



REPORT ON IOC/GIPME-III: PARIS, 28 MAY - 4 JUNE 1975

The Meeting was held to consider further the draft outline comprehensive plan for a Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment as proposed at GIPME II in New York last year, and in particular to draft an implementation plan; to consider the work of an inter-sessional ad hoc task team in relation to the IGOSS Marine Pollution Monitoring (Petroleum) Pilot Project; to review the work of an IOC/ICES task team on baseline formats; to review the terms of reference for the proposed Working Committee status for the International Coordination Group; and to hear a report on the status of a "Health of the Oceans" report being prepared by Dr Edward Goldberg on behalf of the IOC and as called for at ICG for GIPME I. Training requirements were also discussed, and in the event a considerable amount of time was devoted to a discussion of the relative roles of the ICG for GIPME and IGOSS in the context of marine pollution monitoring.

The first draft of the IOC/ICES baseline format was well received and, though still subject to comment and some agreed detailed alterations, will form an important part of the implementation plan. This latter was also drafted and agreed at the Meeting and, taken together with the original outline comprehensive plan, is now recommended as the full comprehensive plan. If accepted by IOC it will be printed, together with the baseline format as an annex, and widely distributed. It is hoped that it will be the major working document at the marine pollution regional workshops called for in the plan as the opening phase of GIPME.

The discussion on IGOSS/GIPME in the context of marine pollution monitoring was long and contentious but was eventually resolved along the lines of the enclosed resolution. This makes it clear that the scientific basis for monitoring must come from GIPME, together with advice on requisite methodology, and that GIPME will be responsible for determining priorities and for advising on the type of framework within which the monitoring will be conducted, i.e. IGOSS, regional organization, national authority etc. The proposed inter-sessional ad hoc GIPME task team on monitoring will consider monitoring needs and mechanisms and report back to the parent group at its next Meeting.

The Health of the Oceans report was not officially open for discussion but nevertheless came in for some critical commentary by those delegates who had had a chance to read it. It was generally felt to be somewhat 'racy' in style and unnecessarily sensational in places. The ICG expressed the view that if published by IOC it should have an official disclaimer at the front making it clear that the views expressed were those of the author and not of IOC.

Training needs were also discussed but it is clear that no satisfactory approach to the problem can be developed until developing countries are able to assess their training needs. This assessment should emerge from the various regional workshops and in the light of the programmes they propose undertaking.

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Resolution GIPME-III/2
Relationship between GIPME and IGOSS

The International Co-ordination Group for GIPME,

Recognizing that a principal objective of the Comprehensive Plan is the provision of a sound scientific basis for marine pollution monitoring, in accordance with the definition of monitoring established in the Proposed Outline for a Comprehensive Plan for GIPME (IOC/GIPME-II/3, Annex II, p.31);

Recognizing also that such a sound basis will only emerge gradually from the execution of baseline surveys and the prosecution of the necessary research programmes as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan;

Noting that a pilot project on marine pollution (petroleum) monitoring is in progress under the auspices of IGOSS to examine some problems likely to be met in the development and co-ordination of monitoring operations for pollutants requiring attention on a global basis;

Recognizing that the development of effective communications is essential between the ICG for GIPME and the Working Committee for IGOSS,

Recognizing that monitoring operations for some marine pollutants are most appropriately conducted under national and/or regional frameworks, and that some such monitoring operations are currently under way,

Noting also that the Governing Council of the UNEP has decided that its ocean programme should provide for assistance in any necessary expansion of the IGOSS system to other pollutants,

Noting further the Resolution IOC-VIII-20 of the Eighth IOC Assembly relative to the provision of scientific advice by the ICG for GIPME to IGOSS on the development and implementation of marine pollution monitoring programmes,

A. Considers that careful attention must be given by GIPME to emerging monitoring needs in order to ensure that they are soundly conceived, planned, executed and co-ordinated from both a scientific and an organizational point of view, and

Establishes an ad hoc Task Team on Marine Pollution Monitoring which shall:

1. Assess the needs for marine pollution monitoring programmes, taking into account existing and planned activities, and advise on an appropriate framework on the international, regional or national level for their future conduct,
2. review the IGOSS Marine Pollution Pilot Project, both on an interim basis after its first year of operation and more fully again after its completion,
3. evaluate the adequacy and availability of sampling and analytical techniques,
4. make recommendations as appropriate to the ICG (or its successor) for GIPME regarding all of the above tasks, for consideration by the ICG and the IOC Executive Council and Assembly, for transmission to other interested U.N. agencies.

