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CODE OF PRACTICE TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF ADVERSE EFFECTS ARISING  
FROM INTRODUCTION OF NON-INDIGENOUS MARINE SPECIES

(Adopted by the Council 10 October 1973)

I. Recommended procedure for all species prior to reaching a decision regarding new introductions (this does not apply to introductions or transfers which are part of current commercial practice):

- (a) An examination, by the appropriate authorities of the importing country, of each "candidate for admission" in its natural environment, to assess its relationship with other members of the ecosystem, including the role played by parasites and diseases.
- (b) A careful assessment of the probable effects of introduction into the new area, including an examination of the effects of any previous introductions of this or similar species in other areas.

If the decision is taken to proceed with the introduction, the following action is recommended:

- (i) Multiplication of the introduced species in quarantine conditions in a hatchery in the receiving country, followed by transplantation of juveniles to the natural environment if no diseases or parasites become evident. The period of rearing in quarantine will provide a further opportunity for observation of the introduced adults. Where practicable, rearing from introduced eggs and juveniles should present a smaller risk than breeding from introduced adults.
- (ii) Sterilization, in an approved manner, of all effluents from hatcheries or establishments used for quarantine purposes.
- (iii) In cases where artificial propagation techniques would be inappropriate or have not yet been developed for the species, the introduction of eggs or early larvae may be utilized without prior quarantining. In such cases, all appropriate precautions should be taken to minimize the risk of introducing associated undesirable organisms, for example by the use of disinfection procedures.
- (iv) A continuing study of the introduced species in its new environment, and the submission of progress reports to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

II. Recommended procedure for introductions or transfers which are part of current commercial practice

- (a) Regular examination by qualified scientific personnel of consignments of species to be imported, before shipment, within the country of origin.
- (b) Inspection and control of each consignment on arrival.
- (c) Quarantining or disinfection where appropriate.

- (d) Inspection of material after transplantation to confirm freedom from introduced pests or diseases. If inspection reveals any undesirable developments, these should be reported to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea together with details of any remedial action taken.

It is appreciated that countries will have different attitudes to the selection of the place of inspection and control of the consignment, either in the country of origin or in the country of receipt.

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#### OPEN SESSION

On Wednesday, 3 October at 14.30, an Open Session was held in one of the auditoria of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, and it was chaired by the President.

Professor P Korringa gave a lecture "From Fishing to Farming the Sea", where he outlined developments in culture of marine organisms, and commented on future possibilities.

The lecture, which was attended by a large audience, was illustrated by a series of colour slides.

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