est prononcé en faveur de la poursuite des réunions du programme coopératif.

L'éventuelle création d'un laboratoire international pour l'amélioration des ressources en Méditerranée, initiative prise par Malte en dehors du C.G.P.M., a été examinée. Des mesures ont été envisagées à ce sujet. Il a été convenu que le C.G.P.M. se tiendrait au courant de cette question sans intervenir directement.

Pour ce qui est des pollutions marines, un compte rendu de la consultation sur la protection des ressources biologiques et des pêches contre la pollution a été donné.

Le C.G.P.M. a pris connaissance du rapport de son groupe de travail sur les pollutions et souhaité la poursuite de ses travaux. Il a encouragé la F.A.O. à poursuivre sa collaboration pour l'organisation d'une rencontre régionale sur la pollution en Méditerranée qui doit se tenir à Monaco en septembre 1974.

Un assez large débat a eu lieu pour décider le sujet du symposium qui précèdera la prochaine session. Une suggestion avait été faite concernant les "données halieutiques, application pratique et scientifique" mais il est apparu que ce sujet entrait déjà dans l'activité du C.G.P.M. et du groupe de travail sur les ressources. On a également suggéré les problèmes de formation ainsi que les techniques d'évaluation des stocks notamment par procédés acoustiques. On a décidé de traiter ce dernier sujet lors de la session plénière et non sous forme de symposium.

Finalement, le sujet retenu pour ce symposium est: "Formation et utilisation".

Tout en souhaitant une participation plus grande des experts au groupe de travail du C.G.P.M., la F.A.O. a souhaité que les états membres s'efforcent de financer les frais de mission de ces experts.

Le vendredi 15 mars, le C.G.P.M. a élu à l'unanimité un nouveau bureau:

M. Claude Maurin (France), Président  
M. D. Nedev (Bulgarie), 1er vice Président  
M. A. Demetropoulos (Chypre), 2ème vice Président.



Enfin, sur proposition de la délégation turque, le Conseil a décidé de se réunir pour la prochaine session d'Istanbul, soit à la fin de 1975 soit au début de 1976.

## II. Résolutions

Ces échanges de vues ainsi que les résultats des travaux des groupes de travail ont servi de base au Secrétariat pour préparer des résolutions qui ont été discutées par le Conseil.

### Formation du personnel

La première de ces résolutions concerne la formation du personnel scientifique, technique et administratif des pêches. Elle recommande l'examen des possibilités de mise en place d'un réseau de centres régionaux d'enseignements ainsi que l'étude de la création d'un fond commun de bourses. Elle demande, pour ce faire, la participation des gouvernements membres du C.G.P.M.

### Aménagement des pêches

La résolution prise a pour but de demander tout d'abord au Secrétariat de préparer un projet annoté, pouvant servir de base à l'élaboration d'un règlement sur les maillages en Méditerranée, définissant les méthodes de mesure des mailles, les gréements à utiliser ainsi que les modalités de contrôle. Le comité d'aménagement des ressources est prié d'examiner ce projet en vue de son adoption sous forme d'une recommandation qui pourrait être mise en application par les gouvernements membres. Le Directeur Général de la F.A.O. transmettra cette recommandation aux gouvernements membres en les priant de leur faire connaître les mesures qu'ils auront prises ou envisagent de prendre.

### Statistiques

La première des résolutions concernant les statistiques recommande l'affectation d'un statisticien régional des pêches pour la zone du C.G.P.M. Ils seront chargés d'aider les pays riverains qui en éprouveraient la nécessité pour assurer la mise en place du réseau et la formation du personnel spécialisé.

Elle recommande également l'organisation des stages de formation. La deuxième résolution faite à ce sujet tend à recommander aux gouvernements membres d'examiner, de vérifier et au besoin de corriger puis d'adopter les noms d'espèces utilisées dans les fiches d'identification de la F.A.O.

Il est également demandé de publier un document national officiel donnant, pour chaque espèce, la correspondance entre le nom national officiel et les noms locaux encore utilisés. Des précisions sont fournies sur la manière de fixer ces noms.

### Ressources marines

La première résolution décide la création d'un comité d'aménagement des ressources et définit ses fonctions.

La seconde résolution concerne la révision des accords de 1949. Elle a pour but de charger le comité d'aménagement des ressources d'étudier cette question et de demander aux gouvernements membres de s'assurer que la composition des délégations permette de procéder à un examen approfondi de tous les aspects de cette question.

## Pollutions

La première résolution adoptée recommande aux pays riverains de participer à la convention et d'accepter obligatoirement les annexes facultatives.

Une deuxième résolution tend à recommander que le groupe de travail de la F.A.O. sur les pollutions poursuive ses activités dans le domaine de la recherche sur les effets des polluants par l'esquisse d'un projet pilote de surveillance de quelques contaminants.

Une troisième recommande la création d'un programme coopératif sur les effets des pollutions sur les organismes marins et souhaite des échanges de données sur les contaminants.

REPORT OF THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF  
THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BALTIC SEA AREA

by

The General Secretary

1. The Finnish Government hosted a Diplomatic Conference on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area in Helsinki, 18-22 March 1974, as well as several preparatory Meetings during 1973 and 1974.

After the President and the General Secretary had offered the Council's services to the Commission it was intended to establish, the Council was invited to a preparatory Meeting (Helsinki, 5-16 November 1973) and to the Conference itself. The General Secretary represented the Council at both occasions.

2. The following States were represented: Denmark, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Polish People's Republic, Sweden, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Czechoslovakian Socialist Republic and Norway were represented by observers, and there were, in addition to ICES, observers from UNEP, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, FAO, IMCO, IOC, WHO, the Nordic Council, and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

3. The Conference adopted the text of a Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, and several Resolutions.

The Convention was signed on 22 March 1974 by all participating States, and will enter into force two months after the deposit of the seventh instrument of ratification or approval.

