

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

4.1 The Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr E. Fanta (Brazil) presented the report of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXV). The Commission thanked Dr Fanta for her comprehensive report (CCAMLR-XXV/BG/47).

4.2 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's general recommendations, advice, research and data requirements. The Commission also discussed substantive matters arising from the Committee's deliberations under other parts of the former's agenda, including assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality (section 5); IUU fishing (section 9); Scheme of International Scientific Observation (section 10); new and exploratory fisheries (section 11); fisheries management and conservation under conditions of uncertainty (section 13); data access and security (section 14); and cooperation with other international organisations (section 16).

Intersessional activities

4.3 The Commission noted the extensive activities of the Scientific Committee in 2006 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 1.9 and 1.10). It joined the Scientific Committee in thanking the conveners of the working groups, subgroups and workshops for their contributions to the work of CCAMLR.

CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation

4.4 CCAMLR-designated scientific observers were deployed on all vessels fishing for finfish in the Convention Area in 2005/06. In addition, scientific observers were deployed on krill fishing vessels under the scheme. The Scientific Committee's advice on scientific observation is considered in section 10.

Ecosystem monitoring and management

4.5 The Commission noted the progress achieved by the Scientific Committee and WG-EMM in 2006. This work included further development of the feedback management regime for the krill fishery which was undertaken during the Second Workshop on Management Procedures to Evaluate Options for Subdividing the Krill Catch Limit in Area 48 among Small-scale Management Units (SSMUs) (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.8 to 3.16).

4.6 The Commission noted that the analysis of long-term penguin population data from both the South Shetland Islands and South Orkney Islands had revealed consistent declines in Adélie and chinstrap penguin numbers over the past 20 to 30 years and that winter sea-ice conditions had opposite effects on these two species. However, a new analysis of these trends has indicated that this decline in both species may reflect the influence of reduction in prey availability linked to large-scale climate forcing (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6).

4.7 The Commission also noted that the Scientific Committee had requested Members to consider:

- what the potential effects of climate change on Antarctic marine ecosystems might be, and how this knowledge could be used to advise the Commission on management of the krill fishery;
- how the effects of fishing might be distinguished from the effects of climate change.

The Scientific Committee requested that Members provide submissions on this item to the next meeting of WG-EMM.

4.8 The Commission noted that simulation trials using models at the above workshop (krill–predatory–fishery model (KPFM2) and spatial multispecies operating model (SMOM)) indicated that subdivision of the krill precautionary catch limit based on historical catch distributions from the fishery (Fishing Option 1; *status quo*) would have greater negative impacts on the ecosystem compared to other fishing options (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.9 and 3.10).

4.9 The Commission also noted that although substantial progress had been achieved, the Scientific Committee still required further work to develop its advice concerning the six candidate procedures for subdividing the krill precautionary catch limit among SSMUs in Area 48 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.11 to 3.15).

4.10 The Commission recognised that evaluating options for subdividing the krill precautionary catch limit among SSMUs is a complex task which requires extensive modelling and a large comprehensive dataset. Work will also be required to develop approaches which may be used to separate changes in the ecosystem which are and may be occurring due to climate change from those which may be induced by fishing.

4.11 The Commission agreed that WG-SAM's (provisionally referred to as the Working Group on Statistics, Assessments and Modelling) involvement in model development will advance such work and serve to maintain the momentum that WG-EMM has developed (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 3.15).

4.12 The Commission urged Members to facilitate collection of fishery and observer data from the krill fishery, as well as associated research data, which can contribute to the construction of an extensive dataset for the development of important modelling work of the kind outlined in the previous two paragraphs (see also section 10).

4.13 The Commission also noted that the Scientific Committee recommended that an integrated assessment approach for krill, similar to that used by the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) for other species, should be explored by WG-SAM (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 3.15).

4.14 The Commission noted the change of name of the Subgroup on the Development of Operating Models, to the 'Operating Models Subgroup', the tasks endorsed by the Scientific Committee, and the development of a newsgroup (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 3.19).

4.15 The Commission noted other work, conducted outside CCAMLR, relevant to the work of the Scientific Committee and WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.21 to 3.23).

