



JOINT SESSION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE AND
THE HYDROGRAPHY COMMITTEE ON MARINE CHEMISTRY

Wednesday, 8 October

Chairmen: Dr A D McIntyre
Dr L Otto
Rapporteur: Dr J Pawlak

The session was divided into two parts, the first dealing with Working Group reports and problems of intercalibration and the second part concerning scientific papers of interest to both Committees.

Working Group Reports

The following reports were presented and considered:

C.M.1980/C:1: Second Report of the Marine Chemistry Working Group,
C.M.1980/E:4: Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Marine
Pollution Baseline and Monitoring Studies in the North Atlantic, C.M.1980/E:5:
Report of the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the
Baltic, C.M.1980/E:6: Report of the First Joint Session between the Working
Group on Marine Pollution Baseline and Monitoring Studies in the North
Atlantic and the ICES/SCOR Working Group on the Study of Pollution of the
Baltic.

In the discussion of C.M.1980/C:1, the advantages were considered of a series of leaflet publications containing suggested methods of analyses and techniques of sampling and preparation for marine environmental samples. The series would deal with biota, sea water and sediments, and each leaflet would be drafted by a person with relevant expertise and reviewed by representatives of the Marine Chemistry Working Group, after which it would be edited by the Environment Officer prior to publication. The Committee recognised the potential value of such a series as long as there was good quality control of the content and rapid publication of the leaflet when prepared. A suitable recommendation was accepted (see Rec.). It was also agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group on Marine Chemistry should be arranged for mid-February 1981.

Intercalibration

The first ICES intercalibration exercise on petroleum hydrocarbons had been successfully completed, and after discussing a summary of the results (C.M.1980/E:16) the Committee noted that the full report would be available to the next meeting of ACMP and that recommendations for further actions would be taken up then. The report of the 4th ICES Organochlorine Intercalibration Exercise (C.M.1980/E:40) was discussed and material which had been added to the earlier draft was approved. A special exercise on analysis of PCB in fish oil was discussed (C.M.1980/E:8) and it was noted that since later results changed some of the findings in the preliminary report, the data would be re-examined and a new report written. A summary report of the 6th trace metal exercise for cadmium and lead in tissue (C.M.1980/E:44) was discussed and it was agreed that this should be recommended for publication in the Cooperative Research Report series subject to approval of the full report by ACMP.

The fifth round intercalibration of trace metals in sea water requires work at sea and several options ranging from a single-ship exercise to a multi-ship project including a training exercise were discussed (C.M.1980/E:19). It was agreed that the most realistic option was the second one described in the paper - a single-ship exercise with land-based laboratory facilities available during the cruise. Several possible ships and laboratories were discussed and it was agreed that these should be investigated with a view to preparing a suitable recommendation before the end of the Statutory Meeting.

A general discussion on intercalibration was introduced by document C.M.1980/E:45. This paper was intended to be provocative and therefore emphasized the problems and difficulties. It was agreed that it should be further discussed at the next meeting of the Marine Chemistry Working Group and that their conclusions should be communicated directly to ACMP.

Scientific Papers

Two papers were presented on variability in the Baltic. The first (C.M.1980/E:18) dealt with a range of chemical parameters while the second (C.M.1980/C:36) was concerned with long-term variability of phosphorus in the surface waters. Material for discussion on the diurnal oxygen rhythm in the southern North Sea was also presented (C.M.1980/C:17). In another paper (C.M.1980/E:47) the possible importance of the atmospheric input of contaminants to the sea was dealt with and the need for further work on this subject emphasized.

Finally three papers were read by title: C.M.1980/C:19, C:23 and C:24.

The Joint Session on Marine Chemistry recommends, that⁶:

- I (1) a new series of leaflet publications be established in ICES entitled "Techniques in Marine Chemistry". The series should comprise descriptions of suggested techniques of sampling, preservation or analyses of substances occurring in the marine environment (biota, sea water, sediments). Each leaflet should be prepared by one or more experts on the technique to be covered, reviewed by the Marine Chemistry Working Group or representatives thereof, ~~and edited by the ICES Environment Officer.~~ The first leaflets in the series should describe nutrient methods and their preparation should be coordinated by Dr. S. Fonselius.