

PCB to +

OIL, PAINT & DRUG REPORTER, Nov. 8, 1971

DDT, PCBs Found in Atlantic Ocean Plants, Animals

Scientists have found concentrations of DDT in most specimens, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in practically all specimens of plants and animals they collected on extensive cruises throughout the Atlantic Ocean.

The cruises, by vessels of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, were part of the continuing US program for the International Decade of Ocean Exploration (IODE).

Scientists aboard the vessels were conducting projects designed to obtain base-

line data for the study of marine pollution as part of the environmental quality program of the IDOE.

Plants and animals sampled include Sargassum weed, zooplankton, flying fish, triggerfish, dolphin-fish, sharks, and many animals, including small fishes, that daily migrate from the surface to as deep as 3,000 feet.

Polychlorinated biphenyls are used as an insulator in electrical capacitors, as transformer oil, a heating medium, plasticizer, and are present in hydraulic fluids, lubricating oils and in certain types

of copying paper. DDT and PCB are man-made and do not occur in nature.

The research was conducted by Drs. George R. Harvey, Vaughn T. Bowen and Richard H. Backus, of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; and Dr. George D. Grice, now of the National Science Foundation.

Information about the research results was presented at the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), meeting in Paris, as part of the first formal announcement to the international scientific community of the United States IDOE program.

Representatives of the seventy-two member countries of the IOC, an organization within the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO), concluded a two-week meeting last Saturday (November 6).

Announcement of the program at the IOC meeting was made by Dr. Thomas B. Owen, assistant director of national and international programs of the National Science Foundation. The NSF is lead agency for the IDOE effort in the United States.

The IDOE was first proposed by President Johnson in March 1968. In December of that year, the United Nations endorsed the idea of a coordinated long-range program of oceanographic research and formally welcomed the proposed IDOE as an important element.

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MONS 065880

NOV 11 1971