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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
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MACHINERY FOR INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION  
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF IOC AND ITS RELEVANCE TO AFRICA

This document was originally prepared by the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), as a contribution to the ECA/Unesco Workshop on the Present State and Future Development of Marine Science and Technology in Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, June 1981), in which the Commission was co-operating. It has been revised taking into account recent developments in international marine affairs, and within the Commission particularly regarding new mechanisms for regional co-operation.

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1. INTRODUCTION

From the middle of the 19th century when systematic scientific research of the oceans began, it has been increasingly recognized that the ocean is more than a medium of trade, fishing, and warfare. The fundamental role that the ocean plays in the water cycle and heat budget of the earth, and therefore as the chief moderator of its weather and climate, is only now beginning to be understood. And as the quality of the marine environment is being increasingly threatened by various forms of pollution arising from man's growing use of the ocean, his consciousness and concern are being awakened to the fact that the ocean and its sea floor represent a vast reservoir of high quality protein food, mineral resources and energy, for which a rational plan of exploration, exploitation and management is more important now than ever before. The global continuity of the ocean medium makes it virtually impossible to deal with, or study, problems related to major oceanic processes without recourse to multinational global and regional co-operation.

International co-operation in marine science has often taken the form of combined scientific investigation by ships of several countries operating in a selected ocean area for a determined period of time, for the purpose of collectively learning more about the ocean area in question, or of collectively investigating a particular phenomenon therein. The planning and co-ordination of international co-operative investigations may be either at the intergovernmental level through international organizations, or at a non-governmental level through interested scientific bodies and/or institutions. In the past, under the old regime of freedom of the oceans, and because of the nature of such co-operative efforts, they did not necessarily require the support of local institutions or permanent international bodies to achieve their objectives. Therefore, in the past, in regions where there have not been positive local initiatives to establish machinery for continued international marine co-operation thereafter, international co-operative investigations have wound up without giving rise to permanent or semi-permanent machinery for further co-operation in marine science and related aspects. The co-operation between the institutions and experts from research states and co-operating states, contributed to the transfer of knowledge and was a form of mutual aid, but the strengthening of local institutions by such actions was sometimes less than desirable. As will be seen below, the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) and the International Co-operative Investigation of the Tropical Atlantic (ICITA), to mention only two, had a very positive effect on the acquisition of scientific information and data, as well as in a better understanding of the ocean areas concerned, and acted as a stimulus for the development of local marine science infrastructures. However, they left no machinery for continued marine scientific co-operation behind them. On the other hand, in cases where, either as a result of their having participated in an international co-operative investigation within the area or for other reasons, some states of that area have accelerated the development of national activities and expressed interest in continued marine scientific co-operation, international co-operative investigations have given birth to temporary machinery for multinational regional co-operation in marine science. The Co-operative Study of the Kuroshio and adjacent regions (CSK) and the Co-operative Investigation in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CICAR) are good examples of the latter case.

Before proceeding to review a few instances of international and regional co-operation in marine science, and how the factors behind the two levels of co-operation have evolved, it may be useful to define what is meant by a region in this context.

A region is a geographic generalization whose distinguishing criteria are determined by the individuals or governments who create it in order to achieve a stated objective. Once a region has been so designated, its conceptual validity is related to the degree to which it achieves the objective for which it was created. Any region may be subdivided into various sub-regions if the task to be performed so demands; but for the purpose of this review, it is assumed that machinery required for regional marine scientific co-operation would generally provide also a forum for sub-regional marine co-operation.

## 2. REVIEW OF IOC REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN MARINE SCIENCE

### 2.1 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) was established by the 11th Session of Unesco's General Conference in November/December 1960 in response to a recommendation of an Intergovernmental Conference on Oceanic Research (Copenhagen, 11-16 July 1960).