4.16 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's long-term work plan of WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 3.25 to 3.28), in particular noting the following priorities to:

- (i) facilitate continued evaluation of management procedures to allocate the precautionary krill catch limit in Area 48 among SSMUs and that this work will be further developed by WG-SAM in 2007;
- (ii) review estimates of B_0 and γ and suggest appropriate revision for the precautionary catch limits for krill in Areas 48 and 58. A workshop, convened by Dr S. Nicol (Australia), will be held at the 2007 meeting of WG-EMM;
- (iii) hold a Workshop on Bioregionalisation in 2007 (see section 6);
- (iv) examine data requirements and existing data that provide abundance estimates and associated uncertainty of land-based predator populations. A workshop is proposed no later than 2008.

4.17 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had used the results of the recent Australian BROKE-West acoustic krill biomass survey to update its recommendation that the krill precautionary catch limit in Division 58.4.2 be revised from 450 000 tonnes to 1.49 million tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 3.18; see section 12).

Interactions between WG-EMM and WG-FSA

4.18 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's proposal to hold a one-day joint workshop between WG-EMM and WG-FSA to consider development of models to examine the effects of fisheries, in fish-based ecosystems. This workshop will be co-convened by the two working group conveners, and will be held in association with the 2007 meeting of WG-EMM.

Harvested species

4.19 The Commission noted that 15 Members had participated in fisheries in the Convention Area in 2005/06 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 1.12 to 1.15 and 4.26, Table 2). It also noted progress by the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA in 2006. This work included revision of integrated assessments for toothfish in Subareas 48.3, 88.1 and 88.2, and development of a new integrated assessment for toothfish in Division 58.5.2. Investigation of exploratory fisheries for toothfish in Subareas 48.6 and 58.4 also commenced.

Krill

4.20 The Commission noted that seven vessels from five Member countries targeted krill in the 2005/06 season. This included one vessel which commenced fishing under the Maltese flag before re-flagging to Poland during the season.

4.21 A total catch of 105 084 tonnes of krill was reported to the Secretariat by October 2006. Compared to the catch reported at the same time last season it appears that the total catch of krill in 2005/06 will be at a similar level to that reported in 2004/05 (127 035 tonnes) (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Tables 2 and 3).

4.22 The Commission noted that fine-scale data had been received from all Members fishing for krill in 2004/05. In addition, the historical series of haul-by-haul data for the Japanese krill fishery had also been received by the Secretariat. The Commission thanked Japan for submitting these data and urged other Members, where applicable, to submit historical haul-by-haul catch and effort data for seasons where aggregated data had been previously submitted (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.3).

4.23 The Commission noted Members' notifications to fish for krill in the 2006/07 season. Eight Members had notified and all vessels except the *Saga Sea* (Norway) will use conventional trawls (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.4).

4.24 The Commission also noted that most vessels fishing for krill in 2006/07 will carry scientific observers who will collect data in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Table 4). In addition, the Chilean vessel *Ocean Dawn* will also conduct scientific research. The deployment of scientific observers in this fishery is discussed in section 10.

4.25 Norway advised the Commission that it was unlikely that catches from the *Saga Sea* in 2006/07 would reach the level anticipated in the original notification. In addition, it was unlikely that the second Norwegian-flagged vessel notified during SC-CAMLR-XXV would fish in 2006/07 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Table 4).

4.26 The Commission noted that if all the notifications for 2006/07 proceed as planned, the krill fishery could escalate from its current low level to a level approaching the trigger level (620 000 tonnes) in Conservation Measure 51-01 in a single year. The possibility of such a rapid increase in the krill catch further emphasised the necessity of obtaining sufficient information from the current fishery to ensure future management needs. This would be particularly problematic if the fishery was concentrated in certain regions or subareas (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 15.15).

4.27 The Commission also noted the importance of obtaining fishery and observer data from all vessels operating in the krill fishery (see section 10).

4.28 In recognising the need to collect standard scientific observations on krill fishing vessels, the Commission noted that systematic scientific observer coverage of the krill fishery is required across all fishing methods so as to allow the Scientific Committee to develop advice on the fishery, including evaluation of by-catch and the efficacy of mitigation measures (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 11.13).

4.29 However, the Commission was unable to agree on the level of observer coverage in the krill fishery. It noted that most Members will be deploying scientific observers on their vessels in 2006/07 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.5 and Table 4).

