

SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

9.1 In accordance with CCAMLR's Scheme of International Scientific Observation, scientific observers were deployed during the 2004/05 fishing season on all finfish vessels and on some krill vessels operating in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/7).

9.2 In terms of future operational requirements of the Scheme of International Scientific Observation, the Commission noted advice received from both the Scientific Committee and SCIC.

9.3 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.32):

- (i) considered and approved the recommendations of WG-FSA aimed at refining the *Scientific Observers Manual* (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, Annex 5, paragraphs 11.3(i) and (iv));
- (ii) decided that a major review of the *Scientific Observers Manual* was currently unnecessary as the mechanisms for its continual update and review are already in place;
- (iii) advised that deployment of international scientific observers on krill fishing vessels would allow the collection of useful scientific information required to develop management advice for the krill fishery, consistent with an ecosystem approach.

9.4 The Commission noted that SCIC considered a proposal from New Zealand on mandatory deployment of scientific observers (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.4 to 5.11) on board krill fishing vessels and a proposal by Ukraine on deployment of national and international observers (Annex 5, paragraph 5.4). The Commission further noted that due to the lack of consensus on the issue, SCIC was unable to recommend that deployment of observers on board krill fishing vessels should be mandatory (Annex 5, paragraph 5.11).

9.5 Russia suggested that the Commission consider deploying scientific observers on krill fishing vessels using the new krill 'pumping' technology, following the Scientific Committee's concerns about the potential impact of this type of technology on elements of the ecosystem (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 4.8 to 4.10). It would therefore be appropriate to make deployment of one or even two international scientific observers compulsory on board vessels that use this new technology of krill fishing, such as the *Saga Sea*.

9.6 The UK proposed a trial to place scientific observers on 100% of all krill vessels for one year, to carry out tasks already requested or required by the Scientific Committee. For this single-year trial, protocols should be developed and results analysed and evaluated (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 2.16).

9.7 Japan and the Republic of Korea reiterated their comments discussed at SCIC (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7). In addition, Japan requested clarification as to whether the UK-proposed trial would be mandatory and involve 100% coverage of krill fishing vessels. The Republic of Korea expressed concern regarding the economic ramifications of mandatory deployment of observers on krill fishing vessels and estimated that it could increase operation costs, including fishing loss, by up to US\$600 000 per vessel.

9.8 Despite support expressed by most Members for the UK-proposed trial, the Commission was unable to agree that the trial be mandatory. Most Members urged all krill fishing Members to voluntarily deploy 100% scientific observer coverage under the conditions of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.