

SCOR Working Group 42

POLLUTION OF THE BALTIC

At the WG meeting 27–28 April 1978 in Rostock, GDR, (report C.M 1978/E:4) the three main items discussed were: 1 a draft manual on recommended sampling procedures and sample preparation methods for analysis of contaminant levels in Baltic biota, written by a group of scientists through coordination by ICES upon a request from the Helsinki Interim Commission; 2 status of BOSEX 77 data analysis, data exchange and plans; 3 future work.

At the Conference of Baltic Oceanographers, April 1978, 13 papers were presented based on BOSEX data, and during the ICES meeting in October another 5 BOSEX papers were given.

It is clear that a large amount of physical and chemical data were obtained but that the biological as well as certain pollutant observations were very limited, due to the weather conditions. It was agreed that the various groups should continue to work independently for the time being, that a Draft BOSEX Atlas should be circulated through ICES and include e.g. data inventories, preliminary results and data presentations that the ICES Data Bank should receive all standard data and that data without a common format could be circulated through the Atlas.

At the ICES meeting a separate BOSEX discussion was held where further information on data analysis and exchange was given. Results on data intercomparison showed good agreement between observations of nutrients at the central station except for some substances, like ammonia.

The WG discussed the future work considering the original terms of reference as well as the development during the work. It was agreed to consider especially

- i) modelling, where a bibliography on ongoing work will be generated
- ii) the dynamics of the coastal zone, where a presentation from each country is expected at the next WG meeting
- iii) the scientific principles for assessment and surveillance of the marine environment
- iv) studies related to new substances in the Baltic, like phthalate esters and polychlorinated terphenyls.

Finally it was recommended that the WG should meet again early in 1979.