4. The Convention established a Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, which is to meet at least once a year, and which will have a Secretariat in Helsinki, headed by an Executive Secretary.
5. It will be the duty of the Commission, i.a. to keep the implementation of the Convention under continuous observation; to make recommendations on measures relating to the purposes of the Convention; to recommend amendments to the Convention and its annexes when required; to define pollution control criteria; to promote scientific and technological research; and to seek, when appropriate, the services of competent regional and other international organisations to collaborate in scientific and technological research as well as other relevant activities pertinent to the objectives of the Convention.
6. The Convention provides for implementation by the Contracting Parties of the provisions of the Convention within their territorial sea. These provisions do not apply to internal waters, but the Contracting Parties agreed, without prejudice to their sovereign rights, to undertake that the purposes of the Convention will be obtained in these waters.

7. The Contracting Parties have undertaken to counteract the introduction, whether air-borne, water-borne or otherwise, into the Baltic Sea Area of hazardous substances listed in an Annex (at present DDT and its derivatives, and PCB's).
8. The Convention provides for control with land-based pollution, pollution from ships, harmful effects of pleasure-craft activities, dumping, and pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the sea bed and its sub-soil.

It is thus probably the most comprehensive international Convention on pollution which has so far been concluded.

9. Article 16 provides for scientific and technological cooperation, directly between the Contracting Parties, or when appropriate through competent regional or other international organisations in the fields of science, technology and other research, and for exchange of data as well as other scientific information. In the same way the Contracting Parties shall promote studies, undertake, support or contribute to programmes aimed at developing ways and means for the assessment of the nature and extent of pollution pathways, exposures, risks and remedies in the Baltic Sea Area. They shall also cooperate in developing inter-comparable observation methods, in performing base-line studies and establishing complementary or joint programmes for monitoring. The organisation and scope of work connected with the implementation of these tasks should primarily be outlined by the Commission (see paragraph 5 above).
10. The draft of the Convention as agreed at the November Meeting contained in the paragraph dealing with the duties of the Commission a request that it should "seek, when appropriate, the services of  $\int$  the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and other  $\int$  competent, regional and other international organisations to collaborate in scientific and technological research as well as other relevant activities pertinent to the objectives of this Convention". However, between November and March the participating Governments had agreed to delete the words in square brackets.

REPORT ON EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN INLAND FISHERIES ADVISORY  
COMMISSION (EIFAC)

by

B.B. Parrish

The Eighth Session of EIFAC was held at Aviemore, Scotland from 6-10 May 1974 under the Chairmanship of Mr A.V. Holden (U.K.). It was preceded on 30 April-1 May by a Government Consultation convened by FAO on an "International Convention for the Control of the Spread of Communicable Diseases", and on 2-4 May by a Symposium on "Methodology for the Survey, Monitoring and Appraisal of Fishery Resources in Large Lakes and Rivers". Short reports on these two Meetings are given in Annexes 1 and 2. Delegates from 17 of the present 23 European member countries of EIFAC attended the Eighth Session, and Canada, Columbia, Japan, New Zealand, the European Economic Community, the International Office of Epizootics and ICES were also represented by Observers.

The Agenda for the Session covered a wide range of items, which were dealt with under the following three headings:- "Fisheries Biology and Management"; "Fish Culture and Disease" and "Fish and Polluted Water". A number of these items were of direct relevance to ICES, especially its ANACAT and Fisheries Improvement Committees. These are referred to briefly below.

Fisheries Biology and Management

1) Eel Research

The Commission reviewed the present state of knowledge of and future research requirements on the biology, population dynamics and exploitation of the eel in European inland waters. It recommended that a Workshop, under the Chairmanship of Professor M. Amanieu (France) should meet in the Spring of 1975 to make a comparative study of present methods and criteria for determining the age of eels, with a view to identifying and resolving the current differences in age readings obtained by different workers. It also drew attention to the need for improvements in the collection and reporting of elver and adult eel catch statistics and for research into a number of aspects of eel biology, including especially the effects of the transportation of elvers from the lower reaches of a river to its upper reaches, on the sex ratio of the adult eels, and the reaction of eels to external stimuli. The Commission endorsed the ICES proposal (C.M.Res.1973/3:5) concerning a Special Meeting, sponsored by ICES and EIFAC on problems of eel research and management, and recommended that it should be held,

"if possible immediately before the Ninth Session of EIFAC or failing that immediately prior to the Statutory Meeting of ICES that will be held in the Autumn of 1976 and, furthermore, that the topics to be discussed at this Symposium should consist of the following:

- (i) the study and interpretation of eel and elver statistics including imports and exports;

- (ii) measurement of stock abundance-methodology;
- (iii) status and population dynamics of eel stocks: growth, sex ratio, ageing, mortality estimates, age of fish at time of first capture, stock and recruitment;
- (iv) effect of planting elvers and younger ages;
- (v) migration of eel;
- (vi) physiology of the eel."

## 2) Ageing of Fish

The EIFAC Working Party on Ageing of Fish reported on progress in the production of an Atlas of scales and other structures of fish of known age. A draft section of the Atlas entitled 'Atlas of scales of roach of known age' prepared by J. Nabialec (Poland) was approved. The Commission recommended:

"that the Working Party continue its present activities and extend the application of its approach to include other structures used for ageing, and to other species."

In addition, the Commission considered and endorsed a number of important recommendations concerning the measurement of freshwater fish stocks in lakes and large rivers passed at the Symposium held prior to its Meeting (see Annex 2).

## Fish Culture and Disease

### 1. Fish Disease

The Commission endorsed the Report of the Government Consultation on an international Convention on the control of the spread of major communicable fish diseases (see Annex 1), and recommended:

"(i) the Director General of FAO be asked to continue the work already initiated for the formulation of the draft Convention and technical annexes along the lines recommended by the Consultation; and (ii) that Member Governments of EIFAC should support this initiative as fully and actively as possible."

