

CIESM - COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'EXPLORATION  
SCIENTIFIQUE DE LA MER MEDITERRANEE

Review of the scientific activities of the Members of the  
Marine Radioactivity Committee with bibliography (1976-78)

by C. Triulzi (\*)

As the President of the Committee I have taken care of the publication of the periodic report on the scientific activities of the MRC Members with related bibliography covering the years 1976-78 up to the CIESM Meeting held in Antalya (Turkey) (24 November-2 December 1978).

Two other reviews concerning the period 1972-74 (after the Monaco Pt. Meeting, 6-14 December 1974) and the period 1973-76 (after the Split Meeting (Yugoslavia), 22-30 October 1976) have been published in Rapp. Comm. int. Mer Médit. 23, 7, pp. 109-122 (1976) and 24, 3, pp. 107-158 (1977), respectively in the issues devoted to the Marine Radioactivity.

As in the past, on the basis of either the information already available or directly supplied by the Committee Members, who have been more actively engaged in researches or studies in the field of marine environmental radioactivity, it has been possible to obtain this report.

The members of the MRC are at present 80; the Countries or International Organizations they represent are 14.

The present paper reports in various sections the outlines of the scientific activities performed by each Member or Group or Laboratory starting from East to West of the Mediterranean Sea area: Israel (1), Turkey (2), Romania (3a and 3b), Greece (4), Yugoslavia (5), Italy (6a and 6b), Euratom CCR (7), Mona-

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(\*) CISE S.p.A. - POB 3986 - Milan (Italy)

co Principality (8), IAEA Labs. Monaco (9), France (10a, 10b and 10c) and USA (11).

Relevant bibliography is listed following an alphabetic Authors order; the quoted papers are denoted by analytical references at the end of each section.

## 1. ISRAEL

Fisheries Technology Unit, Ministry of Agriculture (Haifa) and Dept. of Nuclear Engineering - Technion, Institute of Technology (Haifa).

Studies and researches in the marine radioecology field, performed in co-operation by the FTU and NET, were concerned with the radiological impact of radioactive release from nuclear facilities into aquatic environment. The research was performed on the behaviour of fallout radionuclides, e.g.  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  in natural marine environment. Laboratory experiments were carried out on the uptake and loss of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  by the prawn, *Palaemon elegans*. Studies concerning ecological conditions of the eastern Mediterranean were carried out in the aim at describing the benthic ecosystem on the Israel continental shelf measuring temperature and salinity, and analyzing the edaphic conditions with the purpose of determining indicator species important for the understanding of the behaviour of radionuclides. In fact such a geographic area is a particular one, being inhabited by biota of Atlantic and Indo-Pacific origin, and characterized by high temperatures and salinities as well as low productivity. The constantly changing balance in the pelagic and benthic ecosystems of the subtropical Levant Basin is ascribable to the influx of species on the way of the Suez Canal. This results in the passage of radionuclides through a variety of food chains reaching finally invertebrates and fishes.

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Bibl. Ref. Nos. 64, 128-131, 171, 172, 245.

## 2. TURKEY

Çekmece Nuclear Research and Training Center - Radioecological Laboratory, Radiobiological Department (Hava Alanı, İstanbul)

The research activities of the Radioecological Laboratory in the field of marine radioecology (a) and conventional pollution (b) was developed in the past years as follows.

a) For radioecological investigations fresh water and marine fishes (gobies, *Proterorhinus marmoratus*, *Gobius melanostomus*; pike, *Esox lucius* and rudd, *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), living in the Küçük Çekmece Lagoon, were chosen as test animals.

The accumulation of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  in such fishes was measured and compared. When concentration factors were calculated, it was found that marine fishes had a higher level of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  concentration than that of fresh water fishes.

The accumulation of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  either from water directly or from food and water pathway in goby (*P. marmoratus*) was also investigated and the concentration factors were calculated. The loss of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  in fish in field and laboratory conditions was also considered.

The loss of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  in postlarval rudd was followed in laboratory and in field experiments. It is concluded that the results obtained in field and laboratory trials cannot be compared in the case of the postlarval stage of the rudd fish. In another experiment the loss of  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  in field and laboratory conditions in adult goby (*P. marmoratus*) was studied. The goby fishes were collected from the same area and the experimental conditions, as well as the dates of the beginning of the experiment were identical to those of the present experiment. It turned out from the results that goby fishes showed no significant differences in  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  loss rates either in field or laboratory conditions.

