

MANAGEMENT UNDER UNCERTAINTY

12.1 The Commission noted the steps which the Scientific Committee had taken to further develop the unified framework for providing management advice on all fisheries in the Convention Area. As part of the regulatory framework, a number of fishery plans had been prepared by the Secretariat during the intersessional period (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/32) and considered by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 7.1).

12.2 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had agreed that the fishery plans should include summary statements of decision rules and requirements for ecosystem assessment (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraphs 7.7 and 7.8).

12.3 Documentation for the regulatory framework will include species profiles of the important commercial species. These plans will cover important aspects of the biology and fisheries of the species which are relevant to fish stock assessment purposes. In 2002, draft profiles had been prepared for *D. eleginoides*, *D. mawsoni* and *C. gunnari*, and these plans would be updated as needed in the intersessional period.

12.4 The Commission noted that further fishery-independent surveys were needed to provide information on (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraphs 7.3, 7.4 and 7.8):

- the state of the stocks which have either been fished previously and/or where IUU activities on longlining of *D. eleginoides* are currently likely to take place;
- stocks in yet unsurveyed areas, such as Subareas 88.1 and 88.2, where longlining for *Dissostichus* spp. is currently being conducted and catches are likely to increase in the near future; and
- the dynamics of the target species in assessed fisheries.

12.5 In addition, the Commission noted that by-catch species which have not been assessed in areas for a long time, such as South Georgia, need to be included in data collection plans and assessments in the future (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 7.4).

12.6 The Commission noted Australia's proposal to separate William's Ridge as a separate management area from the Heard Island Plateau area in Division 58.5.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/7). The proposal was based on the separation of this ridge from the plateau by waters deeper than 2000 m, which are deeper than the depth range used by the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA to delimit the biological management areas of toothfish stocks.

12.7 The Commission agreed that William's Ridge should be considered a separate management unit from the Heard Island Plateau area, with a longitudinal separation at 79°20'E. Delineation of the northern and eastern boundaries of William's Ridge would require further consideration of the geographic extent of *D. eleginoides* in this region. The Commission requested that the Scientific Committee further consider this issue and provide advice to the Commission at its next meeting.