

SCOR WORKING GROUP 42 (WITH ICES)

BALTIC POLLUTION

Report from Chairman

The main activity of the WG during 1977 has been the final preparation and execution of the Baltic Open Sea Experiment 1977, (BOSEX 1977).

The final programme was drawn up at a workshop in Copenhagen in January 1977 and discussed at the subsequent meeting of the WG (21 January). The report from this meeting was presented at the SCOR XX Executive Meeting.

BOSEX was carried out in the period 5 to 24 September, with 11 ships from all Baltic countries participating. Current meters and other instruments were moored according to plan and all instruments were recovered after the experiment. The full data return has not yet been reported, but where I have information it looks very satisfactory.

Due to very strong winds, peaking at full storm force in the middle of the period, most ships could not work all the time as planned. The larger ships could keep the central station occupied, and from that station we have time series of chemical observations during the whole period except 1 day. The chemical and physical mapping of the BOSEX square also went satisfactorily, although not covering the whole period.

The biological programme suffered most from the bad weather condition. However, fairly extensive micro-biological observations were carried out, as well as primary production measurements, plankton sampling and fishing.

The special physical experiments regarding current structure, mixing and temperature structure with extensive CTD profiling were carried out but not to the extent which had been planned, due to the weather. A limited part of the continuous chemical mapping could also be carried out.

My feeling is that the experiment was very successful. We got some quite interesting records of the influence of very strong winds on the vertical structure of both current and S, T. The development and successive penetration of inertial oscillation could be followed, and probably also both the generation and decay phase of the wind-generated mixing. My feeling is also that the chemists are quite satisfied, but it remains to be seen how much biology was really obtained.

The time schedule for analysis is that data return and preliminary results will be presented at the Baltic Oceanographers meeting in April and the 2nd level inventory should be ready by the ICES meeting in September. There we will further present our results. Probably small *ad hoc* groups will cooperate on interpreting various parts of the data material. I hope that we will not lose the interdisciplinary aspects of it all.

The next WG meeting is scheduled for the end of April 1978 following the Baltic Oceanographers meeting. It is my feeling that the interest in the Baltic scientific community is quite large and that we generally hope this kind of work will continue.

Regarding the membership of the WG, I intend to write to all present members, informally specific problems of interest to the Helsinki Interim-commission. It appears that the work of the WG has generated a certain amount of interest.

Regarding the membership of the WG I intend to write to all present members, informally enquiring into their interest to take an active part in future work. Possibly this may bring about some voluntary exchange so that we can meet the request or suggestion from Baltic Marine Biologists. The problem is that some of the biologists in the WG do not find time to participate as much as one might wish.

It was good to learn that SCOR will continue its involvement in WG 42, and I hope this brief report will not influence you to the opposite.

Gunnar Kullenberg