### 2. Fish Culture

EIFAC's programme of international cooperation in a number of important aspects of freshwater fish culture research was reviewed. The Commission agreed that in addition to the need for developing further the present cooperative work on fish diseases, there is a need for expanding the programme to include studies on fish feeds with special emphasis on unconventional protein sources to replace fish meal in feed formulations, on the use of hormones to control reproduction in cultivated fish, and on the development of intensive systems for the production of fingerlings. The Commission recommended that in view of the high market value of eels, research on their breeding and on the culture of elvers should be intensified. It also recommended that work currently in progress on the economic evaluation of fish culture systems should be continued.

### 3. Introduction of Exotic Species

The Commission considered this problem in the light of the initiatives already taken by ICES. It recognised the need to formulate guidelines for making decisions on introductions in inland waters and also the procedures to be followed in testing the possible effects of introductions for both aquaculture and stocking of open waters. It recommended that in view of the need for building up a registry of introductions and the dissemination of information on them

"the member countries should make available all relevant information for inclusion in the quarterly issues of the FAO Aquaculture Bulletin."

### Fish and Polluted Water

Important topics dealt with under this heading, of direct relevance to the Council's pollution programme, included Water Quality Criteria, Toxicity Testing procedures and Biological Monitoring. The Commission recommended that the report of its Working Party on Toxicity Testing procedures should be "issued as an EIFAC Technical Paper translated into other languages, including Polish and included in any combined publication of the EIFAC reports on Water Quality Criteria". It also recommended

"that a Symposium on the assessment of biological monitoring in relation to water quality and particularly fisheries be held (in conjunction with the next Session of EIFAC)."

It further recommended in relation to this and other aspects of pollution research "that the essential collaboration to exchange information and to avoid duplication of effort should continue to be actively pursued between EIFAC, ICES, EEC, WHO and IBP."

### Cooperation between EIFAC and ICES

The Commission gave special consideration to future cooperation between EIFAC and ICES (as proposed in C.Res.1973/3:4). It recognised the need to pursue close cooperation in a number of aspects of the two organisations' work and, in addition to specific items of collaboration, referred to in recommendations above, it was agreed that steps which might be taken to achieve this included more frequent meetings between their Secretariats, consultation between them regarding meetings of common interest, the submission of lists of relevant papers and recommendations to each other's meetings, and the exchange of copies of relevant meeting documents.

REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA ON THE  
FAO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL  
OF THE SPREAD OF MAJOR COMMUNICABLE FISH DISEASES

by

I.R.H. Allan (U.K.)  
(ICES Observer)

- 1) The above Consultation was held at Aviemore, Scotland from 30 April to 1 May 1974, in implementation of EIFAC Recommendation 72/30 that called upon FAO to "undertake consultations with Member Governments of EIFAC and other countries concerned to ascertain their views on a convention for the control of the spread of major communicable fish diseases through international traffic in live fish and fish eggs and to take appropriate action for the formulation of such a convention."
- 2) The Consultation was attended by representatives from the following 20 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany (F.R.), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yugoslavia. In addition to the ICES observer there were observers from the International Office of Epizootics (OIE).
- 3) Professor K. Tiews, the representative of Germany, was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Consultation, and the representatives of Yugoslavia and Canada, Professor N. Fijan and Dr G.I. Pritchard as first and second Vice-Chairman, respectively.
- 4) A draft consultation document (FID: CFD/74/3:) had been circulated to participating States prior to the Meeting in Aviemore and this formed the basis for the further discussions there, and a technical Working Group was set up, under the chairmanship of the first Vice-Chairman, to consider the detailed annexes to the proposed draft convention set out therein.
- 5) The Consultation discussed in general terms the need for, and the acceptability to Governments of, the proposed draft Convention. There was general recognition of the need, and a wide measure of acceptance of the principles behind the draft, but subject to detailed discussion of the specific articles.
- 6) The draft convention makes provision for the Health Certification of exports of live fish or fish eggs belonging to the families Salmonidae, Cyprinidae, Percidae and Esocidae by designated authorities in exporting countries according to agreed forms of Certificate. Where imports take place from non-Contracting Parties they would need to be accompanied by a certificate or other document affording at least an equal guarantee as to the state of health of the fish or eggs.
- 7) Special provision is proposed for the movements of fish or eggs for bona fide scientific research and for fish or eggs in transit through the territory of a Contracting Party.
- 8) The diseases covered by the Health Certification are classified into two groups: (a) those for which specific testing and certification are required and (b) those for which only notification is obligatory.



Those in the first group consist of:

Salmonidae

- (1) Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (I.P.N.)
- (2) Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (I.H.N.)
- (3) Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (V.H.S.)

Cyprinidae

- (4) Spring Viraemia (S.V.)

Those in the second group consist of:

Salmonidae

- (1) Furunculosis (*Aeromonas salmonicida*)
- (2) Whirling Disease (W.D. *Myxosoma* [*Lentospora*] *cerebratis*)

Cyprinidae

- (3) Gill Necrosis
- (4) Ulcers
- ( ) Changes in the Swim Bladder
- ( ) Cestodes

9) Health Certification would be based upon inspection of the establishment of origin of the fish or fish eggs and approved inspection and testing procedures were proposed by the Working Party. A two-year period of freedom from disease at the establishment was recommended, based upon half-yearly tests.

10) Any Contracting Party would retain the right to apply any additional measure of control, either for certification, inspection or quarantine which it considered necessary.

11) It was proposed that the Secretariat functions under the Convention should be performed by FAO, in close collaboration with OIE. Contracting Parties would notify the Secretariat of the identity of its Certifying Authority, or Authorities, and the Secretariat would be responsible for communicating this information to the other Contracting Parties, as well as all other reports and information made available by the Parties.

The Secretariat would also be responsible for convening periodic meetings once every 2 years, probably in conjunction with the biennial session of EIFAC (or at such other intervals as the Contracting Parties may decide) and for convening special meetings at any time on the request of at least two-thirds of the Contracting Parties.

12) It was proposed, with a large measure of agreement, that a Scientific Advisory Committee should be set up, the members to be appointed by Contracting Parties from a list of experts on fish disease control recommended by the Director-General of FAO, and not on a representational basis. The Secretariat would convene meetings of this Scientific Advisory Committee which would keep under constant review advances in knowledge in the fish disease field and make such information available through the Secretariat.

