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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(OF UNESCO)

REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE INTER-SECRETARIAT  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO  
OCEANOGRAPHY (ICSPRO)

The nineteenth session of ICSPRO was held in the United Nations Office at Geneva, 26 - 28 March 1979.

A copy of the summary report of the session, together with comments by the Chairman IOC, is attached.

COMMENTS BY DR. A. AYALA-CASTANARESCHAIRMAN IOC

Attached is a copy of the Summary Report of the nineteenth session of ICSPRO.

I would like to draw your attention, in particular, to the following items:

2. Item 3 Resolution EC-X.3 Marine Scientific Research in the Mediterranean  
Item 5 Future role and functions of the Commission
3. Resolution EC-XI.7 Western Pacific (WESTPAC)  
Resolution EC-XI.17 Draft Programme and Budget for the 1981/1982 Biennium
4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) Region
6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICSPRO officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16 - 17 November 1978

2. Item 3 Resolution EC-X.3 Marine Scientific Research in the Mediterranean

The Committee decided that any document prepared by the Secretary for submission to the Assembly should be cleared with the other co-sponsors of the Co-operative Investigations in the Mediterranean (CIM).

The Assembly may wish to note the remarks by the representative of UNEP under this item. This does not make it any easier to reach a decision at this stage on the future of the Operational Unit for CIM.

Item 5 Future Role and Functions of the Commission

I presented the Committee with details of the outcome of the second session of the WG/FUROF, December 1978, and on the report, including the 18 recommendations presented to the Executive Council at its eleventh session (doc. IOC/EC-XI/21).

I also distributed copies of the WG/FUROF document on Future Directions for the IOC's Marine Science Programme (doc. IOC/WG-FUROF-II/12), with a request for comments by mid-May 1979.

The reaction of the Committee was positive and comments were promised.

3. Consideration of the adopted resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI), Mexico City, 26 February - 3 March 1979.

Resolution EC-XI.7 Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

Attention was drawn to the invitation of the Executive Council to FAO (and its IPFC) to participate in the work of the WESTPAC Task Team, on

"Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring using commercially exploited shellfish as determinants". However, the representatives of FAO were unwilling to make any commitments at this time.

Resolution EC-XI.17 Draft Programme and Budget for the 1981/1982 Biennium

The Secretary explained the further changes that were being incorporated in document IOC/BUPLAN-1/2 rev. 3 and their relevance to the ICSPRO agencies and UNEP. I recalled that the ICSPRO agencies had been consulted during the preparation of this document and would be again for future budget documents.

4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) Region

The Assembly might wish to note paragraph 3 of the report of this item concerning the establishment of a Regional Organization with its own Secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of the Kuwait Action Plan. This arrangement took the Committee by surprise and confirmed them in their view that it was undesirable for the Commission to accept any role as a co-ordinating mechanism for the ICSPRO agencies in regard to activities which deal with marine scientific research (in particular baseline studies and monitoring of marine pollution), as had been proposed by UNEP.

The Committee further agreed that such a decision did not compromise IOC's role as a "joint specialized mechanism". ICSPRO Agencies would continue to look to IOC to carry out other appropriate co-ordination activities. Furthermore the Committee found no objection to IOC continuing to execute UNEP projects, as IOC's right to do so has already been confirmed by Unesco.

I reminded the Committee that IOC had prepared the draft management plan as a consequence of a UNEP invitation to ICSPRO-XVIII "to entrust IOC, under the overall co-ordination of UNEP, with the co-ordination of those ICSPRO agency activities which deal with marine research (in particular with baseline studies and monitoring of marine pollution)". The Secretary had on that occasion indicated the problems involved but the representative of UNEP had however insisted that IOC take on this task in its role as a joint specialized mechanism for the ICSPRO agencies.

6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICSPRO Officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16 - 17 November 1978

I invited the ICSPRO Agencies to submit further comments or recommendations on the subject of the future structure and terms of reference of the Working Committee for TEMA in time for consideration by an ad hoc group which had been formed to consider the matter further and which would work by correspondence and meet just before the IOC Assembly, 15 October - 3 November 1979.

Distribution: limited

ICSPRO-XIX/3  
Geneva, 28 March 1979  
English only

UNITED NATIONS

INTER-SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE  
ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO OCEANOGRAPHY

Nineteenth session

United Nations Office at  
Geneva, 26-28 March 1979

SUMMARY REPORT

1 (a) Opening of the session

The nineteenth session of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO) opened at 10.00 on Monday 26 March 1979 in the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Mr. S. Quijano-Caballero, Director, United Nations External Relations and Inter-Agency Affairs, Geneva, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his opening statement, Mr. Quijano-Caballero drew attention to the increasing importance of regional co-operation and the fact that the General Assembly resolution on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, as well as other resolutions, have generated considerable impetus toward establishing a proper framework for improving regional co-operation and decentralization of certain activities. The full text of Mr. Quijano-Caballero's statement is attached as Annex II.

The list of documents is given in Annex III and the list of participants in Annex IV.

1 (b) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (Annex I) was adopted with the addition of a number of sub-items under item 7 - Any other business.

2. Matters arising from the report of the eighteenth session of the Committee (ICSPRO-XVIII, Geneva, 27-30 September 1978)Item 2 IOC Scientific Advisory Board

The Secretary IOC reported that the IOC Scientific Advisory Board was holding its fourth session in Paris, concurrently with this session. He informed the Committee that SAB had carried out an in-depth study of GIPME which had been presented to the Executive Council at its recent eleventh session. This had been well received and had been passed with comments and additional material to the Working Committee for GIPME and the Joint Working Committee for IGOS for their mutual consideration and action on the recommendations therein.

The Secretary IOC also recalled that this was the last session of the SAB in its present form, before its structure and terms of reference are reviewed by the IOC Assembly.

Membership of UNEP in the Committee

The representative of UNEP confirmed that the position of his agency had not changed since the last session, i.e. before deciding on membership, in its own right in ICSPRO, UNEP would need further clarification on the way the ICSPRO agencies are intending to use IOC as their "joint specialized mechanism".

Item 3 Resolution EC-X.3 Marine Scientific Research in the Mediterranean

The Secretary IOC recalled that he had been instructed to hold discussions with interested Member States to obtain their views as to which

are the most important scientific problems in the Mediterranean, which of these require the support and assistance of the IOC and at what level of priority and what type of organizational structure, if any, should be established within the IOC to deal with these needs. He reported that he had already started these discussions and would be preparing a paper for the forthcoming Assembly session. It was agreed that any paper produced should be cleared with the other co-sponsors of the Co-operative Investigations in the Mediterranean (CIM).

The representative of UNEP reported that the intergovernmental meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States, Geneva, 5-10 February 1979, did not reach a decision on the site for the Co-ordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan and it would therefore remain in Geneva for the next two years until February 1981 when a decision would be made, by vote if necessary. He remarked that it might be possible to give the Operational Unit of CIM a certain role linked with the MAP Co-ordination Unit, if the co-sponsors of CIM so desire.

Item 4 Confidentiality of data

The representative of UNEP reported that though some countries insisted on the inclusion of a let-out clause regarding restriction of certain data, in fact all data received so far by UNEP had been unclassified. The Secretary IOC noted that in approving a Working Relationship Letter of Agreement with the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), the IOC Executive Council had insisted that a clause referring to classified data be deleted.

Item 5 Future Role and Functions of the Commission

The Chairman IOC reported briefly on developments since the last session of the Committee. He informed the Committee that the Working Group on FUROF had held its second session in December 1978 and had presented a report, incorporating a number of recommendations, to the Executive Council (doc. IOC/EC-XI/21).

The Executive Council had adopted a resolution (EC-XI.15 - see item 3 below) forwarding certain amendments to Articles 1 and 2 of the Statutes to the Assembly, where the Working Group had supported these unanimously. Decisions on other proposed amendments had been deferred until supplementary information had been provided.