The IOC has experienced a very high growth rate as its membership increased from 40 in 1961 to 110 as of 5 November 1982. The purpose of the Commission is to promote scientific investigation with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the ocean through the concerted action of its members. Therefore, as an autonomous body within the general framework of Unesco, the Commission's policy and programmes are determined by the Assembly of its Member States, which sits biennially, and, intersessionally, by the Executive Council. It receives scientific guidance mainly from three Advisory Bodies: the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) of ICSU, the Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR) of FAO, and the Engineering Committee on Oceanic Resources (ECOR). The work of IOC can be subdivided into three major categories: (i) Ocean Science; (ii) Ocean Services; and (iii) Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the marine sciences (TEMA). (i) includes ocean dynamics and climate, ocean sciences in relation to living resources and to non-living resources, other global scientific research, marine pollution research and monitoring. (ii) includes the IOC/WMO Integrated Global Ocean Services System (IGOSS), the International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) and the Marine Environmental Data Information referral system (MEDI), and ocean mapping including the IOC/IHO General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans. (iii) is an important common element of all the IOC's programmes.

The IOC is also a joint specialized mechanism by which the UN organizations (UN, FAO, Unesco, WMO and IMCO) that are members of the Intersecretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO) discharge certain of their responsibilities in the fields of ocean sciences and related aspects.

In carrying out its work the Commission promotes regional co-operation through its own regional subsidiary bodies, mentioned below, or by supporting regional scientific projects such as that on the Scientific Investigation of the

Phenomenon "El Niño" in the eastern Pacific, in collaboration with the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and WMO.

At present 24 African countries are Member States of the Commission (Algeria, United Republic of Cameroon, Congo, Arab Republic of Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Toga and Tunisia).

## 2.2 International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) 1959-1965

Initiated and organized by SCOR, the IIOE was conceived as an exploratory programme to allow individual scientists to carry out their own specialized programme of interest. Co-ordination of various contributions to IIOE as to time and place was not very strict. The Expedition consisted more of an exchange of information on the relevant national programmes than of a development and implementation of a joint research plan adopted and adhered to by all participants. When the IOC was formed, the Secretary was instructed to co-ordinate IIOE in consultation with SCOR which retained the scientific advisory role. One of the most important indirect contributions of IIOE towards regional co-operation in the Indian Ocean was that a substantial number of developing countries in the area became more interested in marine science, obtained technical assistance and skills in this field, and developed national infrastructures to meet national objectives and to engage in international oceanographic co-operation. The other was that by identifying, from oceanographic considerations, large areas of potential fishery development in the Indian Ocean, many of which were shared by more than two countries, IIOE indirectly identified those areas with sufficient potential for regional co-operation in marine science. Nevertheless, because there was no expressed will for continued marine co-operation from any group of the countries of the region, IIOE did not result in any machinery for regional co-operation in marine science.

## 2.3 International Co-operative Investigation of the Tropical Atlantic (ICITA), 1963-64

ICITA, the first international co-operative programme to be fully initiated, organized and co-ordinated by IOC, was an extension and an internationalization of an earlier locally conceived programme, the Guinean Trawler Survey Year, which aimed at drawing up a full inventory of the marine living resources and environmental conditions of the Gulf of Guinea. ICITA comprised an oceanographic multiple-ship survey of the tropical Atlantic Ocean from the west coast of Africa to South America, with the participation of the following developing countries: Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Zaire (then Rep. of Congo). It is considered to have been a very well organized and co-ordinated international co-operative programme. But, again because there was no local will for continued co-operation (probably due to the incipient state of marine science at that time in the majority of the countries of the area covered by ICITA), ICITA did not give birth to any machinery within the region for ongoing co-operation in marine science.

#### 2.4 Co-operative Study of the Kuroshio and adjacent regions (CSK), 1963-77

The idea of a co-operative study of the Kuroshio (the major west Pacific current) originated from the Second Regional Meeting of Marine Science Experts in South-east Asia, convened by Unesco in Manila in 1962, where a relevant proposal was made by Japanese oceanographers. The IOC, at its Second Session in September 1962, approved appropriate action to be taken and invited interested Member States to develop a programme for the co-operative seasonal study of the Kuroshio in certain areas. At its Third Session in 1964, the IOC adopted the Co-operative Study of the Kuroshio and adjacent regions (CSK) as an official IOC programme and established an International Co-ordination Group (ICG) composed of national co-ordinators nominated by participating Member States and chaired by an International Co-ordinator. The Group was given the task of co-ordinating national efforts in a well organized exercise. To cover fisheries aspects, IOC later appointed an Assistant International Co-ordinator for fisheries, and the programme received effective support from FAO.

