

consequences of these outbreaks in various parts of the world; and the productivity and ecological role of benthic marine algae along different coasts.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM

The proposed program, described above, was drafted by this Subcommittee after each member had held extensive discussions with some of his colleagues. The Subcommittee also circulated a questionnaire to a limited number of marine biologists and the proposed program incorporates many of the interests of those who responded. The program will be further developed by holding regional working-group meetings of those scientists who have expressed an interest in participating in the proposed cooperative studies. These meetings are expected to produce specific plans and budgets for the proposed activities and to develop proposals for the initiation of the research. Your best assurance that the final program will accurately reflect the interests of U. S. marine biologists will come from active participation in the final phases of planning during the next few months.

A report of the responses to the questionnaire has been sent to all who received it, and is summarized here.* The questionnaire was mailed to 400 marine scientists, and answers were received from 144. Communications have been received from an additional 50 scientists who have expressed an interest in the program. The specialties of microbiology, phytoplankton, phytobenthos, zoobenthos and fishes are fairly evenly represented in the responses. By type of marine environment in which they are interested, the scientists are grouped as follows: coastal waters (40%); estuaries (25%); open sea (20%); and the intertidal environment (15%). Most of the respondents were interested in participating in cooperative investigations such as interdisciplinary ecosystem studies (40%) and planned modification of the environment (20%). The remainder were interested in laboratory or field studies of processes or mechanisms, or in the distribution of plants and animals in various

*Additional copies of the report and other information about IBP can be obtained from the U. S. National Committee for the IBP, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C. 20418