

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 28 September at 15.00 hrs. All members were present, except Dr H. Vilela, Professor J. Popiel and Dr F.R. Harden Jones. The First Vice-President, Professor G. Hempel, was in the chair, and the General Secretary was present.

Agenda Item 1 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

Agenda Item 2 Review of Publications

The Committee took note, with appreciation, of the report by the Editor of the Plankton Sheets, and noted that there seems to be good progress with these sheets. In this connection, the Committee also noted that 2,700 sheets were sold last year, which certainly shows that they are popular and that their high quality is recognised. In reviewing document C.M.1977/Pub:2, reporting on the sales of publications, the Committee noted with satisfaction the extraordinarily high income from sales in 1976. The General Secretary informed that this was mainly due to the sale of two major publications on Marine Mammals. It was noted that the publication of the Seal Bibliography is self-financing, in that the Council's expenses will soon be recovered by income from sales.

Considering the General Secretary's report (C.M.1977/Pub:3), the Committee suggested that series sold from the library should, when relevant, be offered to the member countries through the Delegates. The General Secretary agreed, but added that most of these series were not concerned with marine scientific matters, so he felt the Delegates may not be very interested in them.

The Committee noted the extraordinarily large number of Cooperative Research Reports which had been issued in the year, and wished to place on record its appreciation of the work on this series by Ms M. Hänschell, not only for this year, but for the high technical

quality of this series in general.

In discussing the Annales Biologiques, the Committee recalled that the possibility for contributions related to the Western Atlantic had been discussed some years ago. It noted that with the expected new convention and responsibilities of ICNAF there would now be a need for a publication of at least plankton work and studies of marine mammals in the Western Atlantic to be reported to Annales Biologiques, when relevant, and the Chairman and the General Secretary were asked to investigate the possibilities for this.

In reviewing the Annales Biologiques, the Committee noted that there are still gaps in the coverage. The General Secretary as Editor of this publication was particularly requested to try to obtain more extensive reporting related to Norwegian investigations.

The General Secretary explained that the delay in the publication of Bulletin Statistique in recent years was mainly caused by late reporting from national offices, and he hoped that this could soon be overcome.

The Committee recalled that the Council's aim was to publish three issues of Journal du Conseil per year, and agreed to revert to this matter next year when the Editor will take part in the meeting.

Agenda Item 3    Routine for the publication of Rapports et Procès-Verbaux Volumes

The General Secretary said that the Bureau had asked the Committee to review the routine for producing these volumes, in order to see if the production time could be shortened. In Document C.M.1977/Pub:4, the General Secretary outlined the tasks involved and presented time-tables for the production of Volumes 170 and 171, based on the Secretariat's detailed work-sheets. The Committee agreed with him that these time-tables showed that the delays were not in the work of the Secretariat nor that of the printer's. The main delay is obviously caused by the time needed by the scientific editors in receiving and preparing the manuscripts, and also for some authors in proofreading.

At this stage, the Committee could only recommend that editors, when accepting contributions for publication should take into

consideration - in addition to their scientific merits - the likely time needed for their preparation as publication-ready manuscripts. The Committee also agreed to ask the General Secretary to present similar time-tables for some of the future volumes, as it would then be easier to analyse them with a view to shortening the production time.

Agenda Item 4    The objectives of the Council's Library

The Committee considered the statement by the Librarian, Mr Ed Thomasson, and agreed to the conclusions. The idea to produce an ICES Newsletter is attractive, but it was also agreed that one should wait until the Secretariat's capacity makes it possible to send out sufficiently informative Newsletters regularly. The Committee wished to place on record its appreciation of Mr Thomasson's devoted work on the ICES library and his initiative as mentioned in the statement.

Agenda Item 5    Matters referred to the Publications Committee by the Bureau

No further matters had been referred to the Committee.

Agenda Item 6    Any other matters

There were no other matters, and the meeting was closed at 16.45 hours.