The data obtained were collected by the Japan National Oceanographic Data Centre, functioning as the "Kuroshio Data Centre". In 1973, as the end of CSK was approaching, it was obvious to the International Co-ordination Group, mainly from the expressed interest of many participating countries of the region, that some form of mechanism for continued marine co-operation within the region was necessary. On the recommendations of the ICG, the IOC, at its Eighth and Ninth Sessions, took appropriate steps to define future programmes and co-operation in the western Pacific Ocean, as a result of which the IOC Assembly, at its Tenth Session in 1977, finally decided to establish a Working (later Programme) Group for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) which is open to all interested Member States, with the Terms of Reference given in Annex I. The Programme Group has a Chairman and a Vice-chairman, both of who are elected during its biennial sessions, and its secretariat support is provided locally through an IOC Assistant Secretary based in the Regional Office for Science and Technology for South-east Asia (ROSTSEA, Jakarta, Indonesia). Further strengthening of the existing co-ordination machinery will be discussed during the Third Session of the Programme Group scheduled for September 1983.

#### 2.5 Co-operative Investigations of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CICAR), 1967-76

Following a proposal by the Netherlands in 1966 to start a co-operative investigation of the Caribbean Sea, the IOC at its Fifth Session in 1967, adopted this proposal as an official IOC programme and established the International Co-ordination Group for the Co-operative Investigations of the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (CICAR) composed of the National Co-ordinators of the interested Member States plus representatives of FAO, WMO and other interested international bodies. The following 14 countries (9 of which are developing countries from the region) participated in CICAR: Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, USSR, United Kingdom, USA and Venezuela. Unlike CSK where the Kuroshio was the major subject of study, CICAR was more an area-oriented research programme with objectives more difficult to define. CICAR increased the interest of many Caribbean countries in marine affairs, and stimulated the creation of national marine science structures, which are a prerequisite for any further development in oceanography. The countries of the region also expressed the wish to continue co-operative marine research in a more

adequate form. Consequently, the IOC Assembly at its Ninth Session in 1975 decided to disband the International Co-ordination Group for CICAR and to establish, on an experimental basis for a period of six years, an IOC Association for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE) for the purpose of continuing and developing regional co-operation in marine sciences, with the Terms of Reference given in Annex II. By the time of the Association's Third Session in Mexico in December 1980, its membership comprised nineteen countries from the Caribbean region and two countries from outside the region. Because of this growth, coupled with greater interest of the Member States of the region in continued and closer co-operation, and in anticipation of even greater need for such co-operation, arising from the new ocean regime and the signature of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Association, at its Third Session recommended that it be transformed into a permanent Sub-Commission of the IOC with appropriate Terms of Reference. This recommendation was considered by the Executive Council at its Fourteenth Session (Tenerife, Spain, June 1981), and later by the IOC Assembly during its Twelfth Session (Unesco, Paris, November 1982). The Assembly had before it An Evaluation of IOCARIBE (Document IOC/INF IOC/INF-495), outlining the history of the Association and CICAR, on the basis of which the Assembly agreed that the success and usefulness of IOCARIBE clearly outweighed the difficulties. The Assembly then decided to establish an IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE) as a permanent subsidiary body of the Commission, with the general Terms of Reference for IOC Sub-Commissions (see below) given in Annex III. Secretariat support is provided by an IOC Assistant Secretary based in San José de Costa Rica, with technical backstopping from Headquarters.