B. Decides to consult with the Working Committee for IGOSS in the planning of the proposed second Workshop on Marine Pollution Monitoring Pilot Project expected to be held in mid-1976.

Requests the Chairman of the ICG, with the assistance of the Secretariat and of the GIPME Task Team on Marine Pollution Monitoring, to make the necessary arrangements with the Working Committee for IGOSS for such consultation in the planning of the Workshop, including consideration of the desirability of holding joint sessions of the GIPME ad hoc Task Team on Marine Pollution Monitoring and appropriate IGOSS Task Teams.

DRAFT

IOC/GIPME-III/3

An Implementation Plan for GIPME

As stated in the Comprehensive Plan developed at the second session of the International Co-ordination Group for the Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (ICG/GIPME), the purpose of GIPME is to provide an international framework within which national and regional programmes on various aspects of marine pollution may be co-ordinated in order to contribute to a continuing evaluation of global marine pollution problems. This goal will be achieved through strategies outlined in the Comprehensive Plan (IOC/GIPME-II/3), the first steps of which are to conduct baseline surveys to acquire data on pollutant inputs, distributions and pathways, and to promote research on transfer processes (including atmospheric transfers) between major reservoirs and the effects of pollutants on marine ecosystems.

The ICG for GIPME recommends the following steps for the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan:

Regional Marine Pollution Workshops

The first step in implementing the GIPME Comprehensive Plan is the conduct of Regional Marine Pollution Workshops. The purpose of those workshops should be to design and co-ordinate the implementation of regional baseline studies and the necessary research programmes using the GIPME Comprehensive Plan (IOC/GIPME-II/3) and the Baseline Study Guidelines (IOC/GIPME-III/10 and its subsequent revision).

The ICG for GIPME has noted that one Regional Marine Pollution Workshop on the Mediterranean has been organized by the IOC in co-operation with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (of FAO) and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean, and that two more are being planned, one in East Asian Seas, by the IOC with the co-operation of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council (of FAO), and one in the Caribbean Region with the co-operation of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (of FAO).

Consideration needs to be given to other areas where Regional Marine Pollution Workshops would be appropriate. In this context among criteria which might be employed in selection are:

1. Known or anticipated degree of pollution.
2. Areas which have already been identified for special attention within a regional or international pollution control framework.
3. Adequate geographical coverage on a global basis and in particular as envisaged in the Comprehensive Plan, the inclusion of several relatively unpolluted (clean) background sampling areas.

The ICG accordingly recommends that the IOC in conjunction with the other appropriate bodies gives immediate consideration to the preparation of a timetable for conducting Regional Marine Pollution Workshops up to 1980 with the aim of providing a first baseline coverage of the global marine pollution situation by 1983 at the end of the first phase of GIPME, as reflected in the Comprehensive Plan. It is anticipated that areas that might at that time have been covered would include:

1. North Atlantic
2. Baltic
3. Mediterranean Region, including the Black Sea
4. East Asian Seas (CSK and IPFC areas)
5. Caribbean
6. Gulf areas of the northwest Indian Ocean region and the Red Sea
7. Selected Southern Ocean background stations
8. Various national baselines, e.g. USA, Pacific, Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Regional Marine Pollution Workshops should be organized and conducted by the IOC with the collaboration of appropriate regional organizations whenever possible. Care should be taken to avoid overlapping the boundaries of regional organizations (e.g. fishery commissions). In areas without appropriate regional bodies, the IOC should assume the responsibility for such workshops.

The ICG for GIPME understands that nationally organized workshops have been held or are being planned. The IOC should arrange for the publication of the reports of such regional workshops and for their distribution to regional organizations conducting Regional Workshops or other regional studies.