4.30 The Commission urged all Members to implement scientific observations, in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, on vessels fishing for krill in the Convention Area, and to submit resultant data to the CCAMLR database (see also section 10). It agreed with the Scientific Committee that the priorities for scientific observers were to collect data to:

- compare fishing methods
- determine the level of by-catch of larval finfish
- better understand the occurrence of warp-strike by seabirds.

4.31 Russia emphasised the need for quantitative observations on the occurrence of larval and juvenile krill and finfish by-catch in krill catches taken by the continuous fishing system in order to receive adequate data to resolve the issue of the impact of this fishing method on the pelagic ecosystem.

4.32 The Republic of Korea advised the Commission that it would be willing to work towards contributing scientific data from its vessels in the krill fishery to assist with the deliberations of the Scientific Committee. The Commission thanked the Republic of Korea for addressing this issue.

4.33 The Commission noted that arising from ATCM Measure 4 (2006) (paragraph 15.32), Parties to the Antarctic Treaty who are Members of CCAMLR have been urged to provide information on the potential impact of krill harvesting on the population of Antarctic fur seals, including the development and effectiveness of mitigation methods in reducing incidental mortality. The Commission further noted the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 5.42 to 5.44) that the provision of such information would require observer coverage from all vessels engaged in the krill fishery.

4.34 The Commission noted with concern that Vanuatu was considering deploying five 'super-trawlers' in the krill fishery in 2006/07 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 15.10 to 15.16; CCAMLR-XXV/BG/52 and its addendum).

4.35 The information provided by Vanuatu was insufficient to determine whether this additional fishing effort and resulting catches could trigger the limit of 620 000 tonnes of krill agreed in Conservation Measure 51-01. However, it was noted that notifications for 2006/07 contained notifications with expected krill catch levels of 100 000 tonnes per vessel (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Table 4), thereby inferring a substantial potential krill catch could be expected by Vanuatu.

4.36 Norway advised that knowledge provided by industry related to the five Vanuatu-flagged vessels indicated that these vessels would fish for krill using conventional trawls.

4.37 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's recommendation that the Commission seek assurance from Vanuatu, prior to fishing, that its vessels will comply with

all conservation measures in force. The Commission agreed that assurance should also be sought regarding Vanuatu's capacity to regulate its flag vessels under its national legislation (Annex 5, paragraph 7.4).

4.38 The Commission noted that Acceding States are bound by all conservation measures and notification procedures and requirements (Annex 5, paragraph 7.2). However, the CCAMLR Scheme for Scientific Observation is based on bilateral agreements between Members, and the Commission noted that Vanuatu would not be bound to such an agreement.

4.39 Vanuatu's participation in the krill fishery is discussed further in section 7.

Continuous fishing system

4.40 The Commission recalled that in 2005 the Scientific Committee had noted that the trawl fishery for krill using the continuous fishing system may have a potentially negative impact on the pelagic ecosystem, particularly through the by-catch of larval and juvenile krill and fish. The Scientific Committee also recognised that the fishery using this method would not be considered a new or exploratory fishery if there were an adequate description of the fishing selectivity, a characterisation of the haul (or catch rate) and information on the location of krill catches (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9).

4.41 The Commission noted that available fine-scale catch and effort data and scientific observer data reported from two vessels fishing for krill using the continuous fishing system (*Atlantic Navigator* in 2003/04 and 2004/05, and *Saga Sea* in 2005/06) had been examined by WG-EMM and WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.13 to 4.18).

4.42 It noted that the use of the continuous fishing system in the krill fishery presented some unique challenges to recording effective fishing effort, catch and collection of biological data and by-catch data. The Commission also noted Russia's concerns over delays in the collection of adequate data from this fishing system and its potential effects on the ecosystem (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.14 and 4.15). Ukraine expressed similar concerns.

4.43 The Commission recognised that the Scientific Committee had not yet defined a single effective measure of CPUE in conventional trawl or continuous fishing systems; nor was such a measure of CPUE used in stock assessments or management decision rules. Until such time as these issues have been addressed, the Commission agreed that all krill fisheries should provide information appropriate to the current management system (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.17; see also section 10).

4.44 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request for information from krill fishing nations on fishing methodologies, technology and fishing operations. In particular, operational data were needed on fishing selectivity and total mortality (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.18). These requirements are outlined in paragraph 4.30 and section 10.