## 2.6 Co-operative Investigations in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean (CINCWIO)

CINCWIO is a regional co-operative programme which the Commission is developing for the countries of the Western Indian Ocean region. But unlike WESTPAC and IOCARIBE, which arose directly from international co-operative programmes (i.e., CSK and CICAR, respectively), the momentum for CINCWIO was provided by a regional nucleus of oceanographic and fisheries research, the East African Marine Fisheries Research Organization (EAMFRO) of the former East African Community (ECA), which was responsible for all marine research activities for Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The IOC, during the Eighth Session of its Assembly (November 1973), received a proposal from the delegation of Kenya calling for a Co-operative Investigation in the North and Central Western Indian Ocean (CINCWIO). The Assembly was informed of various ongoing and planned activities in the region, particularly surveys of the living resources of the area which were to be sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Recognizing that the earlier International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) had indicated that the circulation and associated upwelling processes in the area are of major scientific and economic importance, and that the countries of the former East African Community (EAC) had at that time an established marine research mechanism which would serve as a nucleus for broader state co-operative oceanographic investigations of the region, the Commission instructed its Secretary to determine, jointly with the FAO (IOFC) and the EAC representatives, how a co-operative investigation in the area could be initiated. Relevant consultations were carried out which later led the Commission, by Resolution IX.5, to recognize the East African Natural Resources Research Council (of EAC) as the co-ordinating

machinery for this programme and to convene a workshop in Nairobi in 1976 to initiate scientific planning for CINCWIO. To date the IOC has established a Programme Group for CINCWIO which is open to all interested Member States. Present membership from within the region is: France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania. Unfortunately, the development of the programme has been beset with various difficulties including shortage of foreign exchange and skilled personnel for the proper maintenance of the available research vessels. In the meantime, it is planned that a Marine Science Officer will soon be posted to the Unesco Regional Office for Science and Technology for Africa (ROSTA) and will provide secretariat services for the Programme Group, acting as an IOC Assistant Secretary, with technical backstopping from Headquarters.

The Programme Group held its First Session at the Unesco Regional Office for Science and Technology for Africa (ROSTA), Nairobi, Kenya, from 4 to 9 October 1982. Among other decisions, the Programme Group adopted the following co-operative research projects in the framework of CINCWIO: (i) the study of coastal currents/water masses, winds and related upwellings in the region; (ii) the development and strengthening of an observing system for monitoring coastal winds, air and water temperature, humidity and sea level; (iii) the study of the distribution of fish eggs and larvae in relation to environmental factors; (iv) participation in the IOC Marine Pollution Monitoring (MARPOLMON) system and IGOSS; (v) the preparation of an International Bathymetric Chart of the Western Indian Ocean and (vi) the establishment by each Member State of an infrastructure for oceanographic data and information exchange among the countries of the region and with those from outside the region.

### 3. POSSIBILITIES OF SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTRIES ON THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

Results of the International Co-operative Investigations of the Tropical Atlantic (ICITA) revealed scientifically important features of the physics, biology and geology of the tropical Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Equatorial Undercurrent was measured and found to play a very important role in equatorial circulation which is not yet fully understood. Areas of pronounced upwelling and subsequent high biological production were identified along the west African coast, particularly in the Gulf of Guinea, and the plankton distribution in these areas revealed a patchiness whose meaningful interpretation would call for regular measurement of biological, chemical and physical parameters in a network of stations over a longer period. The Geophysical survey of the eastern Atlantic continental margin, carried out later, revealed the presence of large basins with sediment thickness over 4 km in a belt associated with the major rivers along the west African coast, with many structural features typical of gas and oil deposits. Furthermore, results of the Co-operative Investigations of the Northern part of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CINECA) - organized jointly by IOC, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Fishery Committee of the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and FAO - revealed that the prediction, from oceanographic and primary production data, of fish catches in the upwelling zones of the area covered by CINECA would require further scientific studies to improve the understanding of the complicated mechanisms of inter-actions in the upwelling ecosystems. Therefore, there is enough scientific justification in the area, besides the need for rational exploitation and conservation of marine resources and environment, for an effective machinery for regional co-operation in marine science. Such machinery could be patterned on, and benefit from the experience of, the existing regional co-ordinating mechanisms of the IOC.

The IOC, at the Eleventh Session of its Assembly (Unesco, Paris, October/November 1979), by Resolution XI-18 (Marine Science Co-operation on the Atlantic Coast of Africa), co-sponsored by Senegal, Gabon and France, instructed its Secretary, in collaboration with the Division of Marine Sciences of Unesco, to arrange for a workshop on Marine Science Co-operation to be held in West Africa to provide the basis for a Marine Science Association for countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa and any other interested IOC Member States.