13) The financing of the Convention Secretariat, it was proposed, should be by contributions from Contracting Parties to the administrative budget in accordance with a procedure yet to be decided.

The expenses of delegates, experts and advisers to Convention meetings or meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee would, it was proposed, be borne by respective Governments. The costs of the Secretariat would be borne by FAO from a trust fund to be established for the purpose from the contributions of Contracting Parties.

14) Each Contracting Party would undertake to report to the Secretariat as soon as possible any significant outbreaks of listed diseases in their country and this information would be communicated by the Secretariat to all other Contracting Parties.

Reports would also be presented by Contracting Parties to the biennial meetings covering all aspects of disease control, fish culture establishments classified as disease-free, and so on. The whole question of reporting was subject to a good deal of discussion and no finally agreed outcome was arrived at.

15) Collaborative programmes would be promoted in the research, technical, legal and administrative fields concerning fish diseases and their control.

16) The Convention would be open for signature by the Government of any state which is a Member of the United Nations or of any specialised agency of the United Nations or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or any State party to the statute to the International Court of Justice, or any other State invited by the Contracting Parties to become party to the Convention.

17) At the end of the Consultation it was agreed that, as a result of the discussions which had taken place, a further draft of the proposed Convention and technical annexes should be prepared by FAO, taking into account the views expressed at the Consultation and any further comments offered by Governments. The revised drafts would then be re-submitted to Governments for further comments, on the basis of which a "final" version would be prepared by the FAO Secretariat for eventual submission to a Conference of Plenipotentiaries.

REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA ON THE  
EIFAC SYMPOSIUM ON METHODOLOGY FOR THE SURVEY, MONITORING AND APPRAISAL OF  
FISHERY RESOURCES IN LARGE LAKES AND RIVERS

by

I.R.H. Allan (U.K.)  
(ICES Observer)

As a result of consideration within EIFAC Sub-Commission I - Fisheries Biology and Management - of the urgent need for further work to be done on the problems associated with the sampling and assessment of fish populations in large rivers and deep lakes, the above Symposium was held, in association with the biennial meeting of EIFAC at Aviemore, Scotland, on 2-4 May 1974. The Symposium was attended by over 200 persons from 24 countries and 74 papers were submitted for consideration.

The objectives of the Symposium were to:

- a) review the present methods used in sampling the fish populations of large lakes and rivers;
- b) define the terms relative to methodology for the survey, monitoring and appraisal of fishery resources;
- c) discuss the analysis of catches for the assessment of the properties of gear in sampling, and the interpretation of sampling data to establish the characteristics of, and changes in, fish populations;
- d) propose new or improved methods to be used for such sampling;
- e) formulate a long-term programme of research on such problems for the member nations of EIFAC as well as other countries concerned.

For these purposes the proceedings of the Symposium were conducted in the form of a series of consecutive meetings handled by ten panels of experts under the leadership of conveners. The ten panels dealt with subjects as follows:

Panel 1	Objectives and strategy of sampling
" 2	Netting techniques
" 3(a)	Electric fishing
" 3(b)	Chemical methods
" 4(a)	Sonic methods
" 4(b)	Electronic counters
" 5	Weirs, fish-passes and traps
" 6	Techniques for sampling larval and juvenile fish
" 7	Mark-recapture methods
" 8	Interpretation of data

From the papers presented and the discussions held, it was clear that there was a lack of suitable methods for the quantitative sampling of marginal areas of large lakes and deep, swift-flowing rivers, especially where the substrate was obstructed by boulders or vegetation.

There was, therefore, a need to expand existing methods to a stage where they were of use in such situations and also to seek new methods of approach. Methods which required the cooperation of commercial or recreational fishermen, as in the recovery

of marked fish, needed greater emphasis being placed on the educating of the public on the need for fishery research if the maximum assistance in such methods was to be obtained.

Although all of the objectives of the Symposium were not fully reached, the papers and discussions were very valuable in clarifying the present state of knowledge and in pointing out the gaps therein which need to be filled. It was recommended that the report and proceedings, when suitably edited, should be published and that a Working Party should be set up to prepare, if possible with the assistance of a consultant to be appointed for the purpose, a digest of all the techniques currently available, as covered by the Symposium, in the form of a working manual. In the meantime, it was recommended that individual workers and institutes consider the development of new technologies and the adaptation of existing ones, to meet the problems posed by these difficult habitats.

Also, in view of the lack of information on the performance of gears relative to the populations sampled as well as to other methods of sampling the same populations, problems of intercalibration should be concentrated on, in future research programmes in member countries.

International Council for the  
Exploration of the Sea

C.M. 1974/General Assembly

REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION  
OF THE SEA ON THE SCOR/SCAR POLAR OCEANS CONFERENCE

by

C.R. Mann

The SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference was held in Montreal, Canada, from 5 to 11 May 1974. A total of sixty papers were offered. Thirteen papers were offered in Water Masses and Circulation; fifteen papers in Ice and Ice Biota; seventeen in Marine Productivity, Poles and Tropics; and fifteen papers in Climatic Change and the Polar Regions. The keynote address was given by Sir George Deacon on "Scientific Exploration in Antarctic Seas".

At the conclusion of the conference a set of recommendations were set down to be considered by the Second Session of the IOC International Coordination Group for the Southern Oceans, 15 - 20 July 1974, in Buenos Aires. These recommendations are attached.

Recommendations  
of the  
SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference  
(Montreal, 5 - 11 May 1974)

Subject: Second Session of the IOC International Coordination Group  
for the Southern Oceans (Buenos Aires, 15 - 20 July 1974)

The SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference,

having discussed various scientific problems of marine sciences in the Antarctic waters, aimed to achieve more understanding in four main topics of research, i.e. water masses and circulation; ice and ice biota; marine productivity; climatic change and the polar regions;

noting the above-mentioned forthcoming session of the IOC International Coordination Group for the Southern Ocean

noting also the reconstitution of the former SCOR/SCAR Working Group 38 "Special Studies in Circumpolar Waters (South of 40° S)" into SCOR/SCAR/IAMAP Working Group 38 "Ocean Processes in the Antarctic"; and its concern with general problems such as:

- (i) Dynamics and thermodynamics of Antarctic circumpolar currents and associated frontal zones
- (ii) Formation and spreading of Antarctic water masses
- (iii) Sea, air, and ice interaction in the Antarctic Ocean

recommends the IOC International Coordination Group when discussing an international scientific programme for the exploration of the Southern Oceans consider the recommendations of the SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference (see attachment).

The SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference  
Resolutions  
(May 10, 1974)

The SCOR/SCAR Polar Oceans Conference made the following resolutions and recommendations addressed to SCOR, SCAR and IOC:

1. As yet comparatively little research has been carried out on the ice biota in Polar Seas. This biota has been shown to be important in the productivity of these regions. We therefore recommend that comparative studies be carried out on the ecology and physiology of the ice biota in the Arctic and Antarctic.
2. We wish to express our concern at the "slowing down" of biological oceanographic studies from aboard oceanographic vessels in the Southern Oceans. Since such studies are an important prerequisite for the management of the living marine resources of this region we recommend that efforts should be made to encourage marine ecosystem studies similar to those carried out by the "Eltanin" in the past few years, and investigations of the stocks of krill, fishes and other organisms of potential economic importance.
3. We draw attention to the importance of taxonomic studies, especially of marine phytoplankton in the investigation of polar marine ecosystems and recommend that efforts be made to encourage young scientists to train for such research. More employment opportunities should be provided for such taxonomists.
4. We recommend that efforts be made to encourage investigations of the primary and secondary productivity of the tropical and subtropical waters so as to enable reliable comparisons to be made of the relative contributions of tropical, subtropical and polar seas to the productivity of the world's oceans.
5. We draw attention to the value of collaborative work between Arctic and Antarctic marine biologists and the importance of workers utilizing the same investigating techniques so as to enable direct comparisons of results to be made. We look forward to a continuation of discussions of the kind initiated at this first Polar Oceans Conference.
6. In view of the increasing tempo of mineral exploration and development in polar seas and the consequent risks of pollution we recommend that encouragement be given to baseline studies of present ecological conditions, especially in Arctic seas, and to investigations of the effects of pollutants, especially of oil, on marine polar organisms.
7. In addition to the National Oceanographic Programs that already are in progress or that have been proposed we recommend that encouragement be given to the continuation of the exchange of personnel on research vessels and the exchange of data between countries.
8. We welcome the initiative of WMO in initiating the drifting buoy program in the Southern Ocean and urge that all countries engaged in research in these regions give their support to this program.
9. In order to fill an important gap in our knowledge of the oceanography of the Southern Ocean and to assist in the monitoring of climatic and environmental change we recommend that encouragement be given to the making of

9. year-round oceanographic measurements from shore and ice-shelf stations.  
(cont'd) In particular current and tidal measurements, sea water sampling for salinity, nutrients etc. and observations on iceberg and pack-ice movements could be carried out. We recommend that the IOC International Coordination Group for the Southern Oceans take the initiative in organizing the cooperative collection of such data.
10. In view of our lack of knowledge of winter oceanographic conditions in the pack-ice of Antarctica we recommend that encouragement be given to an international effort to obtain winter oceanographic measurements in the ice-covered ocean surrounding Antarctica perhaps from an ice-breaker drifting with the ice-pack.
11. In view of the comparative lack of data we recommend that more measurements of dissolved and particulate organic matter and of rates of decomposition be carried out in Polar regions.
12. We recommend that every effort be made to maintain current shore stations in both the Arctic and Antarctic.
13. The Conference recommends that the planning activities for future earth-viewing and data relay satellites should consider the importance of data on the polar oceans in the missions. Therefore, the orbit of the satellite should be such that this information can be obtained, and should not be restricted to the lower latitudes.
14. Finally, the Conference recommends that the necessary international efforts be undertaken to prepare new tidal charts for the Polar seas.



REPORT ON MEETINGS OF ICNAF 1973/74

by

Sv. Aa. Horsted and H. Tambs-Lyche

1. There have been two Special Commission Meetings and one Regular Meeting of ICNAF since the Council's 61st Statutory Meeting. They were preceded by Meetings of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (STACRES) and its Sub-Committees. Mr Sv. Aa. Horsted represented the Council at all three Meetings, and the General Secretary was present during part (11-14 June) of the Regular Meeting.
2. The Special Commission Meetings were held in Ottawa (15-19 October 1973) and in Rome (22-30 January 1974).
  - i) The Special Commission Meeting in Ottawa considered further conservation measures in the southern part of the Convention Area and adjacent waters (Sub-area 5 and Statistical Area 6) where the by-catch problem is a serious draw-back in the quota system based on individual species. A two-tier quota system was agreed upon for 1974 setting allowable overall catch of all finfish (excluding menhaden, tuna, billfish, and sharks other than dogfish) and squid lower than the sum of the individual species' quotas set for most species. The overall quota as well as the species' quotas were allocated between countries. Also some regulations of fishing gear in Sub-area 5 were adopted.
  - ii) The Special Commission Meeting in Rome (FAO headquarter) considered catch limitation measures in 1974 for various finfish species and squids in Sub-areas 2-5 and in Statistical Area 6. A number of hitherto unregulated stocks, e.g. capelin, roundnose grenadier and Greenland halibut in Sub-areas 2-3, were added to the list of stocks already under quota regulation in 1974. Agreement was also reached on herring and mackerel quotas for 1974.

With one or two exceptions, all major fish stocks in the Conventicn Area and Statistical Area 6 are, thereby, regulated in 1974 by the imposition of the allowable catches and national allocations.

In an attempt to improve the ICNAF Data Base it was agreed to conduct a pilot study for Div. 5Z to examine the implications and cost of reporting catch and effort data in finer detail than hitherto.

