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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

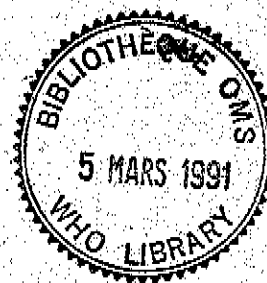
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SUMMARY REPORT

Consultation on Guidelines for Monitoring Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (WHO/UNEP joint project, MED POL Phase II)

Istanbul
27-29 September 1990



1991

EUR/HFA target 20

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TARGET 20

Water pollution

By 1990, all people of the Region should have adequate supplies of safe drinking-water, and by the year 1995 pollution of rivers, lakes and seas should no longer pose a threat to human health.

Index:

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING
WATER POLLUTION - prevent/control
SEAWATER
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Seven temporary advisers from five Mediterranean countries and a representative of the WHO Regional Office for Europe attended the Consultation. The participants were environmental engineers or analytical chemists who determine pollutant concentrations in municipal and/or industrial effluents.

Under the terms of Article 8 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources, Contracting Parties have undertaken to carry out monitoring activities in order to assess systematically, to the extent possible, the levels of pollution along their coasts, in particular regarding the substances or sources listed in Annexes I and II to the Protocol. The Parties have also agreed to provide information on this periodically, and to evaluate the effects of measures taken under the Protocol to reduce pollution of the Mediterranean marine environment.

At a previous consultation on the same subject convened jointly by WHO and UNEP in Split in December 1987 - in the framework of the Long-term Programme of Pollution Monitoring and Research in the Mediterranean Sea (MED POL Phase II) - it was agreed that guidelines were necessary for a common basic approach to pollution-source monitoring. An outline was approved and the Pollution Control Research Group at the Faculty of Engineering, Bogazici University, Istanbul, was asked to write the guidelines.

The objectives of the present consultation - again convened jointly by WHO and UNEP, in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering at Istanbul - were to review the draft guidelines and to prepare the final version for eventual distribution to Mediterranean institutions participating in the monitoring component of MED POL Phase II.

Results

The participants reviewed the scope and field of application of the draft guidelines and agreed that the document in its final form should be designed for use in formulating and implementing programmes to monitor the types and amounts of pollutants reaching the coastal marine environment from land-based sources. Details of analytical or statistical methodology would not be included, as the guidelines would be used in conjunction with existing documentation covering these. It was also agreed that monitoring programmes based on the guidelines would be useful in environmental impact assessment studies as well as coastal water management in general.

As for the parameters to be covered, it was agreed that the substances listed in Annexes I and II to the 1980 Protocol should be taken as a base. In 1989, Contracting Parties had agreed on priority and other parameters to be utilized in national monitoring programmes carried out under MED POL Phase II. While these should be mentioned in the guidelines for information purposes, it was considered that selection of individual parameters to be monitored depended very much on the types of industry present in specific areas, and would thus be closely connected with local needs and circumstances.

The question of sampling procedures was discussed at length, and it was agreed that, as it would be difficult to provide specific sampling instructions suitable and applicable under all conditions, only outline instructions and general principles would be given. Nevertheless, matrices and locations for sampling both point and diffuse sources would have to be explained, and participants agreed on the final version of this section.

They emphasized the importance of sample preservation in order to prevent deterioration in characteristics, and agreed that the guidelines should give ample information on this point.

Attention was also drawn to the references, and it was agreed that these should be as recent as possible.

The participants discussed quality control, noting that intercalibration arrangements were already in hand for the MED POL programme, and could therefore be applied to this aspect of monitoring.

Recommendations

1. WHO should prepare the final version of the guidelines as soon as possible.
2. WHO should make the necessary arrangements for intercalibration exercises between participating laboratories.
3. WHO and UNEP should explore the possibility of issuing the guidelines in languages other than English and French, particularly Arabic, in view of the large number of potential users in that language.
4. WHO and UNEP should ensure that equipment required for sampling and analysis in land-based pollution source monitoring programmes is made available to participating laboratories under the MED POL assistance component.