Consultations undertaken in the early stages of organizing the Workshop called for in Resolution XI-18 revealed that one of the objectives of a project on the Development of Science and Technology in Africa, funded by UNDP, and to be jointly executed by Unesco and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), is "to develop the ability of African countries in understanding and making use of their marine resources through regional and sub-regional co-operation, based on active exchange in scientific and policy matters, and a continuous mechanism of contact among scientists and decision-makers in African Member States", and that a Workshop on the Present State and Future Development of Marine Sciences and Technology in Africa was to be held soon in Addis Ababa.

In order to take advantage of the then latest information on the status of marine science in Africa, collected by the Unesco/ECA missions to African coastal states (May-November 1980), negotiations were undertaken with Unesco and the Economic Commission for Africa with a view to associating the IOC with the above-mentioned Unesco/ECA Workshop, and to include in its Agenda an item on mechanisms for global and regional co-operation in marine sciences in Africa, so as to obtain support and inputs for the implementation of Resolution XI-18.

The Workshop recognized that there is an urgent need to develop the capabilities of coastal states to be able to carry out national, regional and international oceanographic programmes, and to prepare for the evaluation, exploitation and management of their resources. The greatest need was to enhance the human resources already available at universities and institutes, or to create a basic infrastructure where none at present existed. There was unanimity that regional co-operation is essential, and IOC was called upon to study the establishment of a co-ordinating body to promote such co-operation in marine science and technology. To support this development the Workshop urged Member States to form, where necessary, National Oceanographic Committees. IOC was called upon to promote data and information exchange as a basis for research and training programmes. In the longer term, IOC was asked to mount a comprehensive assistance programme to enhance the marine science capabilities of African countries.

#### 4. NEW IOC MECHANISM FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Following the recommendation by the former IOC Association for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE), when discussing its future status after the completion of its experimental six-year period as an IOC Association, that it become a permanent subcommission of the IOC, the Executive Council, at its Fifteenth Session (Paris, March 1982), considered the concept of establishing



Regional Subcommissions, and concluded that "circumstances may arise where the regional activities of the Commission may need a status and continuity not provided for by any of the existing arrangements available to the Commission, and that it would be useful to agree upon the concept". The Council established certain basic conditions and circumstances that should be taken into account when a decision to establish a Subcommission is being taken: "(i) the countries of the region are already actively engaged in co-operative investigations or have demonstrated their interest in doing so; (ii) an existing regional subsidiary body of the Commission formally requests the Assembly to recognize it as belonging in this new category of subsidiary body; (iii) the budget and secretariat services required for the effective functioning of a Subcommission can be made available". The Council instructed the Secretary to prepare a proposal (document IOC-XII/8 Annex 15) for the consideration of the Assembly.

The Assembly, during its Twelfth Session (Paris, November 1982), considered the above-mentioned proposal and decided to adopt the concept of IOC regional subcommissions, and the text given in Annex III as the Guidelines for the structure and responsibilities of these subcommissions.

This information is provided to assist participants in their discussions under various items of the Agenda with a view to facilitating their task in identifying requirements and providing guidelines for co-operation in marine sciences and related activities in the Central Eastern Atlantic (Western Africa). These guidelines will be taken into account by IOC when establishing a mechanism for cooperation in marine sciences and related aspects in the region.

ANNEX I

Programme Group for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) (x)