He also informed the Committee that the WG/FUROF document on Future Directions for the IOC's Marine Science Programme (doc. IOC/WG-FUROF-II/12) had now been finalized. Copies were distributed to participants with a request for comments by mid-May 1979.

The Secretary IOC confirmed that copies would be sent out to Member States of IOC and the Advisory Bodies very shortly with the same deadline for responses.

3. Consideration of the adopted resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI), Mexico City, 26 February - 3 March 1979

The Secretary IOC introduced the resolutions adopted at the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council and drew attention to matters he considered to be of interest or concern to the ICSPRO agencies.

Resolution EC-XI.1 Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP)

This resolution supplements resolution EC-X.4. Investigation of Processes in the Major Ocean Areas and also the instruction given to the Secretary by the IOC Assembly to conduct a census of on-going programmes of long time-series of observations of climate (ref: doc. IOC/EC-X/3, item 5.5.3).

The JOC of GARP and SCOR were developing a Pilot Ocean Monitoring Study (POMS) and a joint SCOR/IOC Committee on Climatic Changes and the Ocean (CCCCO) had been formed and would hold its first meeting in Miami in September 1979.

Resolution EC-XI.4 The IOC Association for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE)

The representative of FAO reported excellent co-operation between IOCARIBE and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). This would be enhanced by the forthcoming move of the IOCARIBE Secretariat to San José, Costa Rica.

Reference was made to the forthcoming Workshop of Coastal Area Management and Development in the Caribbean Region which is now scheduled to be held in Mexico in September 1979. It was stressed that the official letters of invitation should clarify the assignment of responsibilities amongst the co-sponsoring bodies.

Resolution EC-XI.7 Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

The Secretary IOC reported on the outcome of three meetings that had been held recently in Tokyo: the 4th (terminal) CSK Symposium; a two-day WESTPAC Workshop; and the first session of the IOC Working Group for WESTPAC. The reports of these meetings would be distributed shortly.

He drew attention in particular to the various activities that the Working Group had decided to implement initially, including a physical oceanographic monitoring project as a component of IGOSS and a Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring project using commercially exploited shellfish as determinants. Task teams were being formed to supervise these two projects and the Executive Council had invited FAO (and its IPFC) to participate fully in the work of the second Task Team.

The representatives of FAO stated that they were not at this time able to make any commitments in the area and anyhow as far as fisheries were concerned, the mangrove problems and related aquaculture were far more important for the region. Co-ordination of these activities was discussed later (see item 7(d) below).

The representative of the United Nations drew attention to a UN(OETO)-CCOP/SOPAC Seminar on Coastal Area Development which would be held in Manila in November 1979. He invited participation by other agencies.

Resolution EC-XI.8 The Phenomenon known as "El Niño"

The representative of WMO reported that concern had been expressed that joint sponsorship of the Working Group might hamper co-ordination of activities; this had proved to be unfounded. A planning meeting to co-ordinate the implementation of activities recommended by the Working Group would be held later in the year.

The representative of FAO stated that in his view activities in this region, in particular those in support of fisheries, should be made self sufficient as soon as possible.

The Chairman IOC stressed that the most important priority for the region was to build up sufficient manpower to undertake all the necessary tasks and the project could not become self sufficient until this was done.

Resolution EC-XI.9 International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean (IBCM)

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the decision to set up temporary disciplinary groups to produce overlay sheets in different fields and asked for assistance with, and advice on, those dealing with chemistry and biology.

Resolution EC-XI.11 Joint IOC/WMO Working Committee for IGOSS

In reference to recommendation JWC-IGOSS-I.2 National Representatives for IGOSS, the representative of WMO suggested that IOC has too many points of contact and it would be a considerable step forward to reduce these to one for each country. The Secretary IOC recognized the criticism but suggested that this was due to the basic infrastructure of oceanography which is much more fragmented than meteorology in most countries. However, he agreed that this was a step towards achieving this goal.

Resolution EC-XI.12 Continuation of Drifting Buoy Observations within IGOSS after the First GARP Global Experiment (FGGE)

The Secretary IOC drew particular attention to this new technology which had been developed for FGGE but would almost certainly become one of the main sources of meteorological and oceanographic data from ocean areas with a low density of shipping, particularly the southern hemisphere, in the next decade. The task of the proposed new mechanism would be to act as a focal point for co-ordinating international drifting buoy programmes.

Resolution EC-XI.13 Marine Science Terminologies

The representative of Unesco stressed that the present ASFIS thesaurus was inadequate for marine science needs in regard to the diversity of the terms required.



Resolution EC-XI.14 Ninth session of the IOC Working Committee on IODE

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the final preambular paragraph in this resolution and the message to UNEP and other organizations involved in Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Programmes which appears under recommendation IODE-IX.2 - Marine Environmental Data Availability.

In reference to recommendation IODE-IX.3 - Co-operation with WMO on Marine Environmental Data Management, the representative of WMO reported that an informal planning meeting for this project was being arranged in September 1979.

Resolution EC-XI.15 Proposed Amendments to the Statutes

The Secretary IOC drew the attention of the Committee to the proposed amendments to Articles 1 and 2 of the IOC Statutes which would be passed to the IOC Assembly in October 1979 and the Unesco General Conference in September 1980. He stressed that the amendments to Article 1 in which IOC is described as "a body with functional autonomy within the framework of Unesco" was intended as a clarification of the present legal and constitutional status of IOC, not as a change of status.

Resolution EC-XI.17 Draft Programme and Budget for the 1981/1982 Biennium

The Secretary IOC explained the further changes that were being incorporated in this document (doc. IOC/BUPLAN-I/2 rev.3) as a result of comments and criticisms made by the Executive Council. These dealt with two main points: i) the presentation of ICS-PRO agency and UNEP support to IOC, and funding of joint activities; and ii) better presentation of priorities within programmes.

He said that copies of the final document IOC/BUPLAN-I/2 rev.4 would be sent to ICS-PRO agencies and UNEP as soon as it has been finalized, to allow time for them to prepare comments for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its eleventh session. The document would not be revised again to incorporate these comments.

The Chairman IOC recalled that the ICS-PRO agencies had been consulted during the preparation of this document and the same procedure would be followed in future exercises.

4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) Region

Mr. R. C. Griffiths, Assistant Secretary IOC, introduced a paper entitled "The relationship of IOC to the ICS-PRO Agencies and UNEP in the context of the Kuwait Action Plan" (doc. ICS-PRO-XIX/5) and also the revised Management Plan for the Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Components of the Kuwait Action Plan. He recalled that two issues were involved: the management of agency participation in the Kuwait Action Plan, with the possible role of the Secretary IOC in this; and the connexion between the IOC role in the Plan and UNEP's membership of ICS-PRO. The revised Management Plan differed from the first draft in omitting all

projects not bearing significantly on marine pollution research and monitoring (therefore it no longer referred to several projects considered originally), and in omitting much of the operational detail (though this does not signify the invalidity of much of this detail). The general structure and principles were retained. He noted that the restriction of the Management Plan places a greater burden of co-ordination on FAO since it was proposed that three of the projects, for which FAO is the lead Organization, be combined into one to be co-ordinated and executed by FAO.

The representative of UNEP explained that the intergovernmental experts' meeting had been postponed and was now scheduled for 19 May 1979 to allow Iran to participate but this had not yet been confirmed. He further stated that Member States' ratification of the Kuwait Regional Convention for co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution is proceeding rapidly. Three of the eight states have filed their instruments of ratification: Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar. Bahrain has declared by cable that it will do so and Saudi Arabia is expected to do so in April or May. The Convention will enter into force 90 days following the date of deposit of five such instruments.

