

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

4.1 The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr R. Holt (USA) reported on the meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII). The Commission noted the general recommendations, advice, research and data requirements of the Scientific Committee. Substantive matters arising from the deliberations of the Scientific Committee were also discussed under other parts of the agenda: assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality (item 5); IUU fishing (item 8); new and exploratory fisheries (item 9); fisheries management and conservation under conditions of uncertainty (item 11); and cooperation with other international organisations (item 14). The Commission thanked Dr Holt for his comprehensive report (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/41).

Intersessional activities

4.2 The following meetings of working groups of the Scientific Committee were held in 2004: WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4) WG-FSA including ad hoc WG-IMAF (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 5) and WG-FSA-SAM (WG-FSA-04/4).

4.3 The Commission joined the Scientific Committee in thanking the conveners of these working groups and subgroups for their contributions to the work of CCAMLR.

CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation

4.4 In accordance with CCAMLR's Scheme of International Scientific Observation, scientific observers were deployed on all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area in 2003/04 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/BG/6). A total of 55 observation cruises were undertaken (44 trips on longliners and 11 trips on trawlers). In addition, a single observation cruise was carried out on board a krill fishing vessel in accordance with the scheme.

4.5 The Commission noted the issues on scientific observation which the Scientific Committee had addressed (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.18), especially:

- (i) the ongoing requirement to place international scientific observers on as many krill vessels as possible;
- (ii) the timing and cost of the review of the *Scientific Observers Manual*;
- (iii) the need for SCIC to take the initial responsibility for the review of compliance with conservation measures using scientific observer reports;
- (iv) the implementation of changes to observer data collection.

4.6 The Commission noted that the proposed review of the *Scientific Observers Manual* was extensive and that the Scientific Committee will need to establish the terms of reference. It was also noted that the review would have financial implications, some of which would require the introduction of a new multi-year arrangement (see section 3).

4.7 The Commission agreed that, where appropriate, the revision should include clear descriptions of the duties and obligations of scientific observers. The roles of scientific observers in reporting compliance-related data, and the Secretariat in extracting compliance-related information from the observer data, were further considered under item 6.

4.8 The Commission noted that SCIC had requested that the Scientific Committee provide advice on the scientific objectives and priorities for the deployment of CCAMLR international scientific observers on krill fishing vessels (Annex 5, paragraph 5.3).

Ecosystem monitoring and management

4.9 The Commission noted the progress made by the Scientific Committee and WG-EMM in 2003/04 in developing a feedback management scheme for the krill fishery. As part of this work, WG-EMM-04 included a Workshop on Plausible Ecosystem Models for Testing Approaches to Krill Management.

4.10 The Commission noted the following items arising from WG-EMM-04:

- (i) the establishment of an advisory subgroup on acoustic surveys (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.21, 3.22 and 13.5);
- (ii) the specification of plausible ecosystem models for testing management procedures (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.69 to 3.84);
- (iii) the 2005 Workshop on Management Procedures to evaluate options for subdividing krill catch limit among SSMUs (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 3.86);
- (iv) a future workshop on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.44 to 3.53);
- (v) a future workshop on large-scale surveys of land-based predators (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Table 1);
- (vi) the need for a review of the rules and procedures related to the work of the Subgroup on Protected Areas and to develop additional criteria in reviewing protected areas referred to CCAMLR from the ATCM (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.64 and 3.65);
- (vii) the need for WG-EMM to consolidate work that overlaps with WG-FSA and WG-IMAF (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 3.92);
- (viii) the WG-EMM long-term plan of work (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Table 1).

4.11 The Commission agreed that the 2005 Workshop on Management Procedures would evaluate options for the subdivision of the precautionary catch limit of krill in Area 48 among the SSMUs (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4, paragraphs 6.12 and 6.13).

4.12 In doing so, the Commission noted that some Members of the Scientific Committee had noted that the krill catch currently shows a decline in Subarea 48.3, suggesting that allocation of precautionary catch limits of krill by SSMU is not an extremely urgent matter at this time. Other Members were of the view that the subdivision of the precautionary catch limit is essential to the management of krill fishing in Area 48 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.67 and 3.68).

4.13 The Commission also noted the draft terms of reference for the workshop on MPAs (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 3.52) and urged the Scientific Committee to proceed with this work as a matter of priority. The Commission reaffirmed the need to develop advice on MPAs which was commensurate with Articles II and IX of the Convention.

