



REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL EEL EXPEDITION PLANNING GROUP

1. The Planning Group was set up in 1977 to consider proposals for an International Expedition to the Sargasso Sea with the general objective of resolving some of the problems relating to the spawning, growth, drift recruitment and return migration of both American and European eels of the genus *Anguilla*.
2. In the Planning Group's first report to the Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee (C.M.1978/M:27) it was recognised that favourable international support for a sea-going exercise would depend, in part, on the results of the reconnaissance cruises made by German vessels, the further analysis of Schmidt's original material and the study of other collections, particularly American. It was envisaged that a report including the results of these studies and other information could form the basis for a proposal to be forwarded by ICES to SCOR to secure international support.
3. The Planning Group met on 8 October 1980 to consider the progress made. The following attended: F W Tesch (Chairman), I Boëtius, J Boëtius, J McCleave, M Schoth, E F Harding, and F R Harden Jones (Rapporteur).
4. A list of the papers or reports published or in press which have resulted directly, or indirectly, from the activities of the Planning Group is appended to this report: 2 of the papers (C.M.1980/M:7 and C.M.1980/M:21) are before the Committee.
5. The Planning Group believe that more information is required before a proposal could be made to secure international support. Furthermore in the present economic situation it is not thought to be realistic to expect to be able to send an international expedition, involving many ships, to the Sargasso Sea. On the contrary, such work is now seen as a series of national cruises designed to meet internationally agreed objectives.
6. While the main purpose for which the Planning Group was formed is thus no longer regarded as a practical objective, it is suggested that the Group continues to meet during the next two years. If the formal meetings are held during the Council Meetings there will be no national expense. The future of the Group should be reviewed in 1982 when much of the work which has been set in motion should have been completed.

F-W Tesch, Chairman

F R Harden Jones, Rapporteur

- Camparini, A. Distributione dei genotipi della malico deidrogenasi (MDH) en un campione di leptocephali di Anguilla del Mar dei Sargasso. Atti Ass.genet.Ital.. 25:(in press).
- Camparini, A. Variabilita enzimatica nelle anguilli. Primi dat i su leptocephali di Anguilla anguilla (L.) e Anguilla rostrata (Lesueur). Atti del XLVII Convegno UZI Boll.Zool. (in press).
- Camparini, A and Rodino, E. Electrophoretic evidence for the existence of two species of Anguilla leptocephali in the Sargasso Sea. Nature, Lond. (in press).
- Jamieson, A and Turner, R J. 1980. Muscle protein differences in two eels Anguilla anguilla (L.) and Anguilla rostrata (Lesueur) Biol. J.Linn.Soc., 13:41-5.
- Kleckner, R C and McCleave, J D. 1980. Spatial and temporal distribution of Anguilla rostrata and Anguilla anguilla leptocephali found in North American ichthyoplankton collections. ICES, C.M.1980/M:21, 17 pp. (mimeogr.).
- Kracht, R and Tesch, F-W. Progress report on the Sargasso Sea eel expedition of RV 'Anton Dohrn' and RK 'Friedrich Heincke' in 1979. (in prep.)
- McCleave, J D and Harden Jones, F R. 1979. Eels: new interest in an old problem. Nature, Lond., 278:782-3.
- Tesch, F-W. 1980. Report on the available data of the Atlantic Anguilla larvae, presented to the ICES Planning Group for the Atlantic Eel Expedition. C.M.1980/M:7, 10 pp. (mimeogr.)
- Tesch, F-W, Kracht, R, Schoth, M, Smith, D G and Wegner, G. 1979. Report on the eel expedition of FRV 'Anton Dohrn' and RK 'Friedrich Heincke' to the Sargasso Sea 1979. ICES, C.M.1979/M:6, 29 pp. (mimeo.)
- Wegner, G. 1979. First hydrographic results from the Sargasso Sea expedition with FRV 'Anton Dohrn' 19.3. to 9.5.1979. ICES, C.M.1979/C:5 (mimeo)

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