The Convention once it comes into force, establishes a Regional Organization with its own Secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan and UNEP would transfer all its responsibilities for the Interim Secretariat to the Regional Organization. Thereafter United Nations Agencies would deal with the Regional Organization rather than UNEP, although UNEP might be asked by the Regional Organization to remain associated with the future development of the Action Plan. He estimated that a Conference of the Contracting Parties probably could not be called before early 1980 in order to establish the Regional Organization. Thus it might be a year or more before UNEP transfers its present responsibility for the co-ordination of the Action Plan.

He assured the Committee that UNEP's policy was to work through the Agencies, but that the Regional Organization, when established, could proceed in some other fashion if it so desired. He hoped it would continue arrangements already in existence.

In response to discussion, he went on to explain that the proposed experts' meeting in May will review the substantive content of the draft programme document (doc. UNEP/WG.23/3) prepared jointly by all ICSPRO Agencies, with regard to objectives, appropriateness of the work plan, budget, etc. Priorities for the projects would be set. He said that some staging in time of the projects was likely as all of the funds are not yet available, although sufficient money has been received to allow a start to be made.

With regard to the draft management plan prepared by IOC, the Committee agreed that its purpose was to guide the Agencies and that it should not be presented for consideration by the proposed experts' meeting.

The Committee agreed that a consensus exists on the substantive content of the draft programme document for the implementation of the environmental assessment and management components of the Kuwait Action

Plan. However the Committee further noted that the work plan would be delayed by almost a year because of postponement of approval by the experts' group and because of the summer climate in the region.

The Committee agreed that the IOC was not the appropriate body to co-ordinate the activities of the Agencies in the Kuwait Action Plan. This task should be carried out initially by UNEP, acting as the Interim Secretariat for the Kuwait Action Plan.

The Committee further agreed that this did not compromise IOC's role as a joint specialized mechanism. ICSPRO Agencies would continue to look to IOC to carry out other appropriate co-ordination activities. Furthermore the Committee found no objection to IOC continuing to execute UNEP projects, as IOC's right to do so has already been confirmed by Unesco. Although the substance of the management plan was not discussed, the representative of IOC pointed out that all tasks listed therein for the IOC, the Interim Secretariat and the individual project managers are tasks that will need to be undertaken.

The Chairman IOC reminded the Committee that IOC had prepared the draft management plan as a consequence of a UNEP invitation to ICSPRO-XVIII "to entrust IOC, under the overall co-ordination of UNEP, with the co-ordination of those ICSPRO agency activities which deal with marine research (in particular with baseline studies and monitoring of marine pollution)". The Secretary IOC had on that occasion indicated the problems involved but the representative of UNEP had however insisted that IOC take on this task in its role as a joint specialized mechanism for the ICSPRO agencies.

## 5. Regional Co-operation in Marine Science

### a) Consultant's report

The Secretary IOC introduced a report, with the above title, which had been prepared by a consultant, Dr. Lewis M. Alexander, for ICSPRO.

It was recalled the the report had been prepared in response to a decision taken at the seventeenth session of ICSPRO when the agencies had called for the preparation of a Report which would consist of three parts:

- I. A review of the present state of existing regional bodies within and outside the U.N. system dealing wholly or in part with matters relating to marine science and its applications.
- II. Trends or developments of particular importance affecting marine science and its applications, together with a review or exposé of what problems are foreseen (or are already being experienced) and the general issues involved.
- III. Proposed solutions to these problems.

IOC, acting as a "joint specialized mechanism" for the ICSPRO agencies, had retained the services of a consultant to prepare a report covering Parts I and II above and it had been the intention that Part III would be prepared by the ICSPRO agencies when this was complete.

He noted further that the Committee had decided at its eighteenth session to hold a meeting in January 1979 to consider the matter (doc. ICS-PRO-XVIII/3, item 6(f)) but this had been postponed at the request of FAO which agency was then reviewing its policy with regard to regional subsidiary bodies.

The representative of FAO confirmed that at the present time his agency had the strengthening and decentralization of all FAO sponsored regional bodies under review. It was the opinion of FAO that this review must proceed very carefully, taking fully into account the views of Member States. For this reason the review would take at least two years to complete and it was intended that the matter be discussed again by the FAO Council at its 1980 meeting. In view of this timetable, he could not agree to the general dissemination to Member States at this time of the internal ICS-PRO report, bearing the name of FAO as a co-sponsor.

The representative of the United Nations expressed similar doubts, in particular with the consultant's references to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and its Informal Composite Negotiating Text (ICNT). His timetable was that OETO had to report to ECOSOC on "Uses of the Sea" in 1981; this document would contain a section on regional arrangements.

Other agencies supported these views and there was a general consensus that the report as it now stands, should be treated solely as an internal document for the use of ICS-PRO agencies. For this purpose it was considered an excellent background report which was welcomed, as it would be of considerable benefit to members of ICS-PRO for their own activities.

The representative of UNEP pointed out, however, that there were a number of factual errors in the report, besides certain conclusions which were those of the Consultant and were not acceptable to his agency.

The representative of IMCO pointed out that the report had exceeded its original terms of reference in that it dealt with many aspects of regional co-operation in marine affairs. FAO shared this view.

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the fact that he had to present a report on the subject to the forthcoming eleventh session of the IOC Assembly in October/November 1979 and that he had hoped to place the document before his Member States in its present form.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that Chapters 1-4 and the Appendices could be used as the factual basis for a document to be presented by the Secretary IOC. All references to the ICNT would be removed and factual errors would be corrected.

All agencies were asked to review chapters 1-4 and the Appendices and to send in a list of corrections to the Secretary IOC by 30 April 1979.

The Committee decided to keep the matter under review and to place it on the agenda for the next session.

b) Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas

The representative of UNEP reported that a Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas - to review UNEP's plans related to the marine environment and the interest of the agencies in these activities - would be held at FAO, Rome, 23-25 July 1979. The conclusions of this meeting would be used as input for a thematic joint programming meeting, at present scheduled to be held in Rome, 22-26 October 1979. It was pointed out that the latter dates were unacceptable if marine science and marine pollution programmes were to be discussed, as they clash with the eleventh session of the IOC Assembly.

The representative of UNEP informed the Committee that a second draft of the Plan of Action for the Gulf of Guinea region is under preparation and would be sent out to all agencies shortly. He pointed out that UNEP goes to considerable lengths to ensure that all agencies are informed of his agency's plans and expressed the hope that reciprocal action would be taken by the agencies.

c) ASFIS Register of Activities

It was recalled that the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs had pioneered an ASFIS register of activities listing plans and programmes of work for each agency. When the decision was taken to stop regular sessions of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs, it had been confirmed that the register would be continued. The Committee concurred fully that there was a need for all agencies to be kept fully informed of all plans and ongoing activities.

6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICSPRO Officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16-17 November 1978

The representative of Unesco and the Secretary of IOC outlined the present status of activities covered by the report. They further indicated that the proposed terms of reference for the Working Committee for TEMA had been considered by the IOC Executive Council at its eleventh session and an ad hoc group had been formed to consider the matter further. This would work by correspondence and meet just before the IOC Assembly (15 October - 3 November 1979). The Chairman of IOC invited the TEMA officers of the Agencies to submit further comments or recommendations on the subject to the Fourth Vice-Chairman.

The representative of FAO noted that the input from his agency to TEMA activities in the CINCWIO region would be through the Indian Ocean Programme.

The Committee approved the TEMA Officers' report and further recommended that the TEMA Officers meet at an early date, following consultation on a draft agenda, with such items as the following: (i) recommendations concerning the Working Committee for TEMA; (ii) follow-up activities concerning the training of marine technicians, and the introduction of oceanography and the marine environment into secondary schools' curricula; (iii) preparation of the workshop on curricula in fisheries science; and (iv) TEMA aspects of ocean engineering and marine technology.

