

DATA ACCESS AND SECURITY

Draft Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data

12.1 The Commission noted the draft rules for access and use of CCAMLR data (CCAMLR-XXII/8 Rev. 1) prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the Commission's request last year (CCAMLR-XXI, paragraph 4.69). The draft rules had been discussed by the Scientific Committee, WG-EMM and WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 12.12 to 12.17).

12.2 The Commission noted that the draft rules had been circulated to Members (COMM CIRC 03/55) and developed with their input. Comments provided by New Zealand had been addressed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 12.16).

12.3 In this context, it was noted that the Scientific Committee believed that the issue of designating certain datasets as 'permanently approved for release' was adequately addressed in paragraph 8 of the draft set of rules.

12.4 Based on the Scientific Committee's advice (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 12.14), the Commission agreed that paragraph 5 of the draft set of rules required clarification in relation to the types of data involved. The following alternative wording was agreed:

'5. Inclusion of data held in the CCAMLR Data Centre in any publication outside of CCAMLR constitutes release into the public domain.'

12.5 It was also agreed that the disclaimer which appeared on the cover page of all working papers (paragraph 11 of the draft set of rules) should provide guidance on the distribution of papers to people not directly involved in CCAMLR meetings, including those at working groups. Consequently the disclaimer would read:

'This paper is presented for consideration by CCAMLR and may contain unpublished data, analyses, and/or conclusions subject to change. Data in this paper shall not be cited or used for purposes other than the work of the CCAMLR Commission, Scientific Committee or their subsidiary bodies without the permission of the originators and/or owners of the data.'

12.6 Finally, the Commission requested the Secretariat to produce a flow chart illustrating the process for requesting, accessing and receiving CCAMLR data.

Procedures for Data Handling and Security

12.7 The Commission noted that the Secretariat had reviewed its procedures for data handling and security, taking into account possible future needs to maintain data security when data are circulated outside the Secretariat (CCAMLR-XXII/13).

12.8 The Commission also noted that, subject to the Staff Regulations, the Secretariat was applying specific confidentiality of information provisions for all its staff (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/15).

12.9 The Commission noted that CCAMLR data are stored securely in the Secretariat's database. This system is maintained regularly to ensure that the databases are operating efficiently and that data security measures, including backups, are functioning to specification. Strategic input is provided to ensure that data maintenance remains current with best practice and industry standards. Maintaining the security of CCAMLR data has required, and will continue to require, adequate funding in the Secretariat's annual budget.

12.10 The Commission noted the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 12.20) that there is an ongoing need for meeting organisers to ensure that adequate security is provided to both CCAMLR data and other ancillary information when such data are held on the network systems apart from the Secretariat. Such networks should be secure, protected by a firewall, protected from viruses and provide daily file back-ups. The responsibility for providing these arrangements lies with the local organisers of the meetings.

12.11 Finally, the Commission acknowledged the Scientific Committee's advice that the issue of data confidentiality also applies to working group members participating in meetings where CCAMLR data were being analysed (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 12.16(iii)). The issue has still to be addressed adequately. For this reason, the Scientific Committee had agreed that further steps were needed to ensure that all working group participants were bound by CCAMLR's rules of data confidentiality. The Commission confirmed that participants at all CCAMLR-sanctioned meetings should be officially designated by Members or formally invited by the Commission or Scientific Committee. The Commission also noted the Scientific Committee's advice (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 12.16(iii)) that potential conflicts of interest may arise when participants at such meetings attended as representatives of commercial-interest groups (e.g. fishing industry).