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SCAR GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Newsletter #3

1. Soviet Representative on the Group of Specialists

In a letter, dated 14 January 1976, from Dr. S. Kartashov, Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Committee on Antarctic Research, to Dr. T. Gjelsvik, we were informed that Dr. T. G. Lubimova, Chief, Laboratory of Antarctic Resources of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography, has been nominated as the Soviet representative to the SCAR Group of Specialists. We are most pleased to welcome Dr. Lubimova to our Group and will look forward to meeting with her at the Woods Hole meeting next August.

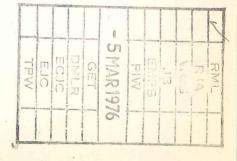
2. Soviet Fish Catches in the Southern Ocean

In a letter recently received from Dr. J. A. Gulland, he enclosed a copy of Dr. A. Bogdanov's, Director of VNIRO, reply (see Newsletter #1 of 20 November, 1975). Because of the usefulness of the information included in Bogdanov's paper, Gulland suggested that I include this information in our Newsletter.

Excerpts from J. A. Gulland's letter of October 10, 1975:

"At the meeting, several questions were raised about the magnitude of present Russian harvests in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic. I understand from your letter to Mr. Gertenbach of 23 May that there is significant Soviet fishing in the South-west Indian Ocean (Crozet, Amsterdam, Kerguelen, Horsborough and St. Paul Islands) and that in 1974 the main objective of the fishery was Champsooephalus gunnari, Lonnberg. Can I assume that the majority of the "various demersal fish" given in your figures (1972 - 102.9 thousand tons; 1973 - 9.7 thousand tons; 1974 - 87.1 thousand tons) refer to this fishery? Further, looking at the South-west Atlantic I notice big catches in some earlier years (1969 - 89.1 thousand tons; 1970 - 404.8 thousand tons; 1971 - 16.3 thousand tons) and then very small quantities in the last three years. Do these refer to the fishery around South Georgia, and if so, what species was concerned (Antarctic cod)?

Dr. Bogdanov's reply is attached herewith.



3. NASA NIMBUS G

In response to NASA Annoucement of Opportunity (OA-75-1) for participation in science support for the NIMBUS G Sensor investigation, I submitted last June a proposal. I am pleased to inform you that the proposal has been accepted by NASA, and that I am now designated a member of the Coastal Zone Color Scanner of the NIMBUS G Experiment Team (NET). Members of the NET Team are: Dr. Charles Yentsch, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, West Boothbay Harbor, Me.; Mr. Dennis Clark, Environmental Science Group, NOAA/NESS, Suitland, Md.; Mr. Roswell Austin, Visibility Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Dr. John Apel, Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories, NOAA, Miami; Dr. Sayed Z. El-Sayed, Texas A&M University; Dr. Howard Gordon, University of Miami; Mr. Robert Wrigley, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Ca.; Dr. Thomas Harris, Department of Oceanography, University of Cape Town, South Africa; Dr. Fredrick Newth, Joint Research Centre of the European Communities, ISPRA, ITALY.

The launching of NIMBUS G Satellite is scheduled for October 1978. During the two meetings we had at NASA Headquarters in January and February of this year, it was clear that NASA will give ample consideration for using NIMBUS G for remote sensing of the krill.

4. Status of the Draft Proposal to SCAR

As of this writing the following sections have been received:

- 1.1 Historical Background by S. Z. El-Sayed.
- 1.2 Objectives and justification of the research program by S. Z. El-Sayed.
- 2.3 Rock Lobster by G. G. Newman.
- 3.3 Supporting Shore-based Programmes.
- 3.3a Nearshore Marine Research in the Antarctic by R. M. Laws.
- 3.5 Data Reporting and Handling by J. A. Gulland.

As to Section 3.4 of the Draft Proposal (Remote Sensing), D. B. Siniff and David Cram (of the Sea Fisheries Branch, Cape Town, S. Africa, and a colleague of G. G. Newman) met at Texas A&M last week to work on a draft of that section. They made good progress during their stay at Texas A&M; this section should be ready in the next two weeks.

5. Other Business/News

i. Last week I received a letter (10 Feb. 1976) from D. Finn Sollie, Director, The Fridtjof Nansen Foundation, Lysaker, Norway, in which he accepted my invitation to prepare a paper on the legal status of the Antarctic for use as background information at the Woods Hole meeting in August.

- ii. In a recent letter from Dr. Joachim Scharfe, Senior Fishery Industry Officer (Fishery Operations), he also accepted my invitation to prepare a review paper on the technological harvesting of Antarctic krill and on methods of its utilization. This paper will be a team effort, with Dr. Scharfe coordinating the team's work.
- iii. Dr. Rene Delepine, Laboratoire de Biologie Vegetale Marine, University of Paris, has recently agreed to undertake the writing of the section on: <u>Seaweeds Resources of the Antarctic and Sub-antarctic Regions</u>.
- iv. I will be leaving soon for La Reunion to participate with my French colleagues on MARION DUFRENSE Cruise 08 (March 7 to April 21, 1976). After the cruise I will be spending a few days in South Africa to visit with G. G. Newman and David Cram in regard to their activities with remote sensing of the pelagic sea fisheries off the South African coast. In my absence please feel free to contact Mr. Louis DeGoes of the Polar Research Board, National Academy of Sciences, or Mr. G. E. Hemmen, in regarl to any business related to our Group activities.

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3ar., 6**91—18**00

, 22. January

1976.

Dr. J.A.Gulland, Chief, Aquatic Resources Survey and Evaluation Service, Fishery Resources and Environment Division, FAO, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy

Dear Dr. Gulland,

In reply to your letter I would like to inform you that in recent years the USSk catches of "various demersal fish" in areas of south-west Atlantic (the island of South Georgia) and the western Indian Ocean (Crozet, Amsterdan, Kergelen, Horoborough and St. Paul Islands) included in addition to Champsocephalus gunnari and several other demersal species some quantaty of Antarctic cod. We have not more detailed information on the species composition of "various demersal fish" for these years.

In future measures will be taken to provide the breakdown of the species under this item.

Yours sincerely

A. Bogdanov

Director