- b) In the field of pollution other than radioactivity, determination of LC 50 and estimates of safe level of LAS detergents for larvae of two fish species in the Küçük Çekmece lagoon were carried out.

Commercial LAS detergent mixture was less toxic than LAS to pipe fish larvae. The pipe fish larvae showed better tolerance to LAS detergent mixture at 20°C than at 10°C. The number of hatched larvae of goby was directly proportional to the concentration of LAS. The toxicity of the LAS was much less for the feeding sacfry of goby, when hatched in LAS contaminated medium. The conclusion is that the concentration at the discharge point must be no more than 3 ppm for the Küçük Çekmece lagoon. Moreover, the accumulation of a mixture of detergents and zinc in the goby *Proterorhinus marmoratus* PALL. was studied and the results are under analysis for publication.

### 3. RUMANIA

- 3a) Polytechnical Institute, Faculty of Chemical Engineering,  
(Bucharest).

The main activities carried out in the laboratory of radiochemistry in the latest years or in progress are due to the study concerning the artificial radionuclides transport by the Danube river to the Black Sea and accumulation in biota and sediments. Radiochemical analyses and radiometric measurements have led to the identification of ten artificial radionuclides, among which  $^{144}\text{Ce}$ ,  $^{125}\text{Sb}$ ,  $^{106}\text{Ru}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{110\text{m}}\text{Ag}$ ,  $^{65}\text{Zn}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ , having, however, very low activity. In view of obtaining some specific parameters that can characterize the radioactive pollution degree in the Danube river, the radionuclides carriers that is suspended matter, filtered water and bad load sediments, collected from many verticals of a named cross section under study, have been analyzed. The radiometric data have been correlated with the discharge and solid discharge of fixed verticals and with the average velocity variation with the slope flow and the average turbidity variation in the cross section. It has been possible to find out the "significant verticals" i.e. those present for at least 80% of the total radionuclides (at the same time, they have been detected in water and sediments). "Significative verticals" have been proposed in view of diminishing the number of water samplings and radiochemical laboratory analyses without lowering the accuracy of the measurements.

Moreover, the Danube water and Black Sea water and sediments have been investigated for total alpha, beta and gamma activities. In the algae *Enteromorpha l.* and *Cystosira b.*,  $^{106}\text{Ru}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{65}\text{Zn}$  were identified with low activities, as well as in the bottom sediments collected from different stations in the Black Sea.

More lately Mössbauer's spectroscopy has been applied to

study the iron chemical valency in the minerals of some rocks and sediments and ferro-manganese concretions of the Rumanian Black Sea shore.

Another analysis is in progress to establish the dilution capacity of the Danube river and to evaluate its radioactive discharge into the Black Sea.

3b) University of Bucharest; Faculty of Physics (Magurele, Bucharest).

Some researches on the marine radioactivity during the past four years were mainly concerned with the study of the transfer of radionuclides of sea water into sea-bottom sediments. The analysis of the electrokinetic behaviour and the determination of the zero point charge of some sediments of the Rumanian shore of the Black Sea were performed. The results of the analysis on the absorption capability of some radionuclides of the Black Sea in bottom-sediments were recently reported.

The determination of the uranium content in some sediments and in sea water samples was recently carried out, making use of a fission fragment trace analysis technique, as well as a study performed by means of Mössbauer's spectrometry.

Solid state track detectors were utilized in another research aimed at determining the uranium content in different marine samples.

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Bibl. Ref. Nos. a): 30, 116-126, 159

b): 65-68, 75, 206, 247, 267-271

## 4. GREECE

Greek Atomic Energy Commission, Nuclear Research Center Democritos, Department of Chemistry, Radioanalytical Laboratory, (Athens)

Research work in the field of marine radioactivity during the past years was concerned with the following subjects:

- characterization of certain marine species as marine pollution indicators for certain elements of radioecological importance. Determination of Selenium, Chromium, Silver, Scandium, Iron, Zinc, Cobalt and Antimony, in Tunicates by instrumental neutron activation analysis and spectrometry. Determination of Vanadium in seven echinoderm species, sea water analysis and estimation of Vanadium concentration factors.
- Study on the present levels of Europium, Vanadium and Molybdenum in organisms of well defined food chains in order to get information on their possible biomagnification through food chains.
- Study on the distribution pattern of Cobalt, Silver, Selenium, Iron and Caesium, in otoliths of pelagic fish as a function of age and size. Specimens were collected from three sea areas of Greece. The fact that certain elements can be accumulated by individual tissue might be useful for the characterization of certain organs as indicators of some pollutants.