Toothfish

4.45 The Commission noted that Members had fished for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in 2005/06 in Subareas 48.3 and 48.4 and Division 58.5.2, and for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subareas 48.6, 88.1, 88.2 and Divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2, 58.4.3a 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 catch of 13 704 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. was reported in the Convention Area in the 2005/06 season (to October 2006), compared with 16 250 tonnes in the previous season (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Tables 2 and 3).

4.46 Data reported in the CDS indicated that 8 048 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. were taken outside the Convention Area in 2005/06 (to October 2006) compared with 12 847 tonnes in 2004/05 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Annex 5, Table 3). The catch of *Dissostichus* spp. reported through the CDS in Areas 41 and 87 was 3 881 tonnes and 3 526 tonnes respectively in 2005/06, compared with 7 063 and 5 611 tonnes respectively in 2004/05.

4.47 Estimates of catches from IUU fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. inside the Convention Area are discussed in section 9.

4.48 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had reviewed the tagging program requirements for *Dissostichus* spp. in exploratory fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.142 to 4.151).

4.49 The Commission endorsed the following recommendations to:

- amend Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex C, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the vessel and observers (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.37; see paragraph 12.43);
- increase the tagging rate for *Dissostichus* spp. in exploratory fisheries to a minimum of three fish per tonne and a target of 10 fish per tonne in those SSRUs in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 which are closed but carry a 10-tonne research exemption for a single vessel in a single season (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.42), and a minimum of three fish per tonne in exploratory fisheries in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.189);
- in exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp., for a single trial year (2006/07) observers should take a photographic record of all tags recovered and forward these photographs to the Secretariat.

The Commission re-affirmed that fish which are tagged and released are not counted against catch limits (paragraph 12.43).

4.50 The Commission also endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that the Secretariat take responsibility for coordinating the tagging programs in new and exploratory fisheries starting from the 2007/08 season. The Commission agreed that all tags used by Members in exploratory fisheries shall be purchased from the Secretariat for use in the 2007/08 season onwards. The financial implications of this proposal are discussed in section 3.

4.51 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's proposal to move towards multi-year assessments, noting that (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.55 to 4.58):

- conducting full assessments at multi-year intervals would benefit WG-FSA by freeing up time to progress more strategic issues relating to the further development of management procedures;
- WG-FSA would retain the option to undertake an assessment in any given year if new or refined methods of assessment recommended by WG-SAM become available, parameters used in the assessment are revised significantly, or the fishery status changes in an unexpected way.

4.52 The Commission also noted that the current stability in assessment results had only been evident for two years and that WG-FSA should be prepared to undertake full assessments of *Dissostichus* spp., if required, at its meeting in 2007.

4.53 The Commission agreed that multi-year assessments would allow the Scientific Committee additional time to advance other high-priority issues such as Management Strategy Evaluations (MSEs) so as to evaluate the efficacy of methods to achieve management objectives. The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that simulation experiments be conducted to examine the robustness of assessment outputs to changes in input data and model assumptions and to provide further insight into the consequences of the assessment timetable in paragraph 4.51 to managing CCAMLR fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.59).

4.54 The Commission endorsed management advice for the *Dissostichus* spp. fisheries which had been assessed by the Scientific Committee (see also section 11). The Commission agreed to the following limits for the 2006/07 fishing season:

- the catch limit for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 (SGSR stock) should be 3 554 tonnes, the catch limits for management areas A, B and C should be adjusted in a pro-rata manner to 0, 1 066 and 2 488 tonnes respectively, and the by-catch limits for skate/rays and macrourids should remain at the level of 5%, that is 177 and 177 tonnes respectively (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.71 and 4.72);
- the catch limit for *D. eleginoides* in Division 58.5.2 west of 79°20'E should be 2 427 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.86).

4.55 The Commission encouraged France to submit catch, effort, length and biological data to the CCAMLR database so that preliminary stock assessments for *D. eleginoides* in the French EEZs in Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.5.1 could be carried out by WG-FSA. The Commission also urged France, as is the practice for other longline fisheries in the Convention Area and where possible, to request that all unprocessed rajids should be cut from the line while still in the water, except on the request of the observer. Avoidance of specific high by-catch areas should be also considered (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.76 to 4.79, 4.101 to 4.103).