The representative of FAO reported that no budgetary provisions had been made for the FAO share of the proposed Workshop to develop curricula in Fishery Science at University and/or post-graduate level (document IOC-TEMA/ICSPRO-V/3, Appendix I). The representative of Unesco confirmed that the Unesco share would be forthcoming and urged the representative of FAO to reconsider the matter. The representative of FAO agreed to do so.

7. Any other business

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The representative of the United Nations reported that there was little new information that he could give the Committee since its last session. The subject of Marine Scientific Research is not under active consideration at the present time but may be taken up later in the current session. A revised text of the ICNT is likely to become available by the end of the eighth session of the Conference.

(b) United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)

The representative of Unesco briefed the Committee on the state of preparations for UNCSTD, which is now scheduled to be held in Vienna, 20-31 August 1979. He also briefed the Committee on the International Colloquium on Science, Technology and Society (FORUM A) to be held in Vienna, 13-17 August 1979, which is being organized by the U.N. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

The representative of Unesco further pointed out that Unesco is considering the preparation of an exhibit to be presented at FORUM A and UNCSTD. Tentatively, the exhibit would portray scientific information and marine science as examples of the application of science and technology for development. He invited comments of the Committee and expressed Unesco's willingness to collaborate with interested agencies, where possible, within the limits of finances and content of exhibit. The Committee considered that time was too short and resources too limited to organize such an exhibit of high quality. If the agencies have any further comments, they should communicate these to the Chief of the Division of Marine Sciences, Unesco, before 6 April 1979.

(c) Remote Sensing

The representative of the United Nations recalled that at its eighteenth session, the Committee had invited the Remote Sensing Unit of the U.N. Centre for Natural Resources to advise it on the feasibility of holding a series of regional seminars in Remote Sensing Applications (ref. document ICSPRO-XVIII/3, item 2). He presented verbally a short report from the head of the Remote Sensing Unit, Dr. K.-H. Szekiolda, in which he offered to provide additional assistance to look into the financial implications and identify possible supporting sources, using in particular Danish facilities. The representative of the United Nations reported that he had also just received a cable in which support was offered by the International Training Centre, Enschede, Netherlands.

The Committee decided to consider the matter further at its next session when hopefully the long-awaited IOC Technical Series publication would be available.

(d) Mangroves

The representative of UNEP outlined the place of the mangrove ecosystem in South-east Asia in respect to UNEP's preparation of a regional seas action plan for the region. He indicated that the ASEAN countries have particularly urged UNEP to be active in this area. He described UNEP's co-operation with FAO in a regional project. He urged all agencies to contribute to the preparation of the action plan, which should be completed towards the end of 1980.

The representative of Unesco described the programme of his agency concerning the mangrove ecosystem, emphasizing that it is intended to be complementary to that of FAO and to provide an input to regional action plans, such as that of UNEP. He recalled a seminar on the uses of the mangrove, which had been held in Bangladesh in December 1978, and drew the attention of the Committee to the SCOR/Unesco Working Group on Mangrove Ecosystems (SCOR WG60) and to the existence of a draft UNDP regional programme on mangrove research and training. He especially invited FAO and UNEP to participate and provide support to participants in the Asian Symposium on the Mangrove Marine Environment planned to be organized by Unesco in South-east Asia in the first half of 1980. The symposium is to be followed by a small workshop to summarize recommendations for research needed for knowledge on, and management of, the mangrove ecosystem.

The representative of FAO indicated that FAO dealt with both the fisheries and forestry aspects of the mangroves. The Secretary IOC drew attention to WESTPAC recommendations concerning marine pollution using commercially exploited shellfish as determinants, and large-scale physical oceanographic monitoring of the region (within the framework of IGOSS), as being pertinent to the regional seas plan of action.

(e) Meetings on Coastal Area Problems

The representative of the United Nations announced that a meeting is being organized on coastal area development and management in South-east Asia, to be held in Manila in November 1979, in co-operation with CCOP (of ESCAP) and the German foundation for Development. CCOP and the foundation will each fund one participant from each country of the region. He invited UNEP and interested agencies to help fund the resource specialists and other costs.

The representative of the United Nations and the Secretary IOC further announced that the IOC/UN/Unesco/UNU/UNEP Workshop on Coastal Area Development and Management in the Caribbean Region would be held in Mexico, most likely in September 1979.

8. Date and Place of next session

Concerning scheduling of the next meeting of ICSPRO the Committee recognized that much specialized ICSPRO co-ordination and co-operation occurs on a continuing basis in programmes such as

IDOE, TEMA, IGOSS, FGGE, GIPME, IODE, ASFIS, ODAS, Coastal Area Development, etc. Thus a major function of ICSPRO is to review and confirm co-operation in these various programmes amongst the ICSPRO Agencies in a timely fashion.

The representative of the FAO suggested that it might be preferable to hold the next session of the Committee after the IOC Assembly when knowledge of the decisions taken thereat could be considered.

This was agreed in principle but when investigated, it was found that the period immediately after the Assembly was unsuitable to most agencies.

After discussion, two alternatives were tentatively agreed:

- (i) 17-19 December 1979 at IMCO headquarters, London;
- (ii) In conjunction with a possible ad hoc meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs.

9. Adoption of the Summary Report of the session

The Summary Report of the session (document ICSPRO-XIX/3 - this document) was adopted.

10. Closure of the session

The Committee expressed its great appreciation to Mr. D.P.D. Scott, Secretary IOC, for his long devoted and effective service as Secretary of ICSPRO. The smooth functioning and success of ICSPRO is directly related to his fine efforts.

The Chairman closed the session at 12.55 on Wednesday 28 March 1979.



AGENDA

1. (a) Opening of the session  
(b) Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising from the report of the eighteenth session of the Committee (ICSPRO-XVIII, Geneva, 27-30 September 1978)
3. Consideration of the adopted resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI), Mexico City, 26 February - 3 March 1979
4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) region
5. Regional Co-operation in Marine Science
  - (a) Consultant's report
  - (b) Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas
  - (c) ASFIS Register of Activities
6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICSPRO Officers concerned with TEMA, UNESCO, 16-17 November 1978
7. Any other business:
  - (a) Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
  - (b) UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)
  - (c) Remote sensing
  - (d) Mangroves
  - (e) Meetings on Coastal Area Problems
8. Date and place of next session
9. Adoption of the Summary Report of the session
10. Closure of the session

Opening Statement by Mr. S. Quijano-Caballero,  
Director, UN External Relations and Inter-Agency  
Affairs, Geneva

On behalf of the United Nations, I have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Palais des Nations for the nineteenth session of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography.

As you have a rather heavy agenda for your two-day session, I will be very brief in my remarks.

It seems to me that your present session is a particularly important one, coming as it does between the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council, which was held less than a month ago in Mexico City, and the forthcoming biennial session of the IOC Assembly to be held next fall in Paris.

As you are well aware, the Executive Council dealt with, among other items, the important question of the future role and functions of the IOC. I know that the ICSPRO Agencies, including, of course, the UN, have been closely associated with the study of this matter and attach considerable importance to strengthening the capabilities of the IOC in the field of marine science. I would like to reaffirm the continuing support of the UN for the successful outcome of this exercise.

The question of regional co-operation is also one that is of particular concern to the UN, as I believe it is for the other agencies represented here. In the case of the UN, the General Assembly resolution on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN, as well as other resolutions, have generated considerable impetus toward establishing a proper framework for improving co-operation between Headquarters and the regional commissions and decentralizing certain activities to the Commissions in various fields, including marine affairs. This matter has been discussed at a meeting in Rabat between the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and Headquarters officials including Mr. Jean Ripert, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Increasingly, therefore, consideration of the question of regional co-operation in marine science and more broadly, marine affairs, will need to take account of the role of the regional commissions as they strengthen their capabilities in this area.

