

PRODUCTION PROCESSES

In 1967 the Production Processes Subcommittee will hold two symposia, each of which will be combined with working conferences. The first symposium will deal with physiological limitations on primary production under stresses of water and temperature variations; the second will deal with nitrogen balance.

PRODUCTIVITY OF MARINE COMMUNITIES

The Subcommittee on Productivity of Marine Communities will hold five regional working conferences. Marine biologists who, in replying to questionnaires distributed by the subcommittee, expressed interest in participating in the IBP will be invited to attend. From these sessions will emerge specific plans of action, budgets, and proposals for research. Programs developed at the conferences will be reviewed by the subcommittee and by the U.S. National Committee, and will then constitute the guidelines for the national efforts in this area of the International Biological Program. The proposed regions and suggested convenors are:

New England States and Long Island—Bostwick Ketchum

New York to Palm Beach, Fla.—Lionel A. Walford

Southern Florida, Gulf States, and Puerto Rico—D. E. Wohlschlag

Southern California and Hawaii—F. T. Haxo and V. E. Brock

Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska—Dixy Lee Ray

Marine biologists have expressed considerable interest in cooperative, interdisciplinary investigation of the marine ecosystem and in planned beneficial modification of the environment aimed at isolating and evaluating the factors and mechanisms that influence and control marine productivity. These studies will include evaluation of hydrography and chemistry and examination of each of the trophic levels. Cooperative efforts of many specialists will be required.

For scientists interested in biogeographical problems it would be helpful to coordinate the vessel programs of the coastal laboratories so that each could concentrate its work in a relatively small sector, thus avoiding overlapping

and gaps in the areas studied and providing nearly synoptic coverage. Concomitant data on temperature and salinity should be recorded to identify water masses and to determine the relation between the distribution and the environmental characteristics.

In their efforts to describe the occurrence and distribution of marine organisms, systematists and biogeographers have been hampered by inadequate support for working up and maintaining collections. These problems have been recognized and steps to correct the deficiencies are being taken.

HUMAN ADAPTABILITY

The program of the Human Adaptability Subcommittee involves complex multidisciplinary investigations. Several working conferences will be devoted to developing details of problem-oriented research projects. Scientists who have indicated willingness and competence to participate in planned research projects will be invited to attend appropriate conferences. Biologists are encouraged to submit additional ideas and projects.

Regional Meetings

Five regional meetings are planned. Each meeting will include two working conferences. The first working conference will define the specific research to be undertaken, decide on methods, select populations to be studied, outline an experimental design, and establish working parties. The working parties will (1) prepare details, proposals, and budgets and (2) prepare draft papers for consideration at the second conference. On the basis of the working parties' drafts, the second conference will prepare an integrated regional program and budget.

The conferences will also give attention to development of instrumentation suitable for use in studies of human populations. They will suggest the size of populations appropriate to the nature of each problem and give attention to details of recording, storing, and processing information. Provision will be made, where possible, for storing human biological materials in central repositories.

Scientists from other countries will be included