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Hydrography Committee

Report of the Working Group on Co-ordination of
Hydrographic Investigations in the North Sea

by

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There has been no formal meeting of this Working Group since the ICES Statutory Meeting in 1974, largely because most of the co-ordinated effort and planning of hydrographic studies in the North Sea has been associated with the JONSDAP 76 experiment which is currently being planned by a joint ICES/JONSDAP working group with a somewhat similar membership. However a number of run-up experiments to JONSDAP 76 planned at the last meeting of the Working Group on Co-ordination of Hydrographic Investigations, notably concerned with spatial variability of residual currents, have been carried out during the year, and these will help in the planning of the station positions for JONSDAP 76. A theoretical study of flushing times in the North Sea has also been made, and will be discussed during the 1975 Statutory meeting.

One of the main recommendations of interest to Hydrography Committee from the Aarhus Symposium on long term changes in fish stocks in the North Sea was that an intensive short term study be made of a plaice larvae patch in the Southern Bight in Spring 1977 or 1978 to be associated with an international hydrographic survey of residual currents, sea temperature and wind measurements. The biological input, probably from Plankton Committee would aim at investigating the productivity of the area occupied by the patch and might also be associated with a eutrophication study. It was recommended that solar radiation should also be measured.

The working group will consider this proposal and make a recommendation to Hydrography Committee during the Statutory Meeting.

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