I understand from Mr. Lévy that the report on Uses of the Sea to be submitted to ECOSOC in 1980 will deal briefly with this important question of regional co-operation and that a more detailed treatment will be provided in a subsequent report, taking into account the results of a recent consultant study on this subject commissioned by the ICSPRO agencies.

In closing, I would like to reiterate United Nations support for ICSPRO, which has proved an effective co-ordination mechanism in the field of marine science. It also results that in view of UN General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN system, and the decision that the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs should no longer exist as a permanent body, the work of your committee will continue to be followed with great interest by the ACC and its new subsidiary mechanisms. There is no doubt that the ICSPRO is an outstanding example of close co-ordination between the agencies in a specialist field of mutual interest and that the benefits to be gained from multi-agency collaboration of this kind are indeed very considerable.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ICSPRO-XIX/1 prov.	Provisional Agenda
2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
3	Report of the nineteenth session of ICSPRO
4	List of Documents
5	The relationship of IOC to the ICSPRO Agencies and UNEP in the context of the Kuwait Action Plan
ICSPRO-XVIII/3	Report of the eighteenth session of ICSPRO
IOC/EC-XI/3 ANNEX II	Adopted Resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI)
-	Revised text of the Management Plan for the Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Components of the Kuwait Action Plan
IOC-TEMA/ICSPRO-V/3	Report of the fifth meeting of the ICSPRO Officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16-17 November 1978
-	Regional Co-operation in Marine Science. Report prepared by Dr. Lewis M. Alexander, University of Rhode Island, for ICSPRO
-	Report of the Division of Marine Sciences of Unesco, 23 March 1979
-	Competent international organizations and the law of the sea by J.D.Kingham and D.M.McRae. Photocopy of article published in 'Marine Policy' (April 1979)

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UNITED NATIONS

INTER-SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE  
ON SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES RELATING TO OCEANOGRAPHY

Nineteenth session

United Nations Office at  
Geneva, 26-28 March 1979

SUMMARY REPORT

1 (a) Opening of the session

The nineteenth session of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO) opened at 10.00 on Monday 26 March 1979 in the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Mr. S. Quijano-Caballero, Director, United Nations External Relations and Inter-Agency Affairs, Geneva, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In his opening statement, Mr. Quijano-Caballero drew attention to the increasing importance of regional co-operation and the fact that the General Assembly resolution on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, as well as other resolutions, have generated considerable impetus toward establishing a proper framework for improving regional co-operation and decentralization of certain activities. The full text of Mr. Quijano-Caballero's statement is attached as Annex II.

The list of documents is given in Annex III and the list of participants in Annex IV.

1 (b) Adoption of the agenda

The agenda (Annex I) was adopted with the addition of a number of sub-items under item 7 - Any other business.

2. Matters arising from the report of the eighteenth session of the Committee (ICSPRO-XVIII, Geneva, 27-30 September 1978)Item 2 IOC Scientific Advisory Board

The Secretary IOC reported that the IOC Scientific Advisory Board was holding its fourth session in Paris, concurrently with this session. He informed the Committee that SAB had carried out an in-depth study of GIPME which had been presented to the Executive Council at its recent eleventh session. This had been well received and had been passed with comments and additional material to the Working Committee for GIPME and the Joint Working Committee for IGOSS for their mutual consideration and action on the recommendations therein.

The Secretary IOC also recalled that this was the last session of the SAB in its present form, before its structure and terms of reference are reviewed by the IOC Assembly.

Membership of UNEP in the Committee

The representative of UNEP confirmed that the position of his agency had not changed since the last session, i.e. before deciding on membership, in its own right in ICSPRO, UNEP would need further clarification on the way the ICSPRO agencies are intending to use IOC as their "joint specialized mechanism".

Item 3 Resolution EC-X.3 Marine Scientific Research in the Mediterranean

The Secretary IOC recalled that he had been instructed to hold discussions with interested Member States to obtain their views as to which



are the most important scientific problems in the Mediterranean, which of these require the support and assistance of the IOC and at what level of priority and what type of organizational structure, if any, should be established within the IOC to deal with these needs. He reported that he had already started these discussions and would be preparing a paper for the forthcoming Assembly session. It was agreed that any paper produced should be cleared with the other co-sponsors of the Co-operative Investigations in the Mediterranean (CIM).

The representative of UNEP reported that the intergovernmental meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States, Geneva, 5-10 February 1979, did not reach a decision on the site for the Co-ordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan and it would therefore remain in Geneva for the next two years until February 1981 when a decision would be made, by vote if necessary. He remarked that it might be possible to give the Operational Unit of CIM a certain role linked with the MAP Co-ordination Unit, if the co-sponsors of CIM so desire.

#### Item 4 Confidentiality of data

The representative of UNEP reported that though some countries insisted on the inclusion of a let-out clause regarding restriction of certain data, in fact all data received so far by UNEP had been unclassified. The Secretary IOC noted that in approving a Working Relationship Letter of Agreement with the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), the IOC Executive Council had insisted that a clause referring to classified data be deleted.

#### Item 5 Future Role and Functions of the Commission

The Chairman IOC reported briefly on developments since the last session of the Committee. He informed the Committee that the Working Group on FUROP had held its second session in December 1978 and had presented a report, incorporating a number of recommendations, to the Executive Council (doc. IOC/EC-XI/21).

The Executive Council had adopted a resolution (EC-XI.15 - see item 3 below) forwarding certain amendments to Articles 1 and 2 of the Statutes to the Assembly, where the Working Group had supported these unanimously. Decisions on other proposed amendments had been deferred until supplementary information had been provided.

He also informed the Committee that the WG/FUROP document on Future Directions for the IOC's Marine Science Programme (doc. IOC/WG-FUROP-II/12) had now been finalized. Copies were distributed to participants with a request for comments by mid-May 1979.

The Secretary IOC confirmed that copies would be sent out to Member States of IOC and the Advisory Bodies very shortly with the same deadline for responses.

### 3. Consideration of the adopted resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI), Mexico City, 26 February - 3 March 1979

The Secretary IOC introduced the resolutions adopted at the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council and drew attention to matters he considered to be of interest or concern to the ICS-PRO agencies.

Resolution EC-XI.1 Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP)

This resolution supplements resolution EC-X.4. Investigation of Processes in the Major Ocean Areas and also the instruction given to the Secretary by the IOC Assembly to conduct a census of on-going programmes of long time-series of observations of climate (ref: doc. IOC/EC-X/3, item 5.5.3).

The JOC of GARP and SCOR were developing a Pilot Ocean Monitoring Study (POMS) and a joint SCOR/IOC Committee on Climatic Changes and the Ocean (CCCO) had been formed and would hold its first meeting in Miami in September 1979.

Resolution EC-XI.4 The IOC Association for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE)

The representative of FAO reported excellent co-operation between IOCARIBE and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFIC). This would be enhanced by the forthcoming move of the IOCARIBE Secretariat to San José, Costa Rica.

Reference was made to the forthcoming Workshop of Coastal Area Management and Development in the Caribbean Region which is now scheduled to be held in Mexico in September 1979. It was stressed that the official letters of invitation should clarify the assignment of responsibilities amongst the co-sponsoring bodies.

Resolution EC-XI.7 Western Pacific (WESTPAC)

The Secretary IOC reported on the outcome of three meetings that had been held recently in Tokyo: the 4th (terminal) CSK Symposium; a two-day WESTPAC Workshop; and the first session of the IOC Working Group for WESTPAC. The reports of these meetings would be distributed shortly.

He drew attention in particular to the various activities that the Working Group had decided to implement initially, including a physical oceanographic monitoring project as a component of IGOSS and a Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring project using commercially exploited shellfish as determinants. Task teams were being formed to supervise these two projects and the Executive Council had invited FAO (and its IFFC) to participate fully in the work of the second Task Team.