4.56 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee was unable to provide management advice for the fishery for *D. eleginoides* in the South African EEZ at the Prince Edward and Marion Islands. The Commission urged South Africa to use the CCAMLR

decision rules for estimating yields for this fishery. The Commission also encouraged South Africa to consider the recommendations of ad hoc WG-IMAF with respect to mitigation of seabird mortality (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.92 and 4.93).

4.57 The Commission agreed that the prohibition of directed fishing on *D. eleginoides* in Subareas 58.6 and 58.7, and Divisions 58.4.4 and 58.5.1 in areas outside national jurisdiction, should remain in force (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.79, 4.94 and 4.104).

Icefish

4.58 The Commission noted that Members had fished for *Champscephalus gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2 in 2005/06, and a total of 2 830 tonnes of *C. gunnari* was taken in the Convention Area (to October 2006), compared with 3 563 tonnes in 2004/05 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, Tables 2 and 3).

4.59 The Commission endorsed the management advice for fisheries for *C. gunnari* which had been assessed by the Scientific Committee. The Commission agreed to the following limits:

- the catch limit for *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 should be revised to 4 337 tonnes in 2006/07 and 2 885 tonnes in 2007/08 based on the outcome of the short term assessment, and all other components of Conservation Measure 42-01 should remain in force with an appropriate pro rata of the catch taken in the period 1 March to 31 May 2007 of 1 084 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.113 and 4.114).
- the catch limit for *C. gunnari* in Division 58.5.2 should be no more than 42 tonnes in 2006/07, and the remaining provisions of Conservation Measure 42-02, Annex B, should be carried forward (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.119 to 4.121).

4.60 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's advice that the fishery for *C. gunnari* within the French EEZ in Division 58.5.1 should remain closed until information on stock status is obtained from a survey (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.134).

4.61 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation to further develop a management procedure for *C. gunnari* as a matter of priority (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.122).

Other finfish species

4.62 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's advice on other finfish fisheries in Subareas 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.127 and 4.132).

4.63 The Commission also confirmed that the mark-recapture program for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 48.4 should continue to be conducted over the next three to five years (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.130).

Crab resources

4.64 The Commission noted that there had been no fishery for crab in Subarea 48.3 in 2005/06 and that no proposal to harvest crab had been received for 2006/07. The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's management advice that the existing Conservation Measures 52-01 and 52-02 on crabs should be carried forward (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.218).

Squid resources

4.65 The Commission noted that there had been no fishery for *Martialia hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3 in 2005/06 and that no notification to harvest this species had been received for 2006/07. The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's management advice that the existing Conservation Measure 61-01 should be carried forward (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.220).

By-catch species

4.66 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had been unable to provide new advice on by-catch catch limits (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.179, 4.186 and 4.187). Therefore, the Commission agreed to maintain the *status quo* for by-catch species catch limits for in 2006/07.

4.67 The Commission agreed that the move-on rule in Conservation Measure 33-03 (paragraph 5) remain unmodified for the 2006/07 season. The Commission also agreed that this rule be reviewed at WG-FSA-07, and requested that the Secretariat provide the data required for this review (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 4.233).

4.68 Japan advised the Commission that it wished to be involved with the revision of the move-on rule. The Commission noted that this review would be conducted by WG-FSA.

Scientific research exemption

4.69 The Commission recalled that scientific research surveys notified to the Secretariat under Conservation Measure 24-01 are regularly updated on the CCAMLR website, and noted the future surveys identified by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 8.1). These comprise:

- general research survey in Divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2, 58.4.3 by Japan from December 2006 to March 2007;
- bottom trawl survey in Subarea 48.1 by Germany in November–December 2006;
- multidisciplinary survey in Subarea 48.3 by the UK in September 2007;

- bottom trawl survey of Division 58.5.2 by Australia from April to June 2007.

4.70 The Commission also noted that the Secretariat had been advised by some Members that Denmark intended to conduct a research survey using trawls, lines and traps in the Convention Area in January 2007.

Secretariat supported activities

4.71 The Commission noted work undertaken by the Secretariat in 2005/06 in support of the Scientific Committee and its working groups (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 12.1 to 12.3, 12.10 and 12.18).

4.72 Noting the sensitive nature of the VMS data and the rules of access, the Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's proposal to use VMS data to provide a timely and efficient validation of positions reported in observer data including tagging data, and fine-scale data (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.24, 4.25 and 11.12; see also sections 3 and 7).