3. The 24th Annual Meeting of ICNAF was held in Halifax (Canada), 4-14 June 1974, under the Chairmanship of Mr E. Gillett. Sixteen of the seventeen member states were represented, and there were observers from the following international organisations: EEC, FAO, ICCAT, ICSEAF, ICES, IOC and INPHC. The German Democratic Republic is now a member of ICNAF and an observer from Cuba indicated that she also intends to join the Commission.
4. The main purpose of the Meeting was to establish national quotas for 1975 for the major fish stocks in the ICNAF area, and this was achieved. Agreement was reached about Total Allowable Catches (TAC's) for 1975 on 55 stocks, all except four were within the limits proposed by the scientific advisers, and national quotas were agreed in all cases.

It was agreed to postpone a decision on TAC and quotas for capelin until an extraordinary Meeting early in 1975. Quotas were also agreed for harp and hood seals.

5. Agreement was also reached on some important amendments to existing regulations and to the Joint Enforcement Scheme.

The Commission amended the regulations concerning allowable by-catches of cod, haddock and flounder in fisheries for pelagic species. There will in the future be a limit on the by-catch to be kept on board at any time, instead of on the annual average. A similar regulation was agreed concerning undersized herring.

6. The possibility for managing fisheries by limitation of effort was again discussed, and it was agreed that technical studies should be continued.
7. Some amendments to the Convention were agreed, including one which extends the Convention Area to the south by including the so-called Statistical Area 6.

A new Statistical Area 0 (zero) was established in the Davis Strait south of the Greenland-Canada Ridge.

8. The Commission decided to establish four new posts in its Secretariat in order to meet the increased need for supply of rapid, detailed and accurate statistics. The increased annual costs were estimated to Can.\$70.000, including the cost of computerization of data.
9. The Meeting was preceded by a Symposium on "Environmental Conditions in the Newfoundland Grand Bank Area in 1972 and their Effect on Fishery Trends", held on 20 May with Mr H.W. Hill as Convener. The papers presented will be published in the ICNAF Special Publication Series.
10. It was decided to establish an Environmental Working Group to prepare a comprehensive plan for coordinated environmental research in the ICNAF area, with the following terms of reference: "to suggest a proposal aimed at determining the factors involved in the production of good and poor year classes in some of the main fisheries of the ICNAF area". Mr E.J. Sandeman is Chairman of the Group, which will meet in Charlottenlund, 23-25 September 1974.
11. The next Annual Meeting of ICNAF will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, beginning on 10 June 1975. STACRES will meet for two weeks, beginning on 8 April 1975, and then for one week before the Annual Meeting.
12. Extracts of the 1974 Report of STACRES on Statistics and Sampling, and on the Data Base Working Group, are presented in C.M.1974/D:10.

REPORT ON THE 4th SESSION OF THE IOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Ottawa, Canada, 17 - 22 June 1974.

by

The General Secretary

1. The 4th Session of the IOC Executive Council was held in the Lester B. Pearson Building in Ottawa, 17 - 22 June 1974, under the chairmanship of Dr G.F. Humphrey, President of IOC. 18 member countries were represented by delegations, and there were observers from 11 international organisations. The General Secretary represented the Council.
2. The General Assembly of IOC had requested that greater emphasis than before should be placed on the scientific content of the Commission's meetings. The Chairman had therefore arranged that a series of IDOE projects were presented in 11 scientific lectures during the session; they included a lecture on the "Overflow Expedition" 1973.
3. The concept of IDOE and the degree to which the Commission should become involved with the various components of it, led to a lively discussion. Some participants considered that the Commission should evaluate and endorse them, but there was no consensus about this. The discussion indicated that members were still not clear on the advantages and responsibilities in joining IDOE.

The ICES observer referred to the "Overflow Expedition" and the "ICES Baseline Study of the Pollution of the North Sea", which had been listed as IDOE projects at the request of some participating countries. He had no objection to this, but asked for confirmation that this did not mean that these projects had been submitted to IOC for evaluation or endorsement, if that implied more than moral support, nor that IOC would assume responsibility for these projects or for their coordination. The Secretary of IOC confirmed that this was so, but considered that the Commission should look at such projects with a view to seeing whether any assistance could be given in ocean services or in training and education.

A comprehensive outline of IDOE, including descriptions of all submitted projects, will be published as No.13 in the IOC Technological Series.

4. There was considerable discussion about the possible reorganisation of the ICG for GIPME into a Working Committee of the Commission, open to all members. No decision was made, but it was agreed to reconsider the matter after the next session (July 1974) of the ICG.

One delegation, supported by others, stressed the need for a regional approach to baseline studies, and felt that less emphasis should be placed on ambitious, all-embracing plans.

5. The summary report on the 3rd Session of the Coordinating Group for the Planning and Execution of CINECA was presented by the ICES observer and approved. Those who took part in the discussion expressed satisfaction with the progress made, and the Council endorsed the plan for a general CINECA Symposium in the early part of 1977. It invited the Director General of UNESCO to assist in financing the

Symposium, and requested ICES to prepare an inventory of all data available from the CINECA area at a convenient interval before the 4th Session of the Group.

6. It was decided to review the structure of the different cooperative investigations sponsored by IOC, with a view to reorganisation of them, mainly based on experience from CICAR, at the Executive Council's next session.

7. There was a report on the first part of the Conference of Plenipotentiary Delegations on the North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations (Geneva, 18 February - 1 March 1974). The Council recalled that IOC, WMO and ICES all had stressed the value of the oceanographic information provided by the Ocean Weather Stations, and urged member countries that would be represented at the continued Conference (November 1974) to ensure at least the continuation of the unique and irreplaceable observation series.

8. The Secretary of IOC said that a collaboration agreement with ICES was foreseen, and the Council's observer explained the existing agreements with ICNAF, FAO and WMO.

9. The 5th Session of the IOC Executive Council will probably be held in Trieste (Italy) early in 1975.

REPORT ON THE 26th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING  
COMMISSION, HELD IN LONDON 24th TO 29th JUNE, 1974

by

Åge Jonsgård

The 26th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission was opened by its Chairman, Mr I. Rindal, Norway, at Riverwalk House, London on the 24th June 1974.