## 5. YUGOSLAVIA

Center for Marine Research, "Rudjer Boskovic" Institute  
(Zagreb and Rovinj)

The research activities of the Laboratories Center in the field of marine radioactivity during the past years were concerned with the following topics:

- radioecological monitoring of the North Adriatic including gross beta activity measurements and gamma spectrometric analysis of organisms, sea water and some sediment samples;
- investigation of physico-chemical states where a certain radionuclide or trace metal occurs in the North Adriatic (zinc, ruthenium, cadmium, sodium, cesium) in connection with its biogeo-cycle in the marine environment;
- interaction of metal ions and ligands in solutions of very low concentrations; investigations of organic matter in marine environment, especially in muddy sediments and in suspended matter of the upper Adriatic and studies on sorption phenomena on sediments and suspended matter;
- interaction of certain radionuclides (e.g.  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ,  $^{65}\text{Zn}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ,  $^{115\text{m}}\text{Cd}$ ) with representative marine organisms (fishes, mussels, crabs) including the transfer through the food chain; the influence of various biotic and abiotic parameters upon the investigated processes and mechanisms.

Other environmental researches from the aspects of analysing consequences of radioactive pollution include experimental studies and monitoring related to the siting of nuclear power plants.

Most of the Center activity was focused on the conventional pollution of the North Adriatic Sea area, and its influence on the ecological communities. Non-nuclear activities mainly concerned baseline studies of metals in sea water, sediments and biota (Cd, Hg, Pb, Cu, Zn), baseline studies of pesticides

in marine organisms, monitoring of the sanitary quality of coastal waters (coliforms, streptococs, BOD), studies of nutrient (nutrients, nitrates, phosphates, ammonia) and oxygen cycles, standard hydrographic surveys, thermal pollution and other studies on other important physical parameters.

## 6. ITALY

6a) University of Parma, Zoology Department, Radioecology Group (Parma).

The experimental study on the Taranto Gulf samples, aimed at determining natural and artificial radioactive baseline of the environment and at obtaining a preliminary characterization of such marine site has been performed, and is the subject of a special report (Indagine radioecologica alla foce del fiume Sinni e nel Golfo di Taranto - Final report of the research contract TRIMA-1 between CNEN and Parma University, 1976) available on request.

Suitable experimental devices have been set up and the optimal conditions of thorium, uranium and plutonium electrodeposition from environmental samples have been investigated with the cooperation of CISE (Milan); the contents of Th, U and Pu in the superficial layers of the Taranto Gulf sediments have been also determined. Recently, a study concerning the radioactive fallout (Parma station) has been started to follow its evolution both for gamma and for alpha emitters.

The Radioecology Group is at present engaged in determining the biogeochemical cycle of alpha emitters, mainly plutonium isotopes, in the marine environment around the Italian coasts, in order to improve the data relevant to the artificial radioactivity distribution in the various abiotic compartments (water, sediment) and biotic ones (plankton, fish, benthic organisms).

With the active collaboration of some researchers of CNEN (CSN-Casaccia Roma), some Pu isotopes measurements on such kind of samples collected from the Taranto Gulf have been obtained and the results have been published. Other radiochemical analyses on samples from the Tyrrenian and North Adriatic Seas are now in progress. Analytical procedures for measurements of low amounts of plutonium, sea water, marine organisms, and sediments have been also studied in the frame

of such collaboration study.

Other sort of experimental work, performed with radioecological techniques, has then been carried out in the Zoology Department laboratories.

Thermobiology of marine organisms adapted to life in estuarine environments of the Po River Delta has been studied and the analysis of the tropic activity of the scavenger *Cyclope neritea* by using food labelled with a radiotracer has been continued.

Moreover, laboratory experiments on bioaccumulation of <sup>85</sup>Sr in the same mollusc in different combinations of temperature and salinity have been performed, with the aim at evaluating the relative importance of the two main pathways of uptake, water and food, on strontium kinetics.