4.14 The Commission endorsed (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 3.27):

- (i) the revision of Conservation Measure 91-01, Annex 91-01/A 'Information to be included in Management Plans for CEMP Sites' (see section 10);
- (ii) the approval of the Management Plan for ASPA No. 149, Cape Shirreff and San Telmo Island, Livingston Island, South Shetlands Islands, which is currently undergoing review by the ATCM;
- (iii) the approval of the Management Plan for ASPA No. 145, Port Foster, Deception Island, South Shetland Islands, which is currently undergoing review by the ATCM.

4.15 In relation to paragraph 4.14(iii), the Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had also indicated its wish to transmit advice for substantive improvements to the originators of this plan (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4, paragraph 5.14).

4.16 The Commission agreed to forward the plans identified in paragraphs 4.14(ii) and (iii) to the ATCM for approval under Article 6 of Annex V to the Antarctic Treaty Protocol.

4.17 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's discussions on the status of a possible new ASPA at Edmonson Point as proposed by Italy. The proposal was received too late to be considered at the 2004 meeting of WG-EMM. Despite the positive support for the proposed management plan, the Scientific Committee could not reach a consensus decision on whether it should review the plan (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.58 to 3.65). Thus, there will be a one-year delay in consideration by the Scientific Committee and Commission prior to providing advice to the ATCM.

Harvested species

4.18 Under the conservation measures in force in the 2003/04 season (1 December 2003 to 30 November 2004), Members fished in 10 managed fisheries:

- fishery for *Chamsocephalus gunnari* in Subarea 48.3
- fishery for *Chamsocephalus gunnari* in Division 58.5.2
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 48.6

- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Division 58.5.2
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.2
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.3b
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.2
- fishery for *Euphausia superba* in Area 48.

4.19 In addition, four other managed fisheries were conducted in the Convention Area in 2003/04:

- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Division 58.5.1 (French EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.6 (French EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.6 (South African EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.7 (South African EEZ).

4.20 In all, 16 Members fished: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, UK, Uruguay and the USA. In addition, Vanuatu, as an Acceding State, fished for krill.

Krill resources

4.21 The krill fishery in the 2003/04 season operated in Subareas 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3 and the catch reported to date was 102 112 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5, Table 3). In comparison, the total catch for 2002/03 was 117 728 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Table 4).

4.22 The Commission noted that a Vanuatu-flagged vessel had fished for krill in Subarea 48.3 in 2003/04, and may have used new technology which could affect the future operation of the krill fishery (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 4.16). It also noted that this vessel is intending to catch 60 000 tonnes of krill in the forthcoming 2004/05 fishing season (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/44). A number of Members expressed their concern at the indicated level of catch.

4.23 In relation to the actions of the Vanuatu-flagged, *Atlantic Navigator*, the UK indicated its very serious concern that while this vessel was flagged to an Acceding State, the operational control for this vessel appeared to be with a Member of the Commission, i.e. the USA. Given the need to ensure that all vessels fishing in the Convention Area do so in a responsible way, fully in conformity with all the relevant conservation measures of the Commission, the UK urged that the Commission request the USA to investigate the operational arrangement of this vessel.

4.24 The USA responded that they would be pleased to pursue the matter.

4.25 The Delegate of Chile expressed concern regarding the terms of a harvesting permit granted by Vanuatu to the vessel *Atlantic Navigator* for a projected catch of 60 000 tonnes of Antarctic krill during the fishing season. In particular, these concerns pointed to the capacity of Vanuatu to exercise effective jurisdiction over its flag vessels, a requirement for access to Chilean ports in conformity with Decree No. 123, dated 3 May 2004, and presently in force in Chile.

4.26 Argentina shared Chile's concerns and noted that, on the basis of information provided in the notification, it was likely that the intended fishery would be classified as IUU, and it was likely that the vessel would not be permitted to enter Argentine ports.

4.27 The Commission noted that all Members fishing for krill had submitted details of their intentions to fish in 2004/05. Eight Members had announced their intention to fish for krill in Area 48 using 13 vessels and the total projected catch was 226 000 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4, Table 1).

4.28 The Commission agreed that the submission of these notifications was a significant achievement and may allow the detection of multi-year trends in fishing interest. However, the Commission noted that (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10 and 4.17):

- the Scientific Committee's ability to predict trends in the krill fishery was still being hampered by a lack of information on technological and economic developments;
- the Scientific Committee had recognised that projections of future catches were likely to be higher than actual catches.

4.29 The Commission agreed that Members intending to fish for krill in the upcoming season should notify the Secretariat in advance of the annual meeting of WG-EMM. Notifications should be made using the pro-forma established by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 6).