The following member countries were represented: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, South Africa, United Kingdom, U.S.A., and U.S.S.R. One of the member countries (Brazil) has joined the Commission since the last meeting.

Observers from FAO, non-member nations, scientific bodies, and several international conservation organizations were present.

Proposed Moratorium on Commercial Whaling

At the request of the Commission, the Scientific Committee reviewed its unanimous statement of last year that at the present time there are no biological requirements for the imposition of a blanket moratorium on all commercial whaling (the majority also considered that there is no biological justification for such a moratorium), and agreed that this statement is still appropriate. The Committee also drew attention to the possible competition between species, whereby rebuilding of severely depleted stocks may not necessarily be maximized by a moratorium.

The U.S.A. delegation again proposed the 10-year moratorium, but the proposal was not put to the vote because an Australian amendment proposal was carried. According to this proposal, commercial whaling will be permitted on initial management stocks, which may be reduced in a controlled manner to achieve MSY levels and then optimum levels as these are determined, and on sustained management stocks, which should be maintained at or near MSY levels and then optimum levels as these are determined. No commercial whaling will be permitted on protection stocks, which are below the level of sustained management stocks. The Scientific Committee should be requested to provide advice on the criteria which should be used in defining the three categories of whale stocks, and to provide the Commission with annually up-dated advice on these criteria and on the allocation of stocks to the categories. The Scientific Committee will try and solve these problems at a special meeting to be arranged in the late autumn of 1974.

Catch Limits for the Next Whaling Season

Catch quotas for the 1974-75 Antarctic season and the 1975 season elsewhere were set as follows (last year's figures in brackets):

a) The Southern Hemisphere

Fin whales	1 000 (1 450)
Sei and Bryde's whales	4 000 (4 500)
Minke whales	7 000 (5 000*)
Sperm whales	8 000 males, 5 000 females (No change)

\* The actual catch was 7 700.

b) The North Pacific

Fin whales	300 (550)
Sei and Bryde's whales	2 000 (3 000)
Sperm whales	6 000 males, 4 000 females (No change).

In the Southern Hemisphere all quotas were sub-divided into three regions (120°W - 0°W; 0° - 130°E; 130°E - 130°W). It was also understood that any possible further sub-division of quotas next whaling season should be based upon advice of the Scientific Committee.

Strengthening the Secretariat of the Commission

At the last meeting of the Commission, plans to strengthen the secretariat were postponed until 1974. The budget for an expanded secretariat which will amount to \$6,500 per year (£28,200 in 1974-75) was approved. A scientist to be in charge of the secretariat will be appointed by a special committee.

International Observer Scheme

The Infractions Sub-Committee reported that the Observer Scheme was operating satisfactorily, and that the number of infractions continued to decrease. Australia, South Africa, and Brazil (the new member nation) will exchange observers.

Next Meeting of the Commission

The 27th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission will be held in London in the week beginning 23 June 1975.

REPORT ON MEETINGS OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

FISHERIES COMMISSION, DECEMBER 1973

by

David de G. Griffith

1. Special Meeting, December 1973

- 1.1 A Special Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission was held in London on 11-14 December 1973. The President, Mr. G. Møcklinghoff, was in the chair. Delegations from all member states except Spain attended, and observers represented Japan, USA, FAO and EEC. The Council was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the Statistician.
- 1.2 The Commission considered the Report of the Working Group set up by the Eleventh Meeting (1973) to present information on measures for regulating herring catches in the North Sea and Celtic Sea. (This Working Group met in London on 23-25 October; the Council was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the Statistician.) There was general acceptance of the Working Group's conclusion that the most realistic way to achieve the necessary conservation of the stocks would be to establish a total allowable catch, but although various proposals were put forward on the allocation of national quotas no agreement was reached. The Commission agreed to meet again in London in the first half of March 1974 to consider this question further, on the assumption that the two outstanding ratifications needed to activate Article 7(2) of the Convention would have been received by then.
- 1.3 The Commission made a recommendation to regulate the level of fishing for herring in the Celtic Sea area during the period from 1 April 1974 to 31 March 1975. Under this recommendation, catches during the period in question would be limited to 5 000 tons for France, 18 000 tons for Ireland, 7 000 tons for the Netherlands; other Contracting States would share a further 2 000 tons.
- 1.4 The Commission decided to set up a Working Group to present, on the basis of assessments provided by the Liaison Committee, recommendations to the 12th Meeting of the Commission for the measures to regulate catches of sole and plaice in the North Sea, Irish Sea, Bristol Channel and English Channel, and for any further conservation measures that may be required in those areas. It was arranged that the Working Group should meet on 24-25 June 1974 in Bonn.
- 1.5 Mr. D.H. Griffiths, of the U.K. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was appointed as Secretary of the Commission.

2. Special Meeting, March 1974

- 2.1 As mentioned at paragraph 1.2 above, the Commission held another Special Meeting in London on 11-13 March 1974. The Council was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee.
- 2.2 Following the receipt of the outstanding ratifications needed to activate Article 7(2) of the Convention, the Commission agreed on a Total Allowable Catch of herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak for the period 1 July 1974 - 30 June 1975 of 488 000 tons. Not more than 107 000 tons of this quantity is to consist of juvenile herring, and the following total catches of adult and juvenile herring by each Contracting State were agreed upon:

	( <sup>0</sup> 000 tons)
Belgium	2
Denmark (including Faroes)	210
France	18
Germany, Federal Republic of	10
Iceland	30
Netherlands	27
Norway	100
Poland	10
Sweden	43
United Kingdom	18
USSR	20

Because of the benefits to the stock arising from the closed season currently in force, Contracting States are also enabled to increase by 5% and 23% respectively the proportion of adult and juvenile herring taken before 1 February 1975.