Owing to their environmental approach, these experiments have been completed by ethological observations on the same scavenger and by the analysis of filtration activity of the filter-feeder *Mytilus galloprovincialis*.

Other investigations related to bioaccumulation processes and to radionuclide circulation in aquatic ecosystems are in progress on the Caorso nuclear site (BWR, 840 MWe), on the Po River.

6b) CNEN - Laboratorio per lo studio dell'ambiente marino  
(Fiascherino, La Spezia)

Activities carried out in the past years concerned the following topics: chemical characterization and uptake by animal and vegetable organisms of stable elements and radioactive nuclides (<sup>65</sup>Zn, <sup>32</sup>P, <sup>137</sup>Cs, <sup>51</sup>Cr ...), development of chemical automated analytical methods, effect of thermal pollution on phytoplankters, toxic effects of pollutants on selected species.

At present, part of the Laboratories activities have the purpose of determining gamma emitters and  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  in fallout samples collected monthly (Fiascherino station) and of measuring  $^{90}\text{Sr}$  and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  contents in sea water samples collected in five marine stations around the Italian coasts; other radioactivity determinations will be started in the future for the seasonal monitoring of selected fishes, typical molluscs and sediments.

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Bibl. Ref. Nos. a): 1, 36, 46, 69, 127, 158, 184, 187, 216,  
217, 221, 242-244, 252, 253, 259, 260  
b): 37-43, 59, 115, 218, 239-241, 272

7. COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, Joint Research Centre, Chemistry Division (Ispra Establishment, Italy)

The objective of the activities (1976-1978) connected with the long-term hazard evaluation, is the quantitative description of the behaviour of the actinides in terrestrial and aquatic environments following loss from a geological repository containing alpha-bearing wastes.

The experimental study areas include:

- problems related to the detection of different chemical species of actinides in water and sediments, specially in relation to their behaviour in very dilute solutions
- characterization of physico-chemical state of actinides in leached solutions from borosilicate glass
- development of laboratory systems which adequately simulate natural conditions.

Theoretical model study is being developed for the assessment of the distribution and associated hazard due to a long-term release of actinides into surface waters of a marine ecosystem. A compartment modelling concept is used which permits the identification of major components of the system. Critical group, critical pathway hazard assessment can be attempted such that dose rates to man can be evaluated.

## 8. MONACO PRINCIPALITY

Scientific Center of Monaco, Laboratory of Applied Radioactivity (Monaco Ville)

In addition to archaeological problems, the Laboratory is engaged in studying the chronology of sea level changes during the last 35000 years and related morphologic involvements in the Mediterranean western coasts, fluvial and marine sedimentations, chronology developments of barrier formations in the Rhone Delta and off-shore lines and coastal lakes.

In collaboration with the IAEA International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity, a computation method to be used in gamma spectrometry (GeLi) has been performed and tested. The programme (FORTRAN) allows the automatic detection of photoelectric peaks, the determination of their areas, radionuclide identification and activity evaluation.

Other researches carried out at the Laboratory concern some determinations of  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  specific activities in sea water of the Ligurian Sea samples.

Two series of measurements were performed on 5 profiles in October 1975 and April 1976 in order to determine  $^{14}\text{C}$  specific activity in the Ligurian Sea. These results, together with other obtained in the years 1962-67 and 1972 through a series of laboratory measurements could supply a mathematical model, which, making use of cosmogenic and thermonuclear  $^{14}\text{C}$  as a tracer, proved to be rather convenient for the study of the vertical changes of water masses.

Chronostratigraphy by  $^{14}\text{C}$  of marine sediments in Western Mediterranean constitutes the main part of the marine investigations of the Laboratory of Applied Radioactivity.

After a study of the Golfe du Lion, an investigation of the chronology of the Holocene transgression will be carried out on the Continental shelves of Ebre's Delta and of the Golfe de Gabes.

$^{14}\text{C}$  method is also being applied to researches on recent tectonic submergences of shorelines in Western Crete.