Toothfish

4.30 The Commission noted that Members had fished for *D. eleginoides* in 2003/04 in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2, and for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subareas 48.6, 88.1, 88.2 and Divisions 58.4.2 and 58.4.3b. Other fisheries for *D. eleginoides* occurred in the EEZs of South Africa (Subareas 58.6 and 58.7) and France (Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.5.1). A total of 13 307 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. was taken in the Convention Area during the 2003/04 season (to 24 September 2004), compared with 18 507 tonnes in the previous season (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Tables 3 and 4).

4.31 Data reported in the CDS indicated that 10 966 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. was taken outside the Convention Area in 2003/04 (to 10 October 2004) and this compared with 24 137 tonnes in the previous season (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 5, Table 3.3). The Commission noted that the catch reported in the CDS in 2003/04 was 6 342 and 3 701 tonnes for Areas 41 and 87 respectively, down from 10 001 and 5 745 tonnes respectively for 2002/03 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 4.24).

4.32 The Commission noted with concern that the Scientific Committee was unable to provide specific management advice for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 for the coming season (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.57 to 4.61).

4.33 The Scientific Committee had considered two approaches to assessing *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3:

- (i) The first approach was to choose a catch that, given the base-case conditions, should not substantially increase the probability of the spawning stock being depleted. Figure 3 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII) was provided to indicate the change in probability of depletion given a specified annual catch. The probabilities that account for the CPUE series were those where greater emphasis was given to simulation trials that have similar trends during the historical catch series to the trends indicated by the standardised CPUE. The increase in the slope of both graphs around a catch level of 2 000 tonnes was a reflection that the base-case assesses sustainable yield at 1 900 tonnes. The Scientific Committee agreed that the decision of what level of catch could be taken without a ‘substantial increase in the probability of depletion’ was not a scientific issue and fell within the remit of the Commission.
- (ii) The second approach was based on the tagging estimates and scaled recruitment series. This suggested annual yields of 4 200–4 900 tonnes, but considering the uncertainty surrounding some of the assumptions discussed above, a more conservative yield was calculated by taking the lower 95% confidence limit of the tagging analysis. This gave an annual yield of 3 050 to 3 750 tonnes.

4.34 The Scientific Committee was unable to recommend a specific catch limit for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 for the coming season.

4.35 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee’s recommendation that the catch limit for the forthcoming season be divided into three management areas (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 5, paragraph 5.173 and Figure 4):

Area A (West Shag Rocks): 0% of the catch limit
Area B (Shag Rocks): 30% of the catch limit
Area C (South Georgia): 70% of the catch limit.

4.36 The Commission also endorsed the Scientific Committee’s recommendation that in order to ensure the monitoring of the stock at West Shag Rocks, research may be undertaken in this area in 2004/05. A research exemption limit of 10 tonnes was agreed with any catch taken from this area to be counted towards the catch limit in Subarea 48.3.

4.37 The Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee regarding *D. eleginoides* in Division 58.5.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.75 and 4.76).

4.38 The Commission also endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee regarding *D. eleginoides* in the French EEZs in Division 58.5.1 and Subarea 58.6, and the South African EEZ in Subareas 58.6 and 58.7 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.66, 4.67 and 4.79 to 4.86).

4.39 The Scientific Committee had also provided advice on the prohibition of directed fishing for *D. eleginoides* in areas outside national jurisdiction in Subareas 58.6 and 58.7, and Divisions 58.4.4 and 58.5.1.

4.40 Russia urged the Commission to develop a consolidated approach to managing *Dissostichus* spp. in the Convention Area, including EEZs and the high seas.

Icefish

4.41 The Commission noted that Members had fished for *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2 in 2003/04, and a total of 2 737 tonnes of *C. gunnari* was taken in the Convention Area (to 24 September 2004), compared with 4 331 tonnes in the previous season (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Tables 3 and 4).

4.42 The Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee regarding *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.97 and 4.99). The notification for an exploratory bottom trawl fishery was discussed under item 9.

4.43 The Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee regarding *C. gunnari* in Division 58.5.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.106 and 4.107).

4.44 The Commission agreed that the fishery for *C. gunnari* within the French EEZ of Division 58.5.1 should remain closed until information on stock status is obtained from a survey (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 4.109).

Other finfish species

4.45 The Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee regarding other finfish fisheries in Subareas 48.1, 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.110 to 4.115).

