

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY

### Fishery Plans

11.1 The Commission noted that updated fishery plans had been considered by the Scientific Committee and its working groups (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 7.1).

### *Dissostichus eleginoides* in the Indian Ocean

11.2 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had discussed the results from recent studies which indicated that *D. eleginoides* in the Indian Ocean is likely to be a metapopulation with exchange of individuals between shelf areas across the Indian Ocean from east to west and larval transport from west to east (SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 5, paragraphs 5.143, 7.6 and 7.7). It was noted that the Scientific Committee had endorsed the view that this metapopulation was likely to be distributed throughout the range of *D. eleginoides* in the Indian Ocean, across the boundary of the CCAMLR Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 7.11 to 7.13). It was also noted during adoption of the Scientific Committee report, that scientists from several Member countries had disputed the use of the term 'straddling stock', used in the Scientific Committee report (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 7.11(ii)), to describe this metapopulation structure and that further work is required before conclusions on metapopulation structure can be drawn (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 7.14).

11.3 The Commission recalled that the current practice of setting catch limits was based on the assumption that stocks of *D. eleginoides* in the Convention Area were discrete. If, in future, the Commission decides to treat toothfish stocks in the Indian Ocean as a metapopulation, then this fact would need to be taken into account by the Commission when determining its catch limits, and those limits would need to be set so that stocks are sustainable throughout the range of the metapopulation. In the Indian Ocean, this range may include areas within EEZs and areas of high seas inside and outside the Convention Area.