9. IAEA, International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity  
(Monaco Principality)

Chemistry Group Activities

Transuranic Element Studies - Measurements of plutonium and americium isotopes were carried out on sea water and sediment samples collected from various parts of the Mediterranean Sea covered by several cruises in the period 1976-78. The vertical distribution of  $^{238}\text{Pu}$ ,  $^{239+240}\text{Pu}$  and  $^{241}\text{Am}$  were studied on several profiles in different Mediterranean basins. The differentiation of  $^{241}\text{Am}$  from plutonium isotopes in the upper layers was confirmed. The consideration of the geochemical budget of plutonium in the profile indicated that the major part of the fallout delivery of plutonium is still in the water column.

Trace Element Studies - Measurements of copper, zinc, cadmium and mercury in off-shore Mediterranean waters have been carried out in order to obtain baseline levels of these heavy metals in the Mediterranean. The sea water samples were collected during several cruises conducted in 1976-78 and anodic stripping voltammetry was used for the analysis. Many coastal water samples were also analyzed in a similar manner. The results showed that, in general, the concentrations of these heavy metals in the open Mediterranean tend to be lower than or similar to those reported by other investigators for other oceanic waters.

Intercalibration programme - During the period 1976-78 the intercalibration programme on radionuclide and trace element measurements continued. For radionuclide measurements, the intercalibration exercise on 2 sediment samples (SD-B-2 and SD-B-3) was completed. With the support of UNEP the intercalibration exercises on the measurements of trace elements in marine biological materials also continued. Exercises on the oyster sample (MA-M-1), copepod sample (MA-A-1) and sea plant sample (SP-M-1) were completed in 1978 and that on fish sample (MA-A-2) is now in

progress. The results show that Mediterranean laboratories are, in general, performing satisfactory analytical work, compared with those in other areas.

#### Biology Group Activities

Heavy metal studies using radiotracers of arsenic and vanadium have been undertaken with marine zooplankton and a variety of benthic invertebrates. Emphasis has been placed on understanding the relative importance of the food and water pathway in their accumulation. The effect of temperature, salinity and stable element concentration on the accumulation of these metals has also been examined. In all cases flux parameters derived from radiotracer kinetic studies have been applied to natural concentrations of the element in the organism in an attempt to explain bioconcentration processes. In addition, parallel laboratory and in situ excretion studies using <sup>74</sup>As and <sup>48</sup>V have been performed in order to assess the degree to which laboratory experiments reflect metal flux processes taking place in nature.

The biogeochemical cycling of transuranic such as plutonium, americium and neptunium by a number of marine species has been examined. The gamma emitting isotopes, <sup>241</sup>Am and <sup>237</sup>Pu, have facilitated biokinetic studies by allowing whole body live counting of selected organisms. Studies on the bioavailability of transuranics to benthic species such as octopus, cuttle fish and starfish are now underway. Emphasis is placed on the ability of these species to assimilate transuranics ingested via the food chain and distribute them in their tissues.

Other studies are currently underway to establish the role of marine zooplankton in the vertical oceanic transport of alpha-emitting nuclides. Samples of euphausiids, copepods and their natural particulate products have been, or are being, analyzed for polonium, uranium, thorium, radium and plutonium. The data will be fit to a model which characterizes the verti-

cal transport of these nuclides by zooplankton particulate products. Additional data are being obtained on these radio-nuclides in sinking particulates. Sediment traps have been moored at depths of 100 meters in the Ligurian sea and left in place for intervals of two weeks. Samples which are comprised of fecal molts are analyzed for transuranics and polonium and levels are compared with those in freshly released fecal pellets of zooplankton. This information will be useful in determining how much of these nuclides reach the sediments and what fraction is remineralized back into the water column.

Samples of open Mediterranean plankton have been collected and analyzed for heavy metals as part of a Mediterranean baseline pollution study supported by UNEP.

#### Environmental Studies Group Activities

During the period 1976-1978 the major area of study covered:

- 1) baseline measurements of chlorinated hydrocarbons in water, biota and sediments collected from the open Mediterranean;
- 2) experimental studies on the transfer of PCBs from sediments to marine benthic organisms;
- 3) studies on the distribution of heavy metals in a population of marine neuston;
- 4) transfer of radionuclides between marine biota and their environment.

