

SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

10.1 CCAMLR-designated scientific observers and national observers were deployed on all vessels fishing for finfish as well as on some vessels fishing for krill in the 2005/06 season (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4).

10.2 The Commission noted and considered recommendations from SCIC and the Scientific Committee on the scheme's implementation and improvement (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.1 to 5.14; SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 2.5).

10.3 Most Members noted the importance of conducting scientific observer programs under the CCAMLR scheme on all krill fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area (see also discussions in paragraphs 4.24 and 4.27 to 4.32).

10.4 Japan, supported by the Republic of Korea, reiterated its position on the deployment of observers on board krill vessels (Annex 5, paragraph 5.4). Noting that there was currently one Japanese krill vessel operating in the Convention Area, it stressed that Japan is continuously providing detailed data and that its incidental mortality of seabirds as well as marine mammals was zero in the last fishing season thanks to its mitigation measures and its slow towing speed. Japan also indicated that it was ready to accept international scientific observers on board its krill fishing vessels and the designation of such observers should be subject to bilateral agreements between Flag and Designating States.

10.5 The Commission's conclusion in relation to the two previous paragraphs can be found in paragraph 4.30.

10.6 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had identified various inconsistencies in observer data as well as other issues associated with observer programs under the CCAMLR scheme (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 2.10).

10.7 In particular, it considered the Scientific Committee's recommendation, as supported by SCIC (Annex 5, paragraph 5.10), to revise, as appropriate, Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex C, in order to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of vessels and observers in implementing tagging (see paragraph 12.43).

10.8 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's proposal that the Secretariat be requested to undertake a review of how scientific observer education and training is to be carried out, as well as development of an approach to ensure common education standards (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 2.11).

10.9 Australia fully endorsed this proposal and offered its assistance to the Secretariat.

10.10 Brazil informed the Commission that it has established a training program designed for scientific observers on board vessels fishing in the Convention Area.

10.11 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had identified a need to review scientific observers' work priorities to ensure that expectations and observer workloads remain achievable (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 2.21). The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee requested that its working group conveners initiate relevant discussions to review scientific observer priorities and provide advice on the matter next year.