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REPORT OF THE PLANKTON COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr D. Cushing

The Committee met on the afternoon of 30 September and on the morning of 1 October in Montreal. The Administrative Report was accepted with one addition: in paragraph 5.3, line 7, insert after "research": "Dr W. Richards, NMFS, Miami, served as Chairman of the Workshop". Twenty-one papers were read on a variety of subjects including the following: the biology of the zooplankton off Cap Blanc, primary production and zooplankton biomass in the Baltic, phytoplankton characteristics in the Baltic, arctic phytoplankton, the visual characteristics of some euphausiids, and the comparison of plankton nets, the variability of zooplankton metabolism at different light intensities, the criteria by which equations relating photosynthesis to light intensity be judged, the variability in space of the ratio of assimilation number to temperature, and on the appropriateness of systems models within the turbulent environment of the sea.

There was some discussion on Plankton Identification Sheets; Dr Fraser had written a note saying that few authors were responding to his request for completion. The Chairman proposed to write to Dr Fraser, asking his advice on who might be asked to take the work as authors of sheets.

Considerable discussion took place on the twin problems of red tides and eutrophication (as requested by the Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution). It was decided to establish a Working Group on Red Tides and Eutrophication, which would consider theoretical, observational and experimental aspects and report to the Plankton Committee in 1976; a recommendation on this subject was passed.

The Plankton Committee welcomed the stimulus of the Chairman of the Consultative Committee in proposing a theme for the next meeting. The following theme was proposed:-

Interrelationships of fish stocks and plankton

- a) Microdistribution of fish larvae and food plankton.
- b) Predation of plankton on fish larvae (including the importance of macro-zooplankton).
- c) Are overall estimates of zooplankton abundance meaningful measures of food supply to fish?
- d) Which kind of plankton studies are useful to a fisheries biologist?

Professor Hempel was elected Chairman of the Plankton Committee for the next period of three years.

Communications

The full list of communications will be given in the Procès-Verbal 1975.