4.73 The Commission also urged Flag States and scientific observers to check the reported positions in the data, especially near longitudes 0° (Subarea 48.6) and 180° (Subarea 88.1).

4.74 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request for level funding of A\$12 000 for language support for *CCAMLR Science* in 2007 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 12.19), and the request to disseminate the journal via the CCAMLR website, and associated funding to implement web-based publication including back-issues of the journal. The Commission agreed that the web-based publication should reside in the public domain section of the CCAMLR website (under the 'Publications' menu) and that a searchable index of *CCAMLR Science* papers be included (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 12.19 and 12.20).

4.75 The Commission agreed that the following paragraph should be inserted after the second introductory paragraph in the preface of the *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts*: 'Publication of an abstract does not imply in any way that the paper was reviewed by the Scientific Committee or its working groups, or was used in the work of CCAMLR' (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 12.21).

Scientific Committee activities

4.76 The Commission endorsed the work plan for the Scientific Committee and its working groups and subgroups in 2006/07 (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 13.1 to 13.46), including:

- meeting of SG-ASAM and planning meeting for the CCAMLR-IPY projects in April 2007, in association with the 2007 meeting of ICES WG-FAST in Dublin, Ireland, 23 to 27 April (convener, dates and venue to be announced in December 2006);
- meeting of WG-SAM in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 9 to 13 July 2007 (Co-conveners Drs C. Jones (USA) and A. Constable (Australia));

- one-day joint workshop by WG-EMM and WG-FSA (developing methods of incorporating ecosystem models in finfish fishery assessments) in Christchurch, New Zealand, in July 2007 (Co-conveners Drs S. Hanchet (New Zealand) and K. Reid (UK), date to be announced);
- meeting of WG-EMM in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 16 to 27 July 2007 (Convener Dr Reid);
- Bioregionalisation Workshop in Brussels, Belgium, from 13 to 17 August 2007 (Co-conveners Drs P. Penhale (USA) and S. Grant (UK));
- meeting of WG-FSA, including ad hoc WG-IMAF, in Hobart, from 8 to 19 October 2007 (Convener WG-FSA Dr Hanchet; Co-conveners WG-IMAF Ms K. Rivera (USA) and Mr N. Smith (New Zealand));
- SC-CAMLR-XXVI scheduled in Hobart from 22 to 26 October 2007.

4.77 The Commission also noted the Scientific Committee's progress in making arrangements for the CCAMLR-IWC Workshop, scheduled in April 2008 in Hobart. Details would be further developed in 2007 and finalised at SC-CAMLR-XXVI (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 13.40 and 13.41). Financial implications of this workshop are discussed in section 3.

4.78 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's decision that all observers invited to the 2006 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXVI.

4.79 The Commission noted that:

- (i) Dr Fanta had been unanimously re-elected to the Chair of the Scientific Committee for a second term (2007 and 2008);
- (ii) Dr H.-C. Shin's (Republic of Korea) term as Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee ended in 2006 and the Scientific Committee had unanimously elected Dr K. Sullivan (New Zealand) to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2007 and 2008);
- (iii) WG-SAM will be co-convened by Drs Jones and Constable in 2007.

4.80 The Commission joined the Scientific Committee in thanking Dr Shin, outgoing Vice-Chair, for his significant contributions to the work of the Scientific Committee. The Commission welcomed Dr Fanta's return to the Chair of the Scientific Committee as well as Drs Sullivan, Jones and Constable to their new portfolios.

Reorganisation of the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

4.81 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's decision to reorganise its work in order to improve the balance, conduct and integration of work between the major elements of its work program (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 13.1 to 13.16).

4.82 It endorsed the Scientific Committee's agreement to establish WG-SAM as a full Working Group effective from the end of CCAMLR-XXV. The Scientific Committee had also agreed that 2007 would be a transition year when WG-SAM would focus on tasks assigned by WG-FSA as well as on further development of the methodology for subdividing the krill catch limit among SSMUs in Area 48.

4.83 The Commission also noted that the Scientific Committee had agreed to establish a long-term science plan to set the priorities of WG-SAM and other working groups/subgroups. Scientific Committee working group conveners had also been requested to outline priorities for their work which the Committee would then review with a view to revising its priorities for future work.