

## ASSESSMENT AND AVOIDANCE OF INCIDENTAL MORTALITY

### Incidental mortality of marine animals during fishing operations

5.1 The Commission considered advice prepared by the Scientific Committee on the assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality of Antarctic marine living resources (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 5.1 to 5.55). It endorsed the report, its conclusions and advice (specifically paragraphs 5.53 to 5.55), subject to the comments below.

5.2 The USA thanked France for its data and reports on seabird by-catch.

5.3 Spain expressed its concern at the request of the Scientific Committee to confirm that the role of observers does not include the ability to agree to fishing-related practices in contravention of CCAMLR conservation measures in force (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 5.54(x)). It believed this has already been clearly defined in the priority list of tasks agreed to for observers and in the text of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and described in the CCAMLR *Scientific Observers Manual*.

5.4 The Chair of the Scientific Committee explained that it wanted the Commission to reiterate that observers are not in a position to agree to fishing-related practices that are in contravention of CCAMLR conservation measures. The Commission agreed with this statement.

5.5 Spain further noted that Conservation Measure 25-02 no longer contains the provisions to allow for the testing of mitigation measures, which were contained in the previous version of this measure (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 5.50). Spain reiterated the request of the Scientific Committee for the Commission to consider revising Conservation Measure 25-02 to reintroduce procedures for the testing of new mitigation measures for seabirds. Spain expressed its concerns that these procedures be implemented for the industry to be able to develop and test new methods.

5.6 The Republic of Korea supported Spain in this request.

5.7 The Commission supported the proposal by Spain and the Republic of Korea to review Conservation Measure 25-02.

5.8 In respect of incidental mortality of Convention Area seabirds in areas adjacent to the Convention Area, the UK recollected that last year the Commission adopted Resolution 22/XXIII, in order to improve communication with, and assist in implementation of, effective mitigation measures by regional fishery management organisations (RFMOs) with areas of application adjacent to the Convention Area.

5.9 The UK noted responses from several RFMOs (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, Annex 5, Appendix O, paragraphs 159 to 167) and notably from CCSBT (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, Annex 5, Appendix O, paragraphs 168 to 173). It welcomed the commendation of Japan (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, Annex 5, Appendix O, paragraph 172) for providing, via CCSBT, summaries and analyses of data on seabird by-catch levels and rates, comprising one of the few quantitative assessments for any area immediately adjacent to the Convention Area. However, the UK noted:

- (i) the substantial concerns expressed by the Scientific Committee at estimated annual mortality levels of 13 500 seabirds, including about 10 000 albatrosses, mostly of species which breed in the Convention Area;
- (ii) the advice on the need for more effective mitigation of seabird by-catch in CCSBT fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 5.30 and 5.31);
- (iii) the Commission's endorsement that Members of CCAMLR, especially those also members of the participating RFMOs, support a thorough review of by-catch related initiatives and requirements at the proposed joint meeting of the secretariats of the tuna RFMOs and their members (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 5.32).

5.10 Japan informed the Commission that it would be hosting a meeting of all tuna commissions in early 2007 and would inform those responsible for organising the meetings of the commissions concerned about seabird by-catch in areas adjacent to the Convention Area, although it could not commit the inclusion of this topic in the agenda of that meeting.

#### Marine debris

5.11 The Commission noted the report prepared by the Secretariat and considered by the Scientific Committee on the current status and trends of national surveys on monitoring marine debris and its impact on marine mammals and seabirds in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/13; SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 6.1 to 6.13).

5.12 The Commission noted that Members conducted marine debris programs in accordance with the CCAMLR standard methods at 12 sites, predominantly within Area 48. These data are submitted to CCAMLR and entered into the marine debris database. It was noted that South Africa submitted data on beached debris at Marion Island for the first time using the standard method.

5.13 Members, locations and duration of marine debris surveys are as follows:

- (i) beached marine debris: Chile (Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands 1993 to 1997), UK (Bird Island, South Georgia 1989 to present, and Signy Island, South Orkney Islands 1991 to present), Uruguay (King George Island, South Shetland Islands 2001 to present) and South Africa (Marion Island 2004);
- (ii) debris associated with seabird colonies: UK (Bird Island 1993 to present);
- (iii) marine mammal entanglement: UK (Bird Island 1991 to present and Signy Island 1997 to present);
- (iv) hydrocarbon soiling: UK (Bird Island 1993 to present).

5.14 The Commission noted the overall reduction in the levels of marine debris, in particular plastic packaging bands (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 6.7).

5.15 The Commission further noted that as requested, the Secretariat contacted CEP in May 2005, for information relating to monitoring marine debris or methods for analysing accumulation rates and trends in marine debris (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 6.5), there has been no response prior to CCAMLR-XXIV (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 6.4).