The representatives of FAO stated that they were not at this time able to make any commitments in the area and anyhow as far as fisheries were concerned, the mangrove problems and related aquaculture were far more important for the region. Co-ordination of these activities was discussed later (see item 7(d) below).

The representative of the United Nations drew attention to a UN(OEFC)-CCOP/SOPAC Seminar on Coastal Area Development which would be held in Manila in November 1979. He invited participation by other agencies.

Resolution EC-XI.8 The Phenomenon known as "El Niño"

The representative of WMO reported that concern had been expressed that joint sponsorship of the Working Group might hamper co-ordination of activities; this had proved to be unfounded. A planning meeting to co-ordinate the implementation of activities recommended by the Working Group would be held later in the year.

The representative of FAO stated that in his view activities in this region, in particular those in support of fisheries, should be made self sufficient as soon as possible.

The Chairman IOC stressed that the most important priority for the region was to build up sufficient manpower to undertake all the necessary tasks and the project could not become self sufficient until this was done.

Resolution EC-XI.9 International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean (IBCM)

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the decision to set up temporary disciplinary groups to produce overlay sheets in different fields and asked for assistance with, and advice on, those dealing with chemistry and biology.

Resolution EC-XI.11 Joint IOC/WMO Working Committee for IGOSS

In reference to recommendation JWC-IGOSS-1.2 National Representatives for IGOSS, the representative of WMO suggested that IOC has too many points of contact and it would be a considerable step forward to reduce these to one for each country. The Secretary IOC recognized the criticism but suggested that this was due to the basic infrastructure of oceanography which is much more fragmented than meteorology in most countries. However, he agreed that this was a step towards achieving this goal.

Resolution EC-XI.12 Continuation of Drifting Buoy Observations within IGOSS after the First GARP Global Experiment (FGGE)

The Secretary IOC drew particular attention to this new technology which had been developed for FGGE but would almost certainly become one of the main sources of meteorological and oceanographic data from ocean areas with a low density of shipping, particularly the southern hemisphere, in the next decade. The task of the proposed new mechanism would be to act as a focal point for co-ordinating international drifting buoy programmes.

Resolution EC-XI.13 Marine Science Terminologies

The representative of Unesco stressed that the present ASPIS thesaurus was inadequate for marine science needs in regard to the diversity of the terms required.

Resolution EC-XI.14 Ninth session of the IOC Working Committee on IODE

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the final preambular paragraph in this resolution and the message to UNEP and other organizations involved in Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Programmes which appears under recommendation IODE-IX.2 - Marine Environmental Data Availability.

In reference to recommendation IODE-IX.3 - Co-operation with WMO on Marine Environmental Data Management, the representative of WMO reported that an informal planning meeting for this project was being arranged in September 1979.

Resolution EC-XI.15 Proposed Amendments to the Statutes

The Secretary IOC drew the attention of the Committee to the proposed amendments to Articles 1 and 2 of the IOC Statutes which would be passed to the IOC Assembly in October 1979 and the Unesco General Conference in September 1980. He stressed that the amendments to Article 1 in which IOC is described as "a body with functional autonomy within the framework of Unesco" was intended as a clarification of the present legal and constitutional status of IOC, not as a change of status.

Resolution EC-XI.17 Draft Programme and Budget for the 1981/1982 Biennium

The Secretary IOC explained the further changes that were being incorporated in this document (doc. IOC/BUPLAN-I/2 rev.3) as a result of comments and criticisms made by the Executive Council. These dealt with two main points: i) the presentation of ICSPRO agency and UNEP support to IOC, and funding of joint activities; and ii) better presentation of priorities within programmes.

He said that copies of the final document IOC/BUPLAN-I/2 Rev.4 would be sent to ICSPRO agencies and UNEP as soon as it has been finalized, to allow time for them to prepare comments for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its eleventh session. The document would not be revised again to incorporate these comments.

The Chairman IOC recalled that the ICSPRO agencies had been consulted during the preparation of this document and the same procedure would be followed in future exercises.

4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) Region

Mr. R. C. Griffiths, Assistant Secretary IOC, introduced a paper entitled "The relationship of IOC to the ICSPRO Agencies and UNEP in the context of the Kuwait Action Plan" (doc. ICSPRO-XIX/5) and also the revised Management Plan for the Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Components of the Kuwait Action Plan. He recalled that two issues were involved: the management of agency participation in the Kuwait Action Plan, with the possible role of the Secretary IOC in this; and the connexion between the IOC role in the Plan and UNEP's membership of ICSPRO. The Revised Management Plan differed from the first draft in omitting all

projects not bearing significantly on marine pollution research and monitoring (therefore it no longer referred to several projects considered originally), and in omitting much of the operational detail (though this does not signify the invalidity of much of this detail). The general structure and principles were retained. He noted that the restriction of the Management Plan places a greater burden of co-ordination on FAO since it was proposed that three of the projects, for which FAO is the lead Organization, be combined into one to be co-ordinated and executed by FAO.

The representative of UNEP explained that the intergovernmental experts' meeting had been postponed and was now scheduled for 19 May 1979 to allow Iran to participate but this had not yet been confirmed. He further stated that Member States' ratification of the Kuwait Regional Convention for co-operation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution is proceeding rapidly. Three of the eight states have filed their instruments of ratification: Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar. Bahrain has declared by cable that it will do so and Saudi Arabia is expected to do so in April or May. The Convention will enter into force 90 days following the date of deposit of five such instruments.

The Convention once it comes into force, establishes a Regional Organization with its own Secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of the Action Plan and UNEP would transfer all its responsibilities for the Interim Secretariat to the Regional Organization. Thereafter United Nations Agencies would deal with the Regional Organization rather than UNEP, although UNEP might be asked by the Regional Organization to remain associated with the future development of the Action Plan. He estimated that a Conference of the Contracting Parties probably could not be called before early 1980 in order to establish the Regional Organization. Thus it might be a year or more before UNEP transfers its present responsibility for the co-ordination of the Action Plan.

He assured the Committee that UNEP's policy was to work through the Agencies, but that the Regional Organization, when established, could proceed in some other fashion if it so desired. He hoped it would continue arrangements already in existence.

In response to discussion, he went on to explain that the proposed experts' meeting in May will review the substantive content of the draft programme document (doc. UNEP/WG.23/3) prepared jointly by all ICSPRO Agencies, with regard to objectives, appropriateness of the work plan, budget, etc. Priorities for the projects would be set. He said that some staging in time of the projects was likely as all of the funds are not yet available, although sufficient money has been received to allow a start to be made.

With regard to the draft management plan prepared by IOÉ, the Committee agreed that its purpose was to guide the Agencies and that it should not be presented for consideration by the proposed experts' meeting.

The Committee agreed that a consensus exists on the substantive content of the draft programme document for the implementation of the environmental assessment and management components of the Kuwait Action

Plan. However the Committee further noted that the work plan would be delayed by almost a year because of postponement of approval by the experts' group and because of the summer climate in the region.

The Committee agreed that the IOC was not the appropriate body to co-ordinate the activities of the Agencies in the Kuwait Action Plan. This task should be carried out initially by UNEP, acting as the Interim Secretariat for the Kuwait Action Plan.

The Committee further agreed that this did not compromise IOC's role as a joint specialized mechanism. ICSPRO Agencies would continue to look to IOC to carry out other appropriate co-ordination activities. Furthermore the Committee found no objection to IOC continuing to execute UNEP projects, as IOC's right so has already been confirmed by Unesco. Although the subject of the management plan was not discussed, the representative of IOC pointed out that all tasks listed therein for the IOC, the Interim Secretariat and the individual project managers are tasks that will need to be undertaken.