Marine Pollution Monitoring Programmes

The ICG (or its successor) for GIPME will contribute to the further development and implementation of marine pollution monitoring programmes within IGOSS, in accordance with Resolution IOC. VIII-20 of the eighth session of the IOC Assembly, and within other appropriate frameworks at the international, regional or national levels, by assessing the requirements and providing the scientific basis for such monitoring, and by providing advice on sampling and analytical techniques and methodology. In this regard the ICG for GIPME has established a Task Team on Marine Pollution Monitoring which will undertake these activities.

This Task Team will, in addition, engage in joint consultations with the appropriate IGOSS task teams, and consult with the Working Committee for IGOSS in the planning of the second Workshop on Marine Pollution Monitoring Pilot Project proposed for mid-1976.

Baseline Studies

Baseline studies are the essential first step to providing basic data on inputs, distributions and pathways of pollutants. Several regional baseline studies are already or are nearly under way, including for example those of the North Atlantic and the North Sea under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Baltic Sea under the auspices of ICES and the ICSU Scientific Committee on Ocean Research, the Mediterranean under the auspices of GFCM, WHO and IOC with the assistance of UNEP.

These baseline studies should, where appropriate, be conducted to take full account of the relevant international marine pollution conventions.

The ICG recommends that, in addition to the convening of Regional Marine Pollution Workshops, the following steps be taken related to the conduct of baseline studies:

1. The IOC should request from Member States and relevant Regional Bodies, a periodic statement of their knowledge, concerns, and its programs related to the study of pollutants in marine waters.
2. IOC should determine the possibility of regular provision by IOC Member States and international bodies of information on the production and use of major marine pollutants, identified by GIPME as having particular importance for the marine environment.

Research on Marine Pollutants

The Comprehensive Plan for GIPME calls for continuing research into physical, chemical and biological processes which govern the inputs, the pollutants behaviour, and the effects in the marine environment. The study of such processes will provide a knowledge of relationships between observed pollutant inputs and distributions, as determined by regional baseline surveys.

The function of the ICG for GIPME in this regard is to assess, promote and co-ordinate required research activities. Thus, the following actions are recommended:

1. The Comprehensive Plan has identified as a first priority, research into processes which contribute to a knowledge of pollutant inputs and distribution. The progress of such research should be followed closely and applied to mass balance determinations as data are received from baseline studies and GIPME Task Teams.
2. The IOC Secretariat should, within the next year, prepare and distribute to Member States a questionnaire to obtain a list of major research programs underway which are relevant to GIPME goals, and which may be designated as GIPME projects. Such a compilation will then be submitted to the ICG for GIPME for assessment and further setting of priorities.
3. The ICG (or its successor) for GIPME will review the results of marine pollution investigations, including baseline studies, research programs, and monitoring activities, every year with the purpose of assessing the progress achieved, identifying gaps in knowledge, and setting a new list of priorities for research.
4. The ICG (or its successor) for GIPME will recommend future research activities to the following:
 - a) regional marine pollution workshops,
 - b) international coordination groups for cooperative investigations,
 - c) appropriate U.N. Specialized Agencies,
 - d) appropriate inter-governmental organizations,
 - e) appropriate non-governmental organizations.
5. The IOC Secretariat should encourage WHO and FAO to begin to establish, on the basis of their joint programs on food contamination, a research program on exposure standards for humans involving pollutant transfers through the marine environment.
6. The ICG (or its successor) for GIPME requests that these groups keep the ICG (WC) informed of their progress.

Other Implementation Recommendations

In addition to the activities related specifically to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for GIPME, other recommendations include:

1. The ICG for GIPME should become a Working Committee, but the effect this may have on the input of non-IOC bodies is a matter of concern. Every effort must be made to continue the active participation of non-IOC bodies which are providing relevant information to GIPME through their ongoing activities.
2. The ICG (or its successor) for GIPME shall work in close contact with the IOC Working Committee for IODE and particularly its ad hoc Group on Marine Pollution Data in order to develop existing internationally co-ordinated systems (i.e. forms and formats) for exchange of marine pollution data, and to assist in the further development of existing inventories of marine pollution data in order to facilitate the implementation of various programmes and projects of the ICG for GIPME.