

International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea.

C.M. 1955.

Consultative Committee.

Re-arrangement of Administrative Report.

Prior to the Bureau Meeting in May this year I received letters from some of the Chairmen of Committees about the forthcoming Administrative Report. The splitting up of the whole report between the Area Committees and the numerous subject Committees was felt somewhat worrying.

Following up this question I prepared a short survey, which I put before the Bureau Meeting, and proposed a certain simplification of the Administrative Report (see below). The Bureau instructed me to report on this matter to the Consultative Committee and ask for their advice.

There seems to be a choice between two ways to deal with this matter:

- a) To re-arrange the report as a whole, or b) to simplify the preparation of it.

Considering the first possibility, the most radical thing would be to include all reports from the subject Committees into the reports of the Area Committees, as I proposed for the consideration of the Bureau. The result would be four reports instead of twelve. This would, however, involve a cutting of certain important sections, especially in the case of hydrography and plankton. A better suggestion might therefore be to keep the reports of these two Committees going, and include all the remaining material in the four Area reports, which should also include all the "work at sea", also that for hydrography and plankton. The whole administrative report would then appear in 6 sections instead of 13.

It could, of course, also be considered to print a separate report for each of the 12 Committees. In that case I think it would help the chairmen very much if all rapporteurs submitted their contributions in good time to the Central Office, where the material would be compiled, split up, combined in sections and sent to the chairmen for editing.

Charlottenlund, October 1955.

Placed before the Bureau Meeting May 1955.

12 Committees are now sending in Administrative Reports to be printed in Rapports et Procès-Verbaux:

Distant Northern Seas Committee	Sardine Committee
Near " " "	Scobriform Fish Committee
Baltic-Belt Seas "	Salmon and Trout "
Atlantic "	Shellfish "
Gadoid Fish "	Hydrographical "
Herring "	2] Plankton "

The first mentioned four Area Committees have to refer to the reports of the other Committees in order to give a complete survey of the work carried out in the Area concerned. This seems to be somewhat confusing and the whole arrangement involves a considerable number of repetitions. The question is therefore, if the whole thing could not be made more simple by deleting entirely all the reports of the subject Committees and include them in the reports of the Area Committees.

This would perhaps involve a little more work for the Chairmen of the Area Committees and for the Central Office, but is not expected to involve extra cost. It is evident that the whole effort of the different countries would appear clearer, and some space would be saved, and all the information which is now divided between 12 reports would be found in four. This would not affect the Annales Biologiques.