By-catch species

4.46 The Commission noted the work and recommendations of the Scientific Committee in relation to by-catch (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.194 to 4.209). *Inter alia*, the Scientific Committee had:

- (i) no new information to update the estimate of the precautionary by-catch limit of *Macrourus carinatus* in Division 58.5.2 and *Macrourus* spp. in Divisions 58.4.3a and 58.4.3b;
- (ii) recommended that precautionary measures which place upper limits on by-catch and reduce the potential for localised depletion be adopted;
- (iii) agreed that the status quo for managing macrourid by-catch by SSRU in Subarea 88.1 (16% of the catch limit of *Dissostichus* spp. or 20 tonnes, whichever is the greater) should remain in force;
- (iv) indicated that the development of avoidance and mitigation measures for by-catch species be given high priority;
- (v) strongly reiterated the need for accurate reporting of by-catch in all data formats;
- (vi) noted that IUU fishing is also likely to result in mortality of by-catch species;

- (vii) recommended that vessels be advised that, where possible, they should cut all rajids from their lines whilst the rajids were still in the water, except on the request of the scientific observer;
- (viii) noted that a relaxation of the above requirement to cut all rajids from lines whilst still in the water may be necessary so that tag and recapture programs could be conducted in longline fisheries if the detection probability of tagged rajids at the sea surface is low;
- (ix) urged Members and observers to provide reports to the Secretariat on methods or strategies of fishing that minimise non-target fish by-catch;
- (x) noted the potential impact of competition between vessels in new and exploratory fisheries on by-catch mitigation.

Crab resources

4.47 The Commission noted that the fishery for crab in Subarea 48.3 was not carried out in the 2003/04 season and that no proposal to harvest crab had yet been received for the 2004/05 season. The Commission endorsed the management advice provided by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 4.211).

Squid resources

4.48 The Commission noted that the fishery for *Martialia hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3 was not carried out in the 2003/04 season and that no notification to harvest this species had been received for the 2004/05 season. The Commission endorsed the management advice provided by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 4.213).

Scientific research exemption

4.49 The Commission noted that scientific research surveys notified to the Secretariat under Conservation Measure 24-01 are regularly updated on the CCAMLR website. Notifications of surveys in 2004/05 received by the Secretariat were also listed in CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/8.

4.50 One notification, submitted by New Zealand on 23 July 2004 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/BG/17), was for a longline survey of *D. mawsoni* in Subarea 88.3. In providing this notification, New Zealand proposed that the survey vessel could take no more than 100 tonnes of *D. mawsoni* and no more than 35 tonnes of all other species combined. The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's consideration of this proposal (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 8.3 to 8.9).

Secretariat supported activities

4.51 The Commission noted the work undertaken by the Secretariat's Data Centre in the 2003/04 intersessional period (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 12.1 to 12.7). This included:

- (i) a revision of a number of databases used in support of the work of the Scientific Committee;
- (ii) further validation of survey data, and improvements to data form C4 used for submitting data from bottom trawl surveys;
- (iii) the development and updating of Fishery Plans for all fisheries (including closed fisheries) in the Convention Area for the 2003/04 season, and for toothfish in Subareas 48.3, 88.1 and 88.2 and Division 58.5.2, icefish in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2 and krill in Area 48 and Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2, for the complete time series over which management measures have been in force.

4.52 The Commission recalled that it had requested the Secretariat to develop a procedure for forecasting closures in SSRUs (CCAMLR-XXII, paragraph 9.20). This request was addressed in CCAMLR-XXIII/38. The paper also examined other monitoring issues of concern to the Data Centre. The Commission discussed this matter under item 10.

Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data

4.53 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had agreed that Members making data requests should clearly indicate the nature of their proposed work with respect to distinguishing between the work indicated in paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of the rules.

4.54 The Commission agreed that, in the case of work endorsed by the Scientific Committee or the Commission, Members should include in their data request detailed reference to the relevant sections of the Commission and Scientific Committee reports. This would assist the Secretariat in evaluating the nature of the proposed work and in determining the applicable process under the rules (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 12.8).

4.55 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had reviewed and revised its rules of procedure for submission of papers to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/5 Rev. 1; SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 12.13 to 12.19).

Publications

4.56 In addition to the annual reports of CCAMLR, the Commission noted that the following documents were also published during 2004:

- (i) *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts*, covering abstracts of papers presented in 2003
- (ii) *CCAMLR Science*, Volume 11
- (iii) *Statistical Bulletin*, Volume 16
- (iv) Revisions to *Inspectors Manual* and *Scientific Observers Manual*.

