

REPORT OF THE PLANKTON COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr D H Cushing



The Committee met on Tuesday 1 October and on Wednesday 2 October. A Joint Meeting was held with the Hydrography Committee on Friday 4 October.

The Administrative Report was adopted, as was the Introduction to Plankton Contributions for the Annales Biologiques. The Editor of the Plankton Identification Sheets submitted a written report of progress during 1973-4; the Chairman will write to Dr Fraser thanking him for the work that he has done during the year. The Doc. C.M.1974/C:42 on Cooperation with the International Standardization Organization (Technical Committee on Water Quality) was discussed with reference to radio-carbon measurements; it was considered that such measurements were outside the remit of ISO. The question of a 'Special Topic' was discussed; to some degree Plankton is a special topic in itself and there was no positive desire to establish one each year. However, the same object has perhaps been obtained by asking particular people to submit papers, particularly on the subject of 'Production mechanisms'.

Papers presented were grouped in three parts, those on productive mechanisms, those on regional distributions and those on patchiness. In the first group, two papers were presented on Controlled Aquatic Ecosystems (or work on plastic bags) and they stimulated the resolution given below. Two papers on models were given, Feeding behaviour and strategy were discussed in further papers, as was the role of organic detritus. A paper was also given on the calibration of radio-carbon measurements. The second group of papers was concerned with regional distribution, particularly off Northwest Africa and in the Baltic; results of primary production measurements, zooplankton hauls (particularly, Branchiostoma, Penilia and chaetognaths) were discussed. Two papers on neuston (in Kiel Bay and off California) were presented. A very interesting discussion emerged on the problem of plankton variability during the Joint Meeting with the Hydrography Committee.

At this Joint Meeting, two other matters were raised. The first concerned the proposed Fladen Ground Experiment (FLEX 76) in 1976. It was decided that Professor Gillbricht should represent the Plankton Committee on the JONSIS Working Group. The second problem was that of eutrophication in the sea and for this purpose members of the Fisheries Improvement Committee were invited to attend the Joint Meeting informally. The papers discussed showed that the nutrient content of the Southern North Sea and of the Baltic Sea had increased in recent years. It was proposed that members of the Plankton Committee should join the proposed new Working Group on Monitoring, with the object of assisting the planning of eutrophication studies.

The Plankton Committee recommended, that:

Rec. I (1) noting that experiments Controlled Aquatic Ecosystems have been conducted for more than ten years, and that such experiments have involved a variety of techniques including the study of marine impoundments, water columns and plastic bags,

having regard to the continued interest in these techniques as demonstrated by current research in a number of countries including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, the UK, USA, and the USSR, *Federal Republic of*

the ICES should sponsor a Symposium on Controlled Aquatic Ecosystems, to be held in 1976, in possible association with other sponsor, including IOC, at the time of the Joint Oceanographic Assembly to be held in Edinburgh

*if possible as part of*