

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY

11.1 The Commission noted advice from the Scientific Committee regarding the likelihood of links between toothfish stocks inside and outside the Convention Area in the Indian Ocean (Areas 51 and 57) and that important information was missing in respect of research data, fishery-based data on catch locality, catch and effort, and size of fish in the catch. These data would help scientists to determine whether those links might affect the status of stocks inside the Convention Area either through fish moving between the areas as larvae, or young fish moving from areas outside to areas inside the Convention Area. Therefore, the Scientific Committee requested that the Commission consider ways of acquiring the required data for stocks outside the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15).

11.2 The Commission also noted that the Scientific Committee considered that the catch rates reported by Spain this year from Area 51 are much lower than the CDS records suggest and therefore reiterated its concerns that catch rates in these areas are likely to be unsustainable (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 7.11).

11.3 Spain informed the Commission that it had reported catches taken by its fishing vessels, with a scientific observer on board, from Area 51 on a voluntary basis. Despite the limited area and time period covered by the vessel, the data submitted were important to the Scientific Committee. Spain expressed the view that such experimental cruises should be undertaken by other Members.

11.4 In this respect, the Commission also recalled Resolution 10/XII which reaffirms that Members, in particular, emphasised the importance of further research on any stocks or species which occur both within the area of the Convention and within adjacent areas. Resolution 10/XII reaffirmed that Members should ensure that their flag vessels conduct harvesting of such stocks responsibly and with due respect for conservation measures in force.

11.5 The European Community concurred with Spain on the importance of continuing to collect the required data from Areas 51 and 57 and drew the attention of the Commission to the practice adopted by NAFO and NEAFC for the collection of data for areas outside their Convention Areas in the North Atlantic Ocean. Each vessel entering the Convention Areas of NAFO and NEAFC is required to send, via VMS position report, the composition and origin of the catch on board. This information enables effective control over catches taken inside the North Atlantic Convention Areas and provides information of catch locations outside these areas. This is also relevant to the potential use of VMS being considered by the Commission and therefore could also be of interest to CCAMLR, in particular, taking into account the impending establishment of a neighbouring RFMO under the future Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) (paragraphs 14.3 to 14.6).

11.6 Ukraine informed Members that one of its flag vessels had recently fished in Areas 41 and 57 with a scientific observer on board. Ukraine advised that the data collected during fishing in these areas would soon be submitted to the Secretariat.

11.7 The Commission welcomed this offer and requested other Members to submit to the Scientific Committee all data on toothfish stocks collected by them in Areas 51 and 57 both in the past and recent times. The Commission also requested that Members consider conducting cooperative surveys in these areas on a voluntary basis.