4.57 The Commission approved the Scientific Committee's request for continued funding in 2005 for language support for *CCAMLR Science*.

4.58 The Commission noted that the special issue of *Deep Sea Research II*, dedicated to the CCAMLR-2000 Survey, was currently in press. CCAMLR had contributed A\$10 000 to the costs of publishing this special issue (CCAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.42).

4.59 The Commission also noted that the Convener of WG-EMM (Dr R. Hewitt, USA) and the former Convener of WG-FSA (Dr I. Everson, UK), and Dr C. Jones (USA) had participated in the Fourth World Fisheries Congress and had presented a paper describing CCAMLR's approach to resource management. This paper will be published in the proceedings of the conference (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 12.12).

Scientific Committee activities planned for 2004/05

4.60 The Commission noted that the following meetings of the Scientific Committee's working groups are planned during the 2004/05 intersessional period:

- (i) meeting of WG-EMM scheduled in the Tokyo area, Japan, during a two-week period between 27 June and 22 July 2005;
- (ii) meeting of WG-FSA, including ad hoc WG-IMAF, scheduled in Hobart, Australia, from 10 to 21 October 2005;
- (iii) meeting of WG-FSA-SAM scheduled in the Tokyo area, Japan, during the week immediately prior to WG-EMM-05;
- (iv) a second workshop on the age determination of *C. gunnari* is scheduled in 2005 (dates and venue to be determined).

4.61 In addition, the Commission endorsed the proposal from the Scientific Committee to establish a subgroup on Acoustic Survey and Analysis Methods (SG-ASAM). The first meeting of the Subgroup was tentatively scheduled for sometime before the 2005 meeting of WG-EMM in July (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 13.5).

4.62 The Commission endorsed the work plan of the Scientific Committee and its working groups (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 13.1 to 13.16, Annex 4, Table 4 and Annex 5, Table 13.1 and Appendix D). This plan included work to resolve the outstanding uncertainties in the current status of the stock and estimated long-term yield for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 4.62 and 4.63).

4.63 The Commission noted that the work plan also included strategic planning in relation to the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, as well as the support provided by the Secretariat (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 3.92 and 3.98).

4.64 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had considered two options to further improve the focus of the report of WG-FSA and the accessibility of information to the Scientific Committee and the Commission (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 13.8 to 13.14). Both options focused on retaining management advice and information essential to the work

of the Scientific Committee in the body of the report. The two options differed in the way in which the remaining text, which provided background information and advice for future work of WG-FSA, would be presented:

- Under Option 1, the remaining text would be transmitted to the Scientific Committee in the form of an appendix which would be translated during the intersessional period and published in the report of WG-FSA.
- Under Option 2, the remaining text would be transmitted to the Scientific Committee in the form of a SC-CAMLR background document which would not be translated and would be subject to the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data.

4.65 The Commission agreed with the Scientific Committee's recommendation and endorsed Option 1. However, in doing so, the Commission urged the Scientific Committee and its working groups to exercise restraint during drafting, and asked conveners to edit reports so that the information is presented as concisely as possible.

4.66 The Commission also considered the information from WG-FSA-04 which was presented to the Scientific Committee in background documents SC-CAMLR-XXIII/BG/21, BG/22 and BG/23. It was agreed that these documents would not be translated in 2005, and would not be included in the published report of WG-FSA-04.

4.67 The Commission noted that Dr Holt's second term as Chair ended at the close of CCAMLR-XXIII, and the Scientific Committee had unanimously elected Dr E. Fanta (Brazil) to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2005 and 2006). The Commission joined the Scientific Committee in thanking Dr Holt for his tremendous contribution during his four-year term. That period had seen an expansion in the role of the Scientific Committee and Dr Holt had ushered in the changes with grace and responsibility.

4.68 The Commission welcomed Dr Fanta in her new role as Chair of the Scientific Committee in 2005 and 2006.

4.69 The Commission also noted that:

- Dr Sushin's term as Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee also ended in 2004 and the Scientific Committee had unanimously elected Dr H.-C. Shin (Republic of Korea) to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2005 and 2006);
- Ms K. Rivera (USA) and Mr N. Smith (New Zealand) will co-convene ad hoc WG-IMAF following the retirements of Prof. J. Croxall (UK) (Convener) and Mr B. Baker (Australia) (Deputy Convener);
- Dr Jones will replace Dr A. Constable (Australia) as convener of WG-FSA-SAM.

4.70 The Commission joined the Scientific Committee in thanking the outgoing conveners for their contributions to the work of the Scientific Committee, and in welcoming the new conveners.