The Chairman IOC reminded the Committee that IOC had prepared the draft management plan as a consequence of a UNEP invitation to ICSPRO-XVIII "to entrust IOC, under the overall co-ordination of UNEP, with the co-ordination of those ICSPRO agency activities which deal with marine research (in particular with baseline studies and monitoring of marine pollution)". The Secretary IOC had on that occasion indicated the problems involved but the representative of UNEP had however insisted that IOC take on this task in its role as a joint specialized mechanism for the ICSPRO agencies.

b. Regional Co-operation in Marine Science

a) Consultant's report

The Secretary IOC introduced a report, with the above title, which had been prepared by a consultant, Dr. Lewis M. Alexander, for ICSPRO.

It was recalled the the report had been prepared in response to a decision taken at the seventeenth session of ICSPRO when the agencies had called for the preparation of a Report which would consist of three parts:

- I. A review of the present state of existing regional bodies within and outside the U.N. system dealing wholly or in part with matters relating to marine science and its applications.
- II. Trends or developments of particular importance affecting marine science and its applications, together with a review or exposé of what problems are foreseen (or are already being experienced) and the general issues involved.
- III. Proposed solutions to these problems.

IOC, acting as a "joint specialized mechanism" for the ICSPRO agencies, had retained the services of a consultant to prepare a report covering Parts I and II above and it had been the intention that Part III would be prepared by the ICSPRO agencies when this was complete.

He noted further that the Committee had decided at its eighteenth session to hold a meeting in January 1979 to consider the matter (doc. ICS-PRO-XVIII/3, item 6(f)) but this had been postponed at the request of FAO which agency was then reviewing its policy with regard to regional subsidiary bodies.

The representative of FAO confirmed that at the present time his agency had the strengthening and decentralization of all FAO sponsored regional bodies under review. It was the opinion of FAO that this review must proceed very carefully, taking fully into account the views of Member States. For this reason the review would take at least two years to complete and it was intended that the matter be discussed again by the FAO Council at its 1980 meeting. In view of this timetable, he could not agree to the general dissemination to Member States at this time of the internal ICS-PRO report, bearing the name of FAO as a co-sponsor.

The representative of the United Nations expressed similar doubts, in particular with the consultant's references to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and its Informal Composite Negotiating Text (ICNT). His timetable was that OETD had to report to ECOSOC on "Uses of the Sea" in 1981; this document would contain a section on regional arrangements.

Other agencies supported these views and there was a general consensus that the report as it now stands, should be treated solely as an internal document for the use of ICS-PRO agencies. For this purpose it was considered an excellent background report which was welcomed, as it would be of considerable benefit to members of ICS-PRO for their own activities.

The representative of UNEP pointed out, however, that there were a number of factual errors in the report, besides certain conclusions which were those of the Consultant and were not acceptable to his agency.

The representative of IMCO pointed out that the report had exceeded its original terms of reference in that it dealt with many aspects of regional co-operation in marine affairs. FAO shared this view.

The Secretary IOC drew attention to the fact that he had to present a report on the subject to the forthcoming eleventh session of the IOC Assembly in October/November 1979 and that he had hoped to place the document before his Member States in its present form.

After considerable discussion, it was decided that Chapters 1-4 and the Appendices could be used as the factual basis for a document to be presented by the Secretary IOC. All references to the ICNT would be removed and factual errors would be corrected.

All agencies were asked to review chapters 1-4 and the Appendices and to send in a list of corrections to the Secretary IOC by 30 April 1979.

The Committee decided to keep the matter under review and to place it on the agenda for the next session.

b) Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas

The representative of UNEP reported that a Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas - to review UNEP's plans related to the marine environment and the interest of the agencies in these activities - would be held at FAO, Rome, 23-25 July 1979. The conclusions of this meeting would be used as input for a thematic joint programming meeting, at present scheduled to be held in Rome, 22-26 October 1979. It was pointed out that the latter dates were unacceptable if marine science and marine pollution programmes were to be discussed, as they clash with the eleventh session of the IOC Assembly.

The representative of UNEP informed the Committee that a second draft of the Plan of Action for the Gulf of Guinea region is under preparation and would be sent out to all agencies shortly. He pointed out that UNEP goes to considerable lengths to ensure that all agencies are informed of his agency's plans and expressed the hope that reciprocal action would be taken by the agencies.

c) ASFIS Register of Activities

It was recalled that the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs had pioneered an ASFIS register of activities listing plans and programmes of work for each agency. When the decision was taken to stop regular sessions of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs, it had been confirmed that the register would be continued. The Committee concurred fully that there was a need for all agencies to be kept fully informed of all plans and ongoing activities.

6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICS-PRO Officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16-17 November 1978

The representative of Unesco and the Secretary of IOC outlined the present status of activities covered by the report. They further indicated that the proposed terms of reference for the Working Committee for TEMA had been considered by the IOC Executive Council at its eleventh session and an ad hoc group had been formed to consider the matter further. This would work by correspondence and meet just before the IOC Assembly (15 October - 3 November 1979). The Chairman of IOC invited the TEMA officers of the Agencies to submit further comments or recommendations on the subject to the Fourth Vice-Chairman.

The representative of FAO noted that the input from his agency to TEMA activities in the CINCWIO region would be through the Indian Ocean Programme.

The Committee approved the TEMA Officers' report and further recommended that the TEMA Officers meet at an early date, following consultation on a draft agenda with such items as the following: (i) recommendations concerning the Working Committee for TEMA; (ii) follow-up activities concerning the training of marine technicians, and the introduction of oceanography and the marine environment into secondary schools' curricula; (iii) preparation of the workshop on curricula in fisheries science, and (iv) TEMA aspects of ocean engineering and marine technology.



The representative of FAO reported that no budgetary provisions had been made for the FAO share of the proposed Workshop to develop curricula in Fishery Science at University and/or post-graduate level (document IOC-TEMA/ICSPRO-V/3, Appendix I). The representative of Unesco confirmed that the Unesco share would be forthcoming and urged the representative of FAO to reconsider the matter. The representative of FAO agreed to do so.

7. Any other business

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The representative of the United Nations reported that there was little new information that he could give the Committee since its last session. The subject of Marine Scientific Research is not under active consideration at the present time but may be taken up later in the current session. A revised text of the ICNT is likely to become available by the end of the eighth session of the Conference.

(b) United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)

The representative of Unesco briefed the Committee on the state of preparations for UNCSTD, which is now scheduled to be held in Vienna, 20-31 August 1979. He also briefed the Committee on the International Colloquium on Science, Technology and Society (FORUM A) to be held in Vienna, 13-17 August 1979, which is being organized by the U.N. Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development.

The representative of Unesco further pointed out that Unesco is considering the preparation of an exhibit to be presented at FORUM A and UNCSTD. Tentatively, the exhibit would portray scientific information and marine science as examples of the application of science and technology for development. He invited comments of the Committee and expressed Unesco's willingness to collaborate with interested agencies, where possible, within the limits of finances and content of exhibit. The Committee considered that time was too short and resources too limited to organize such an exhibit of high quality. If the agencies have any further comments, they should communicate these to the Chief of the Division of Marine Sciences, Unesco, before 6 April 1979.

(c) Remote Sensing

The representative of the United Nations recalled that at its eighteenth session, the Committee had invited the Remote Sensing Unit of the U.N. Centre for Natural Resources to advise it on the feasibility of holding a series of regional seminars in Remote Sensing Applications (ref. document ICSPRO-XVIII/3, item 2). He presented verbally a short report from the head of the Remote Sensing Unit, Dr. K.-H. Szekiolda, in which he offered to provide additional assistance to look into the financial implications and identify possible supporting sources, using in particular Danish facilities. The representative of the United Nations reported that he had also just received a cable in which support was offered by the International Training Centre, Enschede, Netherlands.