<u>Date and resolution of establishment:</u>	November 1977 Resolution X-11A of the tenth session of the IOC Assembly
<u>Terms of reference:</u>	Document IOC/WESTPAC <u>ad hoc</u> -I/3, Annex V, as endorsed by resolution X-11A.  The IOC Working Group for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) is to:  (i) plan and co-ordinate long-term scientific research programmes necessary to attain its objectives;  (ii) facilitate and expedite the various activities conducted under the programmes of research;  (iii) evaluate and assess the results of the programmes of research as they become available;  (iv) update regularly the programmes of research in the light of the above evaluation and assessment;  (v) facilitate the exchange of data and ensure dissemination of scientific results;  (vi) assist the participating States in the improvement of their capabilities to participate effectively in the programmes of research;  (vii) co-ordinate the programmes of research with related activities of interested intergovernmental and other organizations.
<u>Membership:</u>	
<u>Chairman:</u>	A. SOEGIARTO Director National Institute of Oceanology Komplek Bina Samudera Ancol Jakarta Utara 580 DAK Indonesia  (Tel.: 683 850, 680 859, 681 948 Cable: LONAS)
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	T. HIRANO Ocean Research Institute University of Tokyo 1-15-1 Minamidai, Nakano-ku Tokyo 164 Japan
<u>Composition:</u>	Open to all interested Member States
<u>Bodies set up within WESTPAC:</u>	ad hoc Task Team on Ocean Dynamics in the Western Pacific ad hoc Task Team on Coastal and Continental Shelf Oceanography ad hoc Task Team on Marine Pollution Research and Monitoring Using Commercially Exploited Shellfish as Determinants

ANNEX II

IOC Association for the Caribbean (x)  
and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE)

Date and resolution  
of establishment:

November 1975  
Resolution IX-13 of the ninth session of the IOC Assembly

Terms of reference:

Annex to resolution IX-13 (document SC/MD/55)

The IOC Association for the Caribbean and adjacent regions will:

- (i) be responsible, under the overall supervision of the Commission, for overseeing all the Commission's activities in its region;
- (ii) develop a regional programme of activities in the form of scientific projects which are worth while from the viewpoint of international collaboration in the region, to determine the basic objectives of joint investigations and to agree on the character and pathways for using the results;
- (iii) work closely with the working committees and international co-ordination groups of the Commission in the development of the regional programme of activities;
- (iv) co-ordinate scientific projects in the region, subject to overall financial implications approved by the Commission;
- (v) report biennially and make recommendations to the Assembly of the Commission on the work accomplished and future action required, and to prepare, with the assistance of the Secretary, a draft two-year programme of work and budget for submission to each Assembly;
- (vi) develop regional projects, in conjunction with Unesco (or other ICSPRO agencies) on behalf of the Commission, for submission to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- (vii) develop working relationships with other bodies involved in marine scientific research in the region, particularly the regional commissions and councils of FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Chairman:

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Vice-Chairman:

H.B. STEWART, Jr.  
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(Tel.: (804) 440-3989)

Composition:

Membership shall consist of all Member States of the  
Commission in the region and other interested Member  
States

ANNEX III

GUIDELINES FOR THE STRUCTURE AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF IOC SUBCOMMISSIONS (x)

1. Basic function

1.1 Regional subcommissions are intergovernmental subsidiary bodies of the Commission, responsible for the promotion, development and co-ordination of the marine scientific research programmes, the ocean services, and related activities, including TEMA, in their respective regions. In establishing their programmes, they should take into account the specific interests and needs of the Member States in the region. In carrying out the above work, it is mandatory that the regional subcommissions collaborate closely with IOC's subsidiary bodies concerned with global activities, within their fields of competence.

1.2 Regional subcommissions shall operate within the framework of the general policy of the Commission and the budgetary guidelines and allocations established by the Assembly.

1.3 Regional subcommissions shall be established by the Assembly only at the request of Member States in the region, taking into account at least the following basic conditions:

- (i) an existing regional subsidiary body of the Commission has formally requested the Assembly to designate it as a regional subcommission;
- (ii) the budget and secretariat required for the effective functioning of the proposed regional subcommission will be made available;
- (iii) the Member States of the region for which a regional subcommission is proposed are already actively engaged in co-operative activities or have demonstrated their commitment to do so.

