

MANAGEMENT UNDER UNCERTAINTY

IUU Fishing

10.1 The Commission noted the progress made at the FAO Expert Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, held in Sydney, Australia, during May 2000, toward an International Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing (IPOA–IUUF). The draft IPOA was used as the basis for discussion and negotiation at a Technical Consultation on IUU fishing held in Rome, Italy, from 2 to 6 October 2000, but final agreement on the IPOA was not reached. Final agreement is expected before the end of the year, and the Commission noted that the adoption of a global plan to combat IUU fishing would aid the work of CCAMLR.

Regulatory Framework

10.2 The Commission noted the significant progress which had been made by the Scientific Committee in developing a unified regulatory framework for CCAMLR fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XIX, section 7). This work had been advanced during the intersessional period by an ad hoc task group convened by the Chair of the Scientific Committee.

10.3 The purpose of the regulatory framework, from a scientific perspective, was to:

- (i) provide clear guidance on the data and information requirements from all fisheries in the Convention Area to support the development of management advice by the Scientific Committee in accordance with the precautionary and the ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;
- (ii) support the design of control mechanisms that will enable the collection of data and information for scientific analysis, and aim to ensure that fisheries in the Convention Area do not expand faster than the acquisition of information necessary for the development of management advice; and
- (iii) streamline the process of annual review and assessment of fisheries by the Scientific Committee and its working groups, in the face of a mounting workload created by the increasing number of fisheries in the Convention Area.

10.4 A simplified framework was proposed within which existing regulatory requirements, including notification, establishment of research and fishery operations plans and data collection plans, could be generalised and applied to all fisheries, not just those falling under the remit of the new and exploratory measures (Conservation Measures 31/X and 65/XII). The proposal also addressed the specification of conditions that would apply to closed fisheries that are reopened, and to the interpretation and application of the existing new and exploratory measures. Importantly, the framework did not rely on defining the stages of fishery development

10.5 The Commission noted that a key component of the generalised mechanism proposed was a new reference document prepared and maintained by the Secretariat for each fishery in the Convention Area, to be known as the *Fishery Plan*. The *Fishery Plan* would provide a

comprehensive summary of information on each fishery, including a list of all the regulatory requirements. It would also provide a summary of the fishing activity, and a summary list of the data received by the Secretariat for the most recent season in which fishing took place. Having all of this information brought together in one place would help the Scientific Committee and its working groups plan future work, depending on what data are submitted from the fishery and/or what notifications are received.

10.6 The Commission agreed that in order to provide comprehensive coverage of all CCAMLR fisheries under the framework, a *Fishery Plan* would need to be prepared and maintained for all fisheries which exist, or have existed, in the Convention Area. This would create a simplified structure of two fishery types: those with fishery plans and those without. For the former, the regulatory and scientific requirements would be specified in the plan. For the latter, the Commission would need to establish entry-level conditions, which it has already done in the context of new and exploratory fisheries.

10.7 The Commission noted that the *Fishery Plans* would enable:

- (i) the Scientific Committee to make decisions about whether a new assessment is required and/or possible; and
- (ii) the Commission to formulate conservation measures based on all appropriate information about the fishery.

10.8 The Commission agreed that the Secretariat should develop two example *Fishery Plans*, one for the krill fishery in Area 48, the other for fishery for *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3. These plans would be reviewed by the working groups in 2001, with a view to further develop the regulatory framework.

Trigger Levels in the Management of the Krill Fishery

10.9 The Commission noted with pleasure the significant advances made this year in the revision of catch limits for krill in Area 48 and Division 58.4.1 (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 7.21 to 7.24). The Commission recognised that the setting of new precautionary catch limits was the beginning of the process for further developing a management procedure for krill and that this procedure will need to include consideration of the subdivision of the catch limit into smaller management units.

10.10 The Commission noted that another five to 10 years will be required to develop a management procedure consistent with Article II of the Convention that takes full account of spatial, particularly small-scale, requirements of land-based predators. The Commission recognised that in the absence of advice on these requirements, the Scientific Committee would be unable to judge how the dynamics of local populations may be affected by the proposed krill catch limits.

10.11 As a precautionary step, the Commission agreed that krill catches should not exceed a set (i.e. 'trigger') level in Area 48 until a procedure for division of the overall catch limit into smaller management units has been established. This is consistent with the current Conservation Measure

32/X which sets such a trigger level at 620 000 tonnes – slightly above the historical maximum annual catch in Area 48 to date.

10.12 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had proposed two options for setting a trigger level in Area 48:

- retain the level of 620 000 tonnes, which approximates the historical maximum annual catch; or
- set the level at 1 million tonnes, which approximates the harvest level suggested for each of the subareas in Area 48 and derived from the CCAMLR-2000 Survey results.

10.13 The Commission also noted that a subdivision of the catch limit for krill in Division 58.4.1 had been proposed by some Members of the Scientific Committee. The calculated potential yields for Division 58.4.1 west of 115°E was 277 000 tonnes and that for Division 58.4.1 east of 115°E was 163 000 tonnes.

10.14 The Commission agreed that the subdivision of potential yield in this manner was appropriate.