Studies on the combined effects of various types of pollutants, e.g. metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, radionuclides, etc., were initiated. It is expected to broaden this line of research in the future. Considerable time was also devoted to reviewing current development in marine radioecology. These reviews were presented at several lectures given at the following institutions or at meetings: Lund University (Sweden, May 1976), Cadarache Nuclear Research Center (France, January 1977), Parma University (Italy, October 1977), XX Congress of AIFSPR (Bologna, Italy, October 1977), CNEN (Rome, Italy, October 1977), CNEN Laboratory for Radioactive Contamination of the Sea (Fia-

scherino, Italy, October 1977), IAEA - Panel on Methodology of studies of biological effects of ionizing radiations in marine ecosystems (Vienna, Austria, November 1977).

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Bibl. Ref. Nos. 32-35, 60, 61, 70-74, 76-82, 84-99, 101, 102, 104, 114, 133-139, 151-156, 162, 176, 186, 189, 191, 194-195, 200, 224-233, 235-237, 249, 266, 273.

## 10. FRANCE

## 10a) CEA, Protection department - SERE (Fontenay-aux-Roses)

Les études et les recherches expérimentaux développés pendant les derniers 3-4 ans par les laboratoires de Radioécoologie Marine du Centre de la Hague et de Radioécologie du CEN de Cadarache du Service des Etudes et Recherches sur l'Environnement peuvent être ainsi resumés.

1) Comportement physico-chimique des radionucléides dans l'eau et les sédiments marins.

Des efforts importants ont été consacrés à l'étude du comportement physico-chimique en eau de mer, du ruthénium-106 produit de fission rejeté dans le milieu par les essais de traitement de combustibles irradiés. On a constaté que l'évolution du <sup>106</sup>Ru se fait selon deux réactions concurrentes: d'une part formation de dérivés chlorés solubles, d'autre part hydrolyse aboutissant à la formation de polymères colloïdaux ou semi-colloïdaux. Une méthode basée sur l'utilisation de résines cationiques en milieu électrolytique a été mise au point pour étudier les propriétés des polymères et pour les éliminer de la fraction réellement soluble. Les diverses formes de ruthénium sont liées entre elles par des réactions d'équilibre qui déterminent les cinétiques de contamination des supports inertes (sédiments), ou vivants (algues, mollusques, etc.). On peut distinguer trois catégories de composés du ruthénium. Les formes A ont des propriétés d'adsorption élevée. Les formes B ne sont pas adsorbables directement, mais peuvent se transformer en formes A par déplacement d'équilibre. Les formes C sont des formes stables et non sorbables. Avant 1975, le ruthénium rejeté à La Hague était composé de 90% de formes A et de 10% environ de formes B. Dans les années ultérieures, on a trouvé 50% de formes A, 40% de formes B et quelques pour cent de formes C. Cette évolution est due à une modification

du procédé de traitement des effluents. Elle a été mise en rapport avec une contamination accrue de certaines algues, à contamination égale de l'eau de mer.

Une méthode de concentration et de dosage des nucléides contenus dans l'eau de mer a été mise au point. C'est ainsi que les radionucléides des cérium, cobalt, fer, ruthénium, zinc et zirconium ont été dosés dans l'eau de mer par préconcentration sur dioxyde de manganèse colloïdal à partir de grands volumes d'eau de mer, suivie d'une spectrométrie gamma à haute résolution. Cette technique permet de séparer, dans certains cas, les formes complexées et non complexées, ainsi que des formes plus où moins oxydées. Le procédé a été adapté au dosage des nucléides non radioactifs, en couplant la préconcentration sur dioxyde de manganèse à différentes techniques de dosage, telles que l'absorption atomique, l'activation neutronique et la fluorescence X.

## 2) Transfert des nucléides aux organismes marins

Une étude des mécanismes de transfert du plutonium aux organismes marins à été effectuée. Ce travail a mis en évidence la relation existant entre le taux de concentration du plutonium chez des espèces marines végétales et animales et le niveau trophique de ces organismes. Cette relation fait apparaître une décroissance du taux de fixation du radioélément en rapport avec l'élévation du niveau trophique des espèces. Le contact direct eau de mer-espèces, mode essentiel de transfert chez les espèces marines appartenant aux niveaux trophiques inférieurs (producteurs et consommateurs primaires), apparaît comme une voie entraînant une importante fixation du plutonium. Par contre, le sédiment au contact duquel vivent certaines espèces ne semble pas constituer un vecteur essentiel de la contamination. Les relations trophiques entre espèces animales conduisent à supposer qu'il existe un transfert de plutonium par voie alimentaire, sans pour autant qu'il y ait concentration de ce radioélément le long de la chaîne allant des producteurs primaires aux consommateurs tertiaires. Par ailleurs, il a été constaté qu'il y

avait une relation entre le taux de fixation du plutonium et les structures calcifiées de certaines espèces marines, comparable à celle qui existe entre ce radioélément et le tissu osseux des mammifères terrestres.

