

## ASSESSMENT OF INCIDENTAL MORTALITY OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

### Marine debris

6.1 The Commission noted that several papers had been provided to the Scientific Committee regarding surveys of marine debris and its impact on marine mammals and seabirds conducted by Members in the Convention Area.

6.2 The Commission further noted that the Scientific Committee had recommended that this item would be better delegated to ad hoc WG-IMAF for its expert consideration, and removed it from its agenda (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 6.2).

6.3 The Executive Secretary notified the Commission that he had received a request from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for summary data on the presence of marine debris in the Antarctic region held by the CCAMLR Secretariat. This request forms part of a comprehensive review of Annex V to the MARPOL Convention and its supporting guidelines.

6.4 The Commission endorsed the Executive Secretary's proposal to forward the Secretariat's summary report on marine debris surveys (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/10) and Conservation Measure 26-01 to the IMO for the purposes of their review.

### Incidental mortality of marine mammals during fishing operations

6.5 The Commission considered and noted all items of general advice received from the Scientific Committee regarding incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals during fishing operations (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 5.63).

6.6 In particular, the Commission noted with great satisfaction that for the first time no seabirds were reported killed in regulated longline fishing in the Convention Area, outside the French EEZs, and that for two consecutive years no albatross mortalities were observed. It also noted that the level of by-catch of other seabird species in the French EEZs had decreased by 13% during the 2006/07 fishing season.

6.7 France thanked ad hoc WG-IMAF and the Scientific Committee for its effective work in reducing seabird by-catch in the Convention Area. France reported that like the rest of the Convention Area, albatross mortalities had been reduced to zero in the French EEZs, but more effort is required to reduce mortalities of other seabird species. It informed the Commission of a three-year plan to reduce the current levels of incidental mortality in the French EEZs by a factor of two (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 5.7). France also reported on its continued efforts to eliminate IUU fishing and its associated reduction in seabird by-catch, and expressed concern over the high mortality levels of Convention Area seabirds in fisheries adjacent to the Convention Area.

6.8 New Zealand agreed with France that the high mortality of Convention Area seabirds in fisheries adjacent to the Convention Area was of great concern to CCAMLR, and was disappointed with the lack of response to CCAMLR Resolution 22/XXV.

6.9 The USA welcomed the action plan from France and was eager to see it advance in the intersessional period. It noted that CCAMLR, through its effective use of seabird by-catch mitigation measures, is a role model for adjacent area RFMOs where Convention Area seabirds are caught. It also stressed that now it is more important than ever that CCAMLR most rigorously implement its Resolution 22/XXV, and that these efforts should include the use of ACAP resources (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 5.52) and briefing materials for the CCAMLR observers at RFMOs (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 10.48).

6.10 Regarding ACAP, the USA noted that recently the President of the USA had directed US federal agencies to increase that country's participation in this international agreement in the context of meeting its objectives to protect coastal and marine migratory birds. This long-standing interest in seabird conservation has prompted the USA to participate as an observer in ACAP meetings since the agreement entered into force and it looks forward to increasing its involvement in the future.

6.11 Chile noted with concern that the biggest threat to Convention Area seabirds outside the Convention Area are pelagic tuna and swordfish fisheries in oceans around Antarctica. Chile urged the Commission to support and maintain contact with other RFMOs and countries adjacent to the Convention Area, to maintain a flow of information on seabird issues. Chile also thanked ad hoc WG-IMAF for its work, and noted the positive contributions of ACAP and BirdLife International to this working group.

6.12 The European Community agreed with other delegations on the importance of seabird mitigation measures during fishing. It informed the Commission that it had tried to push other RFMOs bordering the CAMLR Convention Area to adopt mitigation measures similar to CCAMLR's. It agreed that there should be a constant and effective flow of information between CCAMLR and other RFMOs.

6.13 The European Community further noted that IUU fishing in the Convention Area not only impacts fish stocks, but the entire ecosystem, including seabirds.

6.14 Australia agreed with the European Community and noted that steps to protect fish stocks from IUU fishing would also help protect seabird populations. Australia urged Commission Members to highlight wherever possible the issue of Convention Area seabirds being caught in fisheries outside the Convention Area within other RFMOs.

6.15 South Africa thanked ad hoc WG-IMAF for its work. It informed the Commission that it had implemented all CCAMLR measures for seabird mitigation in its domestic fisheries and urged other Members to do the same.

6.16 ACAP congratulated the Commission on its advances in eliminating seabird by-catch and acknowledged CCAMLR as a world leader in mitigation techniques, environmental risk assessment and its effective observer program. ACAP urged the Commission Members to play a more active role in other RFMOs by sending relevant experts to these meetings.

6.17 The Commission endorsed the series of recommendations and proposals made by the Scientific Committee in relation to the reduction of incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 5.64 and 5.65).