

Activities of  
the ICES Service Hydrographique during 1979/80

by  
ICES Hydrographer

Monthly Charts of Temperature and Salinity

The two series of monthly charts — for the North Sea and for Skagerrak/Kattegat — were continued. The charts covering the months of 1977 were collected and re-issued as No. 48 of "ICES Oceanographic Data Lists and Inventories" (IODLI). For the period of the International Young Fish Survey in 1980 charts showing the distribution of bottom temperature and salinity, and their anomalies, were prepared (C.M.1980/H:58).

Reports on Oceanographic Cruises and Data Stations

The completed ROSCOP forms received have been copied to World Data Centres A and B, for cruises in the NAFO area also to the NAFO regional data centre.

Editing of the ROSCOP forms received was done currently. On the basis of the edited forms the "Report on Oceanographic Cruises and Data Stations in 1976" was prepared and issued as IODLI No. 50. In accordance with a Council decision in 1979 the Report was issued on microfiches, in order to cut down the expenses. The Report for 1977 is nearly ready for distribution by the same method, and work on those for 1978 and 1979 has been started.

Inventories of NAOS Observations

On the basis of reports received from the weather ship operating countries inventory volumes of oceanographic investigations at the North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations in 1977 and 1978 were edited and issued as IODLI Nos. 47 and 49.

Tables of Mean Values and Anomalies

Based upon data published in the Daily Weather Report monthly means in 1979 of the sea surface temperature at each of the North Atlantic Ocean Weather Stations were calculated together with their deviations from the 1961-1970 means. The results were submitted for publication in the Annales Biologiques.

"Monthly Means of Surface Temperature and Salinity for Areas of the North Sea and the North-Eastern North Atlantic" were prepared for the years 1955 and 1956, so that the series now covers the period 1955-1973 and makes up a sort of continuation of the tables in the Atlas "Mean monthly temperature and salinity etc." (the "blue Atlas").

Anomalies of sea surface temperature and salinity in two areas of the Celtic Sea were calculated for each month of the period 1959-1973 and the results submitted for publication in the Annales Biologiques. These series now cover the period 1903-1973.

Anomalies of sea surface temperature in three areas of the North Sea were calculated for each month of the period 1959-1973 and the results submitted for publication in the Annales Biologiques. These series now cover the period 1902-1973.

#### Data Processing and Data Exchange

Lists of data received for incorporation in the oceanographic data bank and for copying to the World Data Centres were screened. Observations that appeared questionable were discussed with the originator.

Punching and veri-punching of data continued. The punch cards were read on to magnetic tapes which were then copied to the two World Data Centres and, for data from the NAFO area, also to the NAFO regional data centre.

From oceanographic data centres and other institutions in member countries copies of data were received, either currently or by request when needed for preparation of monthly charts or other environmental data products. On the other hand the Service Hydrographique supplied a considerable amount of data to a number of scientists and scientific institutions.

The ICES Statutory Meeting in 1979 decided that the Service Hydrographique, in its capacity as regional data centre for CINECA, should assist in the preparation of the CINECA Atlas which has been planned in an ICES member country. Consequently, relevant data have been copied to the institution preparing the Atlas.

The oceanographic station data published in the series Bulletin Hydrographique 1902-1956 have been kept on punch cards arranged according to year and country. This unique data set is now being read on to magnetic tape as a separate file, to serve as a complement to the Geosorted File.

#### Contributions

In addition to the contributions to the Annales Biologiques mentioned above the Hydrographer submitted a contribution on "Anomalies of bottom temperature and salinity in the North Sea during the ICES Young Fish Survey 1979".

He also prepared an Introduction to the Hydrography section of the Annales Biologiques for 1979 (C.M.1980/C:26) which summarizes the hydrographic conditions in the ICES region in 1979 on the basis of the contributions to the volume.

#### Meetings

The Hydrographer attended the ICES/JONSSIS Workshop on JONSDAP '76, Liège, 29-30 April and 2 May, 1980 and was observer at the JONSMOD Workshop and Meeting, and the JONSSIS Meeting, Liège, 1 May 1980.

#### Secretarial Work

Lists of semi-permanent moored oceanographic stations in the ICES region have been distributed regularly to the appropriate national offices and to the members of the Hydrography Committee and of the Working Group on Marine Data Management.

The catalogue of regularly issued marine environmental data products for the ICES area was updated (C.M.1980/Gen.7) as was also the catalogue of computer programmes in physical and chemical oceanography currently used by oceanographic institutes and data centres in the ICES community (C.M.1980/C:41).

The contributions received to the BOSEX Atlas (BOSEXIANA) have been edited and distributed.

The Hydrographer served as secretary to the Hydrography Committee and to the Working Group on Marine Data Management.