Une étude a par ailleurs été réalisée sur le transfert de quelques radionucléides ( $^{125}\text{Sb}$ ,  $^{110\text{m}}\text{Ag}$ ,  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ) à travers des chaînes alimentaires longues allant du producteur primaire à un mollusque et à un crustacé. Il a été constaté que les facteurs de transfert exprimant le rapport de l'activité d'un organisme à l'activité de l'eau, diminuent au fur et à mesure que l'on progresse dans l'échelle des êtres organisés. Autrement dit, les nucléides considérés ne sont pas focalisés dans les maillons supérieurs de la pyramide écologique. Cependant, les organismes étant toujours plus contaminés que l'eau dans laquelle ils vivent. Ces résultats sont à rapprocher des résultats similaires relevés par d'autres auteurs pour un grand nombre d'autres nucléides (à l'exception du césium 137).

### 3) Bilan radioécologique de l'impact des rejets en Manche

Une étude a été réalisée portant sur la répartition des radionucléides artificiels émetteurs gamma dans les sédiments littoraux de la Manche et de la mer du Nord pendant les années 1976-1977. Les principaux nucléides présents dans les sédiments de surface sont le ruthénium-106 (34 pCi/g) et le cérium-144 (30 pCi/g). On mesure aussi le césium-137 (2,3 pCi/g), le zirconium-95 (1 pCi/g), l'antimoine-125 (0,8 pCi/g). Les valeurs données entre parenthèses sont des valeurs moyennes, qui ne traduisent pas la variabilité rencontrée in situ. Les valeurs les plus élevées sont rencontrées à proximité de l'émissaire de La Hague et dans le golfe normand-breton. La contamination relativement importante de cette dernière zone est jusqu'à présent inexplicable, compte tenu de ce que l'on sait des courants superficiels dans cette région. Les teneurs en ruthénium-106 et en cérium-144 sont fortement corrélées, et elles proviennent principalement des rejets de La Hague. Les autres nucléides peu-

vent provenir en proportion importante des retombées atmosphériques.

Une autre étude a porté sur la distribution du plutonium dans un certain nombre d'espèces marines: *Lichina pygmaea*, *Corallina officinalis*, *Corallina sanguinea*, *Balanus balanoides*. Ces espèces ont été prélevées sur le littoral de la Manche entre Brest et Honfleur. La teneur en plutonium marque un maximum au niveau de l'émissaire de La Hague, et diminue de part et d'autre du point de rejet pour atteindre des valeurs impraticables aux retombées atmosphériques. Les valeurs atteintes à proximité de l'émissaire (zone d'Ecalgrain) sont de 5 à 10 fois plus élevées que les valeurs mesurées à Brest.

#### 4) Applications non nucléaires

L'application des techniques nucléaires a permis en particulier, d'obtenir des renseignements précieux sur les déplacements des masses d'eau en Manche, ainsi que d'estimer les vitesses de sédimentation à partir de profils verticaux dans les carottes prélevées *in situ*.

#### 10b) Centre des Faibles Radioactivités, Laboratoire mixte CNRS-CEA (Gif-sur-Yvette)

Some of the activities carried out at the Laboratory have been concerned with general theoretical approaches to the following topics.

- Evaluation of the efficiency of a marine gamma subassembly detector in the 0.5 to 1.5 MeV band for an infinite or semi-infinite radioactive and absorbing environment.
- Philosophical and mathematical classification of sampling and measurement methods for "in situ" and "in vitro" studies of the sea water radioactivity content.
- Algebraic study of simple tideless estuaries of the Mediterranean type for the evaluation of the diffusion into the sea

of a fluvial contamination. This study is at present underway.

10c) Université de Nantes, Institut des Sciences de la Nature,  
Laboratoire de Biologie Marine (Nantes).

