

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 The Chair of SCAF, Dr H. Pott (Germany), presented the report of SCAF (Annex 4) outlining the results of the Committee's discussions and recommendations for decisions by the Commission.

### Examination of audited Financial Statements for 2005

3.2 Noting that a review audit had been carried out on the 2005 Financial Statements and that an unqualified report had been provided by the auditor, the Commission accepted the audited Financial Statements for 2005.

### Audit requirements for the 2006 Financial Statements

3.3 The Commission endorsed the advice of SCAF that a review audit was required for the 2006 Financial Statements and a full audit for 2007.

### Secretariat Strategic Plan

3.4 The Commission received the advice of SCAF with respect to the Executive Secretary's report, which forms a key element of the annual assessment of his performance.

3.5 The Commission accepted SCAF's advice on the retirement of the current Science/Compliance Officer, noting the merits of separating the Science and Compliance functions, and endorsed the recommendation that the Executive Secretary take appropriate steps to recruit a new Science Officer in a timely fashion to enable the current Science/Compliance Officer to retire at the beginning of 2008 in conformity with the stipulated retirement age set out in the CCAMLR Staff Contract.

3.6 In order to specifically address requests from organisations outside CCAMLR for their representatives to visit the CCAMLR Secretariat, the Commission endorsed SCAF's advice that the Executive Secretary's authority, as outlined in CCAMLR-XXI, Annex 4, paragraphs 11 and 12, be expanded with the following:

'The Executive Secretary's authority in respect of requests to visit the Secretariat should be in accordance with the principles agreed by the Commission in CCAMLR-XXI, Annex 4, paragraphs 11 and 12 in respect of the Executive Secretary:

- determining whether such a visit is appropriate
- representing the Commission
- supplying information that is publicly available, or pre-determined by the Commission, and in compliance with the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data.'

## Members' Activities

3.7 The Commission endorsed the advice of SCAF that Reports of Members' Activities should continue to be provided since the information contained in such reports had distinct benefit in monitoring compliance with conservation measures. It also recognised that there is benefit in standardising the format of such reports and mandated the Secretariat to develop a standard format.

## Education Package

3.8 The Commission noted that the Education Package has now been placed on the CCAMLR website in the four official languages of CCAMLR.

## Review of budget for 2006

3.9 The Commission agreed that the Ukrainian Special Fund be closed and that the balance should be transferred to the General Fund.

3.10 The Commission approved the budget for 2006 as presented in Annex 4, Appendix II.

## Interpreting services for SCIC

3.11 The Commission received advice from SCAF on costs for providing interpreting services at SCIC meetings. It noted that many Members strongly endorsed the idea of providing such a service, which would greatly facilitate debate on increasingly complex and technical matters. The Commission also recognised that those Members whose native language is not one of the official CCAMLR languages would benefit from an enriched debate available through interpretation.

3.12 Many Members indicated their support for simultaneous interpretation services being available to SCIC meetings.

3.13 Argentina made the following statement:

‘Argentina highlighted that the use of specialised terminology in SCIC and the character of the discussions in the Committee’s latest meetings totally justify prompt provision of interpretation services for all official languages.

Interpretation must not be considered to benefit some delegations only, because an increased participation would enrich the contents of discussions, and this would be of advantage to all, and to CCAMLR itself.

In this context, the financial difficulties discussed in SCAF would necessitate a review in 2007 of the criteria for the distribution of funds.’

3.14 Some Members supported the Commission taking on these costs, but indicated that this would entail finding equivalent cost savings in other parts of the budget.

3.15 Noting that SCAF had recommended that the Secretariat begin renovating a potentially suitable space within the CCAMLR Headquarters (Annex 4, paragraph 18), the Commission agreed to revisit the issue of simultaneous interpretation for SCIC at its next meeting.

#### Wireless computer network

3.16 The Commission agreed that a wireless computer network be installed in the CCAMLR Headquarters building, noting that the funds to cover part of the cost of this project could be sourced from funds transferred to the General Fund due to the closure of the Ukrainian Special Fund and by not spending funds provisionally allocated to promotional activities associated with the Convention's 25th Anniversary.

#### Contingency Fund

3.17 The Commission endorsed the recommendation of SCAF that any funds in excess of A\$110 000, following the annual transfer of forfeited funds from new and exploratory fisheries applications, should be transferred to the General Fund.

#### Budget for 2007

3.18 The Commission noted SCAF's concerns at the growth of the Scientific Committee's budget requirements and the consequential cost implications for the Commission.

3.19 The Commission approved the Scientific Committee budget of A\$311 500 for inclusion in the Commission's budget for 2007.

3.20 The Commission fully supported the recommendation of SCAF to adopt the overall Commission budget for 2007 as presented in Annex 4, Appendix II.

#### Members' contributions

3.21 In accordance with Financial Regulation 5.6, the Commission granted Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Republic of Korea, Spain and Uruguay an extension to the deadline for the payment of 2007 contributions.

3.22 The Commission received advice from SCAF that beginning in 2007, Members should be provided an incentive to pay their annual contribution by the due date by applying a 10% additional charge on any amount outstanding of the total required contribution. Such additional charge would be applied on 1 September in the year the payment is due. The

Commission noted the concern of some Members with the proposal and deferred this matter until its next meeting. It encouraged these Members to attend the 2007 SCAF meeting to fully debate the issue.

#### Forecast budget for 2008

3.23 The Commission noted the forecast budget for 2008 as presented in Annex 4, Appendix II. It affirmed the importance of maintaining the budget with no real growth and confirmed SCAF's advice that care should be taken by Members when using this indicative forecast for their own financial budgeting.

3.24 It took particular note that the significant growth in the Scientific Committee's forecast budget for 2008 is largely attributable to the planned joint CCAMLR-IWC Workshop in that year.

3.25 The Commission endorsed SCAF's advice to seek resources, financial or in kind, from Members for the workshop's organisation, and that every effort be made to reduce the workshop's forecast costs. The Commission agreed that the Scientific Committee should endeavour to prioritise its budget requests in the future, and that the cost increases of the kind encountered in 2008 should not be seen as a precedent for the future.

#### CDS Fund

3.26 The Commission agreed that a sum of A\$29 260 should be provided from the CDS Special Fund to allow modifications to be made to the E-CDS.

3.27 The Commission expressed its appreciation for the efficient work of the SCAF Chair in managing the Committee's business and presenting its report.

#### Other

3.28 A number of delegations noted that in some cases the deadlines attached to the submission of Members' views in response to Commission circulars were too short. The Secretariat undertook to ensure that in future deadlines would be suggested to allow full reflection by Members and subsequent presentation of their views. The Executive Secretary indicated that there would still be instances when urgent responses might be required.