

BALTIC FISH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Prof. J. Popiel
Rapporteur: Mr B. Sjöstrand



The Committee met on 27 and 28 September. During the meetings, 20 contributions were presented and discussed. The main subjects dealt with were: tagging experiments on cod and herring, eggs and larval surveys, food and digestion, and stock assessments.

Two Working Group reports were presented: the Working Group on Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the Baltic, and the Working Group on Pelagic Stocks in the Baltic. Recommendations as to the future meetings and tasks of these Working Groups were discussed (see Recommendations), together with requests from IBSFC to the Liaison Committee.

In order to deal with the request of the distribution of stocks, it was agreed that three persons should prepare drafts on different stocks to the next meeting of the Working Groups: cod and flounder by Dr O. Bagge, sprat by Mr O. Rechlin and herring by Prof. J. Popiel. To get the data in a standardized format, these persons will distribute maps to national laboratories. Mapped distributions and migration patterns for different stocks and life stages should be returned to the coordinators prior to 1 March 1978.

The presented papers revealed that increasing effort are put on studies of fish feeding and on hydroacoustic surveys.

As the present Chairman of the Working Group on Assessment of Pelagic Stocks will retire, the Committee appointed Dr E. Ojaveer as Chairman of this Working Group.

Dr O. Bagge was elected Chairman of the Committee for the next three years.

On behalf of the Committee, Prof. F. Thurow expressed sincere appreciation to the Chairman for the excellent way he has dealt with his tasks.

Communications

A full list of communications will appear in Procès-Verbal de la Réunion 1977.

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The Baltic Fish Committee recommends that:

II(1) i) the Working Group on Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the Baltic should meet in Lysekil 3-12 May 1978 to:

- a) provide advice on TAC's for cod for each stock/fishery unit;
- b) provide further advice on appropriate trawl mesh size for cod and the corresponding minimum landing size;
- c) provide information on the by-catch of juvenile cod in other fisheries and to assess its effects on the cod stocks;
- d) provide a description of life history, fishery and distribution of the demersal stocks in the Baltic in relation to future zones under national fisheries jurisdiction.

ii) the Working Group on Assessment of Pelagic Stocks in the Baltic should meet in Lysekil 3- 12 May 1978 to:

- a) re-assess the herring and sprat stocks;
- b) compile available data on the by-catch of herring in the sprat fisheries;
- c) assess the effects of by-catch of juvenile herring in the sprat fisheries on the herring stocks and consider means to minimize these effects;
- d) assess the amounts of juvenile herring in the directed herring fisheries with reference to the proposed minimum landing sizes for herring;
- e) provide a description of life history, fishery and distribution of the pelagic stocks in the Baltic in relation to future zones under national fisheries jurisdiction.

The Baltic Fish Committee recommends that:

iii) the Chairman of the Working Group on Surveys of Fish Eggs and Larvae in the Baltic should ask the members to send him results from the surveys to be presented during the meeting of the Assessment Working Group.

Members of the Survey Working Group should be present during the meeting of the Assessment Groups.