The Committee decided to consider the matter further at its next session when hopefully the long-awaited IOC Technical Series publication would be available.

(d) Mangroves

The representative of UNEP outlined the place of the mangrove ecosystem in South-east Asia in respect to UNEP's preparation of a regional seas action plan for the region. He indicated that the ASEAN countries have particularly urged UNEP to be active in this area. He described UNEP's co-operation with FAO in a regional project. He urged all agencies to contribute to the preparation of the action plan, which should be completed towards the end of 1980.

The representative of Unesco described the programme of his agency concerning the mangrove ecosystem, emphasizing that it is intended to be complementary to that of FAO and to provide an input to regional action plans, such as that of UNEP. He recalled a seminar on the uses of the mangrove, which had been held in Bangladesh in December 1978, and drew the attention of the Committee to the SCOR/Unesco Working Group on Mangrove Ecosystems (SCOR WGGO) and to the existence of a draft UNDP regional programme on mangrove research and training. He especially invited FAO and UNEP to participate and provide support to participants in the Asian Symposium on the Mangrove Marine Environment planned to be organized by Unesco in South-east Asia in the first half of 1980. The symposium is to be followed by a small workshop to summarize recommendations for research needed for knowledge and on management of the mangrove ecosystem.

The representative of FAO indicated that FAO dealt with both the fisheries and forestry aspects of the mangroves. The Secretary IOC drew attention to WESTPAC recommendations concerning marine pollution using commercially exploited shellfish as determinants, and large-scale physical oceanographic monitoring of the region (within the framework of IGOSS), as being pertinent to the regional seas plan of action.

(e) Meetings on Coastal Area Problems

The representative of the United Nations announced that a meeting is being organized on coastal area development and management in South-east Asia, to be held in Manila in November 1979, in co-operation with CCOP (of ESCAP) and the German foundation for Development. CCOP and the foundation will each fund one participant for each country of the region. He invited UNEP and interested agencies to help fund the resource specialists and other costs.

The representative of the United Nations and the Secretary IOC further announced that the IOC/UN/Unesco/UNU/UNEP Workshop on Coastal Area Development and Management in the Caribbean Region would be held in Mexico, most likely in September 1979.

8. Date and Place of next session

Concerning scheduling of the next meeting of ICSPRO the Committee recognized that much specialized ICSPRO co-ordination and co-operation occurs on a continuing basis in programmes such as

IDOE, TEMA, IGOSS, FGGE, GIPME, IODE, ASFIS, ODAS, Coastal Area Development, etc. Thus a major function of ICSPRO is to review and confirm co-operation in these various programmes amongst the ICSPRO Agencies in a timely fashion.

The representative of the FAO suggested that it might be preferable to hold the next session of the Committee after the IOC Assembly when knowledge of the decisions taken thereat could be considered.

This was agreed in principle but when investigated, it was found that the period immediately after the Assembly was unsuitable to most agencies.

After discussion, two alternatives were tentatively agreed:

- (i) 17-19 December 1979 at IMCO headquarters, London;
- (ii) In conjunction with a possible ad hoc meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs.

9. Adoption of the Summary Report of the session

The Summary Report of the session (document ICSPRO-XIX/3 - this document) was adopted.

10. Closure of the session

The Committee expressed its great appreciation to Mr. D.P.D. Scott, Secretary IOC, for his long devoted and effective service as Secretary of ICSPRO. The smooth functioning and success of ICSPRO is directly related to his fine efforts.

The Chairman closed the session at 12.55 p.m. on Wednesday, 28 March 1979.

AGENDA

1. (a) Opening of the session  
(b) Adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising from the report of the eighteenth session of the Committee (ICS-PRO-XVIII, Geneva, 27-30 September 1978)
3. Consideration of the adopted resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI), Mexico City, 26 February - 3 March 1979
4. Management Plan for the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) region
5. Regional Co-operation in Marine Science
  - (a) Consultant's report
  - (b) Second Interagency Meeting on the Regional Seas
  - (c) ASFIS Register of Activities
6. Report of the fifth meeting of the ICS-PRO Officers concerned with TEMA, UNESCO, 16-17 November 1978
7. Any other business:
  - (a) Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
  - (b) UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD)
  - (c) Remote sensing
  - (d) Mangroves
  - (e) Meetings on Coastal Area Problems
8. Date and place of next session
9. Adoption of the Summary Report of the session
10. Closure of the session

Opening Statement by Mr. S. Quijano-Caballero,  
Director, UN External Relations and Inter-Agency  
Affairs, Geneva

On behalf of the United Nations, I have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Palais des Nations for the nineteenth session of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography.

As you have a rather heavy agenda for your two-day session, I will be very brief in my remarks.

It seems to me that your present session is a particularly important one, coming as it does between the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council, which was held less than a month ago in Mexico City, and the forthcoming biennial session of the IOC Assembly to be held next fall in Paris.

As you are well aware, the Executive Council dealt with, among other items, the important question of the future role and functions of the IOC. I know that the ICSPRO Agencies, including, of course, the UN, have been closely associated with the study of this matter and attach considerable importance to strengthening the capabilities of the IOC in the field of marine science. I would like to reaffirm the continuing support of the UN for the successful outcome of this exercise.

The question of regional co-operation is also one that is of particular concern to the UN, as I believe it is for the other agencies represented here. In the case of the UN, the General Assembly resolution on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN, as well as other resolutions, have generated considerable impetus toward establishing a proper framework for improving co-operation between Headquarters and the regional commissions and decentralizing certain activities to the Commissions in various fields, including marine affairs. This matter has been discussed at a meeting in Rabat between the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and Headquarters officials including Mr. Jean Ripert, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Increasingly, therefore, consideration of the question of regional co-operation in marine science and more broadly, marine affairs, will need to take account of the role of the regional commissions as they strengthen their capabilities in this area.

I understand from Mr. Lévy that the report on Uses of the Sea to be submitted to ECOSOC in 1980 will deal briefly with this important question of regional co-operation and that a more detailed treatment will be provided in a subsequent report, taking into account the results of a recent consultant study on this subject commissioned by the ICSPRO agencies.

In closing, I would like to reiterate United Nations support for ICSPRO, which has proved an effective co-ordination mechanism in the field of marine science. It also results that in view of UN General Assembly resolution 32/197 concerning the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the UN system, and the decision that the ACC Sub-Committee on Marine Affairs should no longer exist as a permanent body, the work of your committee will continue to be followed with great interest by the ACC and its new subsidiary mechanisms. There is no doubt that the ICSPRO is an outstanding example of close co-ordination between the agencies in a specialist field of mutual interest and that the benefits to be gained from multi-agency collaboration of this kind are indeed very considerable.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ICS PRO-XIX/1 prov.	Provisional Agenda
2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
3	Report of the nineteenth session <sup>a</sup> of ICS PRO
4	List of Documents
5	The relationship of IOC to the ICS PRO Agencies and UNEP in the context of the Kuwait Action Plan
ICS PRO-XVIII/3	Report of the eighteenth session of ICS PRO
IOC/EC-XI/3 ANNEX II	Adopted Resolutions of the eleventh session of the IOC Executive Council (EC-XI)
-	Revised text of the Management Plan for the Marine Pollution Research and Moni- toring Components of the Kuwait Action Plan
IOC-TEMA/ICS PRO-V/3	Report of the fifth meeting of the ICS PRO Officers concerned with TEMA, Unesco, 16-17 November 1978
-	Regional Co-operation in Marine Science. Report prepared by Dr. Lewis M. Alexander, University of Rhode Island, for ICS PRO
-	Report of the Division of Marine Sciences of Unesco, 23 March 1979
-	Competent international organizations and the law of the sea by J.D. Kingham and D.M. McRae. Photocopy of article published in Marine Policy (April 1979)

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