### 12th Meeting of the Commission, June-July 1974

- 3.1 The 12th Meeting of the Commission took place in Bonn on 26 June-2 July 1974, with the President, Mr. G. Möcklinghoff, in the chair. Delegations attended from all the original member countries, as well as from the German Democratic Republic which had just acceded to the Convention. Observers were present from the USA, FAO, OECD, ICNAF and EEC. The Council was represented by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the Statistician.
- 3.2 Two Contracting States had lodged objections to the recommendation to regulate the North Sea and Skagerak catches of herring from 1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975. These objections were withdrawn, however, following the approval of a resolution that (a) intensive efforts would be made to reach agreement on a Total Allowable Catch for 1975-1976 which would allow a faster recovery of the stock than that proposed for 1974-75, and (b) that the national allocations for 1975-76 and future years should take more account of historical factors. The regulation (see paragraph 2.2 above) thus came into effect immediately.
- 3.3 The Commission also agreed to allocate to the German Democratic Republic a quota of 6 000 tons of herring in the North Sea and Skagerak for the period 1 July 1974-30 June 1975, and to transfer to the Total Allowable Catch specified in the Recommendation adopted by the Commission after its Special Meeting in March (see paragraph 2.2 above) the equivalent amount, which had been set aside for that State in the Recommendation.
- 3.4 With reference to the tripartite agreement between Norway, the United Kingdom and the USSR on catches of cod in the North-East Arctic, the continuation of which depends on the catches by non-signatory states remaining below a certain level, the Commission approved a resolution appealing to those member countries not signatories to the agreement to cease fishing for cod in the North-East Arctic after 31 July 1976. The resolution also called on member countries of NEAFC to provide statistics of their total cod catch in that area during the period 1 January - 30 June 1974, and thereafter to provide statistics for each month by the middle of the following month.
- 3.5 The Commission approved a recommendation increasing by 10 mm the minimum sizes of trawl and seine nets permitted in Region 1, with effect from 1 January 1976.
- 3.6 A recommendation was approved which confines the use of topside chafers to the Polish type, and which also specifies that bottom chafers must be fastened only along the forward and lateral edges of the cod-end. The recommendation comes into effect on 1 January 1976.
- 3.7 Recommendation (5), which permits 10% by weight of each landing of "industrial" fish to consist of undersized individuals of the species normally protected



by minimum size limits, was extended for a further year until 1 January 1976. A second paragraph, to have effect for one year as from 1 January 1975, was added to the Recommendation; this restricts to 25% the overall proportion (by weight) of protected species (both undersized and legal-sized) in any landing of "industrial" fish.

- 3.8 The Commission also decided to transfer sardine belonging to the stocks west of Portugal from Recommendation (2) to Recommendation (4), and to specify a minimum size limit of 12 cm for sardine from those stocks.
- 3.9 Recommendation (9), which prohibits fishing for Atlantic-Scandinavian herring in ICES fishing areas I, II and Vb (subject to certain exemptions) was extended for a further year to 31 December 1975. With effect from 1 January 1975 it was agreed to reduce the quantity permitted to be caught for human consumption or bait from 20% to 10% of a Contracting State's catch of small and fat herring in these areas in 1969.
- 3.10 The Report of the Working Group on Sole and Plaice Stocks in the North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel and Irish Sea, which had met in Bonn during the two days immediately prior to the Commission meeting and which was attended by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee and the Statistician, was considered by the Commission. Considerable discussion took place on catch limitation methods, including closed areas. It was agreed that catch limitation schemes should be introduced for the calendar year 1975, and that a postal vote should take place on specific proposals regarding the allocation of catches and restrictions on fishing for sole and plaice by larger vessels in the coastal waters off Belgium, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and the west coast of Denmark.
- 3.11 Considerable discussion also took place on the herring stocks in ICES Division VIa. Proposals for catch quotas were put forward, as were proposals for the seasonal closure of specified herring spawning grounds and the establishment of a minimum size of 20 cm for herring. It was agreed that a postal vote would be held on specific proposals to be circulated by the President.
- 3.12 The Report of the Enforcement Committee was adopted, and (subject to the reservations of two countries being resolved before the end of September) it was agreed that the revised Scheme of Joint Enforcement presented by the Committee should be introduced on 1 January 1975.
- 3.13 The following resolution on the transmission of catch statistics was approved:
- "1 Contracting States, in pursuance of Article 12(1) of the Convention, should submit to the Secretariat within 30 days of the end of each month from January 1975 onwards:-
- (a) estimated quantities of retained catches and discards during that month of species regulated by quota recommendations, or by quota agreements which have been reported to the Commission
  - (b) revised estimates, if available, for such species for preceding months of the calendar year.
- The Secretariat shall within 10 days transmit to all member countries, and to ICES, the information that has been submitted.
- 2 ICES should be requested to supply before each meeting of the Commission not only the nominal catch data for the previous calendar year submitted by Member States under Recommendation (12), but also catch data in similar form for the previous 10 years as far as possible. Where a species is related to a quota year other than a calendar year, ICES shall be requested to supply this information in terms of quota years if possible."
- 3.14 As in previous years, the Council was asked to provide the Commission with specific advice on a number of topics. These will be considered by the Liaison Committee in the first instance.

- 3.15 The Commission approved a contribution of £6 525 to the Council for 1974/75, and agreed to include a provision of £7 000 for this item in the budget for 1975/76 subject to approval by Contracting States.
- 3.16 The Commission agreed to hold a Special Meeting in Hamburg on 4-8 November 1974, at which further discussions would take place on the north-east Arctic cod and haddock, the North Sea cod, haddock, saithe and whiting, and the Celtic Sea herring.
- 3.17 The Commission received an invitation from the government of the USSR for a special meeting of administrators and inspectors to be held in the USSR early in 1975 to consider, in conjunction with member states of ICNAF, the practical problems of international control.
- 3.18 The difficulties involved in providing the Report of the Liaison Committee to NEAFC delegations 30 days in advance of the Commission's annual meeting were discussed with regard to the date of the 13th Meeting of the Commission. The latter was then provisionally fixed as 21-27 May 1974, in London, with a final decision being made at the Special Meeting in November.

