

SCOR WORKING GROUP 41
MORPHOLOGICAL MAPPING OF THE OCEAN FLOOR

Status Report by A. S. Laughton, November 1974

No meetings of WG 41 have been held since January 1974 when the last status report was submitted. However, following the recommendations of WG 41 report of 1973 and the recommendations of the GEBCO Committee meeting of June 1973 (quoted in the Status Report of January 1974, SCOR Proceedings Vol. 10 No. 1), the following events have occurred:

GEBCO

The First Session of the 'Joint IOC/IHO Guiding Committee for the new Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO)' met in Paris in April 1974. It was clear that no money could be found in the 1973-74 IOC biennial budget to fund the geoscience unit as proposed by WG 41 nor were there any acceptable offers of finance from elsewhere. Offers of accommodation and overheads were however made.

Various individuals and organizations had prepared mock-ups of 1:10 million scale charts (or parts of them) in order to study the content and style of representation of the proposed chart series. A revised numbering system was formulated and revised sheet boundaries were prepared to improve the usefulness of individual sheet coverage.

In order to make progress with the new 5th Edition of GEBCO, various individuals undertook to coordinate the compilation and preparation of single sheets.

Cooperative Investigations in the Mediterranean -

The Chairman of SCOR WG 41 was invited to attend a meeting of CIM in April 1974 to discuss charts of the Mediterranean. He was represented at this meeting by Commodore Kapoor of IHB. The outcome of this meeting was the proposal to prepare a new chart of the Mediterranean at a scale of about 1:1 million (in 8 sheets) in two stages:

- '(a) before May 1977, the more reliable soundings will be collected on the British Admiralty 1:250 000 plotting sheets for oceanic soundings, contoured with an overlay showing tracks, and dyeline copies will be made available for distribution:
- (b) in three years time these sheets will be used, supplemented as required by IHB collected soundings, as the basis for a chart on 1:1 000 000 to SCOR WG 41 specification as finalized by the GEBCO Guiding Committee.'

Future of SCOR WG 41

I believe that SCOR WG 41 has now effectively stimulated activity on the Morphological Mapping of the Ocean Floor and that continuity of this activity is ensured by the cooperation of IOC and IHB in the new GEBCO Guiding Committee. In my opinion, WG 41 has now fulfilled its terms of reference and I propose that it now be disbanded.