Les activités dans le domaine de la radioactivité marine développées par les membres du Comité qui travaillent actuellement chez le Laboratoires de Biologie Marine ont continué sur le transfert du cobalt 60 dans les chaînes alimentaires (15, 19, 23, 28) envisageant les contaminations par l'eau et (ou) par la nourriture, l'élimination et l'organotropisme. Selon le même protocole expérimental nous avons cherché à quantifier le transfert de l'argent 110m dans une chaîne alimentaire marine benthique; les publications sont en partie sous presse. Nous avons entrepris le même travail pour deux chaînes alimentaires dulçaquicoles. Une méthode de calculs des doses d'irradiation a été mise au point.

Des synthèses bibliographiques ont été effectuées sur des problèmes de protection de l'environnement aquatique, sur le transfert des polluants radioactifs dans les chaînes alimentaires, sur l'influence du cycle d'intermue des Crustacés sur la radioécologie, sur l'influence de la température sur la radiocontamination.

Nous avons continué également l'étude de la toxicité subléthale de quelques métaux et l'exploitation mathématique des résultats.

Nous allons entreprendre des études in situ du transfert des métaux (Pb, Cd, Zn, Cu, ...) dans le chaînes trophiques estuariennes.

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c): 5-24

## 11. USA

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

The oceanic distributions of artificial radionuclides, mostly from worldwide weapons-testing fallout, have been underway for several years now at some laboratories of the Institution. These studies provide information both on the distributions and fates of these radionuclides and, through their various uses as oceanic tracers, about oceanic processes, e.g., water transport, particle settling and interactions with the marine biota.

These studies have shown that the information which is generated is applicable to predictions of the oceanic behaviour of future releases of artificial radionuclides, accidental or planned, from nuclear-related activities. Furthermore, a considerable fraction of this information is applicable to the understanding of the oceanic behaviour to be expected from a variety of pollutants from non-nuclear energy production, e.g. metals and organics.

Environmental Radioactivity Standards. The value and importance of quality control in analytical programs have been long recognized. Development and testing of several new standards have been carried out. These include several "natural matrix" standards for a program of the International Committee for Radionuclide Metrology ("blank" soil from Peru, contaminated fishmeal from the Irish Sea) and "spiked" fresh and seawater standards for DOE quality assurance programs.

### Equipment Development

- Self-powered, filtration pump. This is a stream-powered device capable of filtering large volumes of water from any depth.
- Tripod corer. This is a structural modification of an earlier large diameter gravity corer permitting increased coring efficiency and improved surficial sediment recovery.

Mediterranean. Accumulating data show, relative to the oceans, much less vertical water column separation of plutonium from "soluble" nuclides, while  $^{241}\text{Am}$  and  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  are moved downwards faster through their suggested associations with particles of terrigenous origins.

Atlantic. Using the Deep Ocean Blank technique, the North Atlantic  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  inventory in 1972 was found to be higher than predicted from overland fallout considerations, but uncertainty estimates bring the over-ocean delivery close to that predicted previously from overland measurements.

Pacific. Distributions and inventories of fallout nuclides in the Pacific appear to have been considerably affected by tropospheric fallout. Pacific distributions differ markedly from the Atlantic. There is striking evidence of plutonium-rich near-bottom water between  $50^{\circ}\text{N}$  and  $20^{\circ}\text{N}$ .

Non-Fallout Sources. The impact of European Nuclear fuel reprocessing releases on the fallout tracer experiment has been found to be quite substantial and the rates and pathways of dispersal of nuclides from these sources studied.

$^{55}\text{Fe}$  Sinking Rates. Discovery and correction of counter mis-calibration points to earlier estimates of the rates of delivery of  $^{55}\text{Fe}$  to marine sediments being underestimated by more than a factor of two.

The concentrations of transuranics and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  have been measured in samples of the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) collected from a large number of coastal locations on the East, West and Gulf coasts of the U.S.A. This is part of the "Mussel-Watch" program which attempts to use *Mytilus* as a biological monitor of marine environmental quality in respect of metals, radionuclides and organic pollutants.

The distributions of transuranics and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  have been studied in various low-level nuclear waste dump sites off U.S. coasts, around several coastally-located nuclear power plants and one commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing center. These studies are directed towards the development of predictions of the behaviour of these radionuclides in the various locations from both present and future releases of radioactivity.

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