2. Basic terms of reference

Regional subcommissions shall:

- (i) define regional problems the solution of which calls for international co-operation, and promote, develop and co-ordinate the required marine scientific research programmes and related activities;
- (ii) implement and co-ordinate the regional components of global marine scientific research programmes and activities of the Commission;
- (iii) promote the development and use, at regional level, of ocean services and related supporting activities, co-ordinated or maintained by the Commission;
- (iv) facilitate the exchange of scientific data and information, and the transfer of knowledge resulting from marine scientific research, especially to developing countries in the region;

- (v) assist with the identification of training, education and mutual assistance needs in the region, particularly those relating to the programmes of the regional subcommission, and promote the required TEMA activities;
- (vi) make recommendations to the governing bodies of the Commission on policy matters, and submit proposals on the budgetary and other forms of support required for the programme of work of the regional subcommission; co-operate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission on technical matters of common interest;
- (vii) provide general guidance and serve as a mechanism for Member States, for the formulation, evaluation and follow-up of proposals for extra-budgetary projects aimed at strengthening national capabilities in marine scientific research and the establishment of common institutions, services and facilities (e.g. centres, networks);
- (viii) co-operate with the regional subsidiary bodies of the United Nations organizations members of ICSPRO and of other United Nations organizations as well as regional bodies collaborating with the Commission;
- (ix) regional subcommissions have the right, provided that no costs fall on the Commission or have been approved by a governing body, to: (i) form task teams to carry out specific assignments; (ii) establish groups of experts; and (iii) organize technical meetings (e.g. workshops), provided costs fall within the budget allocated to them or extra-budgetary funding is available for that purpose; otherwise recommendations to that effect shall be submitted to the governing bodies of the Commission for their consideration and approval.

### 3. Region

The region (geographical area of each regional subcommission) shall be determined by the Commission, giving due regard to the views of the Member States concerned, particularly those of the region being considered for regional subcommission status.

### 4. Membership

Membership of each regional subcommission shall be open to all interested Member States of the Commission willing to participate actively in the work of the regional subcommission.

Member States shall acquire membership of each regional subcommission by notifying the Secretary of the Commission.

Members of regional subcommissions shall each appoint a national representative to act as focal point in their countries for each regional subcommission, and are invited to appoint, as required, other formal contacts.

### 5. Meetings

Each regional subcommission should meet once during each budgetary biennium unless otherwise decided by the regional subcommission with the approval of a governing body of the Commission.

Meetings (time and place) of each regional subcommission and of its task teams, etc., if any, shall be decided by the regional subcommission, but only after consultation with the Secretary of the Commission if there are budgetary implications.

6. Officers

A regional subcommission shall elect its Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from a Member State in the region. They will serve for two sessions and two intersessional periods and may be re-elected for one additional term of office.

7. Secretariat support

Secretariat support for the regional subcommission shall be provided by the IOC Secretariat (headquarters staff and staff outposted in the region), and by Member States.

8. Location of the secretariat staff

The outposted IOC staff provided secretariat services to a regional subcommission shall be located in an appropriate office of Unesco or of any organization of the United Nations system in the region of the regional subcommission, or elsewhere in a Member States of the region, provided that such a state offers facilities considered adequate by the regional subcommission and approved by a governing body of the Commission.

9. Financial arrangements and support in kind

The programme and activities of a regional subcommission shall be carried out within the budgetary allocations established by the Commission, or from such additional resources and support in kind as may be made available by Unesco or by other organizations members of ICSPRO, or by any other United Nations organizations co-operating with the Commission, or by Member States of the Commission, or as may be received from other sources in accordance with the financial rules of the Commission.

Voluntary contributions earmarked specifically for the programme and activities of a regional subcommission may be accepted and established under the IOC Trust Fund in accordance with the financial regulations of Unesco and the IOC and administered by the Secretary of the Commission.

ANNEX IV

Resolution XI-18 (x)

MARINE SCIENCE CO-OPERATION ON THE ATLANTIC COAST OF AFRICA

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,

Considering that in most countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa existing oceanographic research efforts are meant to back up fisheries development programmes,

Further considering the great importance and yet low state of development of marine science in relation to various uses, especially living resources, in these countries,

Noting that most of these countries still lack the capabilities of participating in IOC programmes,

- (1) Instructs the Secretary, in collaboration with the Division of Marine Sciences of Unesco, to arrange for a Workshop on Marine Science Co-operation to be held in this region in order to provide the basis for a Marine Science Association for countries of the Atlantic coast of Africa and any other IOC Member State interested, and to report to the twelfth session of the Assembly.

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Implications for the IOC budget:

(1) \$12,000

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(x) Extract SC/MD/65, Annex II)