

## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

### CEMP site protection

7.1 The Chair of the Scientific Committee advised the Commission that (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 3.60):

- (i) the management plan for the Cape Shirreff CEMP site and the associated Conservation Measure 91-02 (2004) will be subject to review in 2009;
- (ii) because research on the Seal Island CEMP site was no longer undertaken, Conservation Measure 91-03 (2004) should be discontinued.

7.2 The Commission approved the Scientific Committee's recommendation that Conservation Measure 91-03 (2004) be discontinued.

### Workshop on Bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean

7.3 The Commission noted the outcomes from the Workshop on Bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean (13 to 17 August 2007 in Brussels, Belgium), Co-convened by Drs P. Penhale (USA) and S. Grant (UK) (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 3.71 to 3.93). The report of the Workshop was available in SC-CAMLR-XXVI/11.

7.4 The primary aim of the Workshop was to advise on a bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean including, where possible, advice on fine-scale subdivision of biogeographic provinces (SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 3.34).

7.5 The Workshop considered available bathymetric, physical oceanographic and biological data. Benthic and pelagic systems were considered separately.

7.6 It also indicated that the broad-scale pelagic bioregionalisation accomplished by the Workshop could potentially be enhanced for biological data by applying species habitat modelling, and a Boosted Regression Tree (BRT) method for modelling single-response variables using environmental predictors.

7.7 For benthic bioregionalisation, data on bathymetry, sea-floor temperature and currents, geomorphology, sediments and sea-ice concentration were considered to be important. Biological data were mostly restricted to shelf areas. Data considered for inclusion in the analysis included data on benthic invertebrates from the SCAR-MarBIN network, as well as presence/absence data on demersal finfish from SCAR-MarBIN and the CCAMLR database.

7.8 The Workshop employed a three-step process approach to a benthic bioregionalisation where physical regions were first defined, biological data were then overlaid and the final classification evaluated. The results were updated after the Workshop, to include additional physical data unavailable at the Workshop, and further evaluation of biological data layers was carried out. These results show that there will be a greater heterogeneity in benthic biodiversity and ecosystem structure and function at finer scales than originally identified by the Workshop (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 3.80; SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/28).

7.9 The UK welcomed the Workshop's progress and thanked Belgium very much for hosting and facilitating this event. The UK noted the importance of the collaboration between the Scientific Committee and CEP manifest at the Workshop and which serves to broaden the advice coming to the Commission. It recommended that the Commission endorse the ongoing bioregionalisation work proposed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 3.85).

7.10 Argentina thanked the Scientific Committee and the organisers of the Workshop and expressed its support for the establishment of a system of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Antarctic. It added that such a system will require a number of definitions from the Commission with regard to risk and political issues arising from its future administration and proposed to start working on these issues, at least by correspondence.

7.11 Belgium advised the Commission that it had been particularly happy to host the Workshop and commended the quality of the work done. It noted that the question of selection criteria remained open but was hopeful of a resolution bearing in mind the expertise of CCAMLR. CCAMLR, as well as other international organisations, has expertise in the matter as mentioned in SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/24 submitted by the UK. Belgium reiterated its view that protected marine areas are an opportunity for the Commission to reinforce its pioneering role since few protected areas on the high seas exist outside the Southern Ocean.

7.12 Australia praised the work undertaken as an important scientific assessment. It particularly noted that it can be used to inform spatial management and is the primary foundation for understanding biological and physical heterogeneity in the Southern Ocean.

7.13 New Zealand agreed with the previous speakers and thanked Belgium for contributing to financing and hosting of this Workshop. New Zealand noted that CCAMLR now has the key tools to begin implementing the protection of marine areas in the Southern Ocean and commended the linkages being forged between the ATCM, CEP and the Scientific Committee, and noted it was necessary that the Commission support such developments.

7.14 Brazil supported the work done on MPAs and commented that it was a very important issue.

7.15 Sweden noted that this issue was very important to the Swedish Government and also thanked Belgium for hosting the Workshop.

7.16 Italy noted that this Workshop was an effective contribution to addressing CCAMLR objectives in relation to MPAs.

7.17 ASOC supported the views expressed by CCAMLR Members and praised the work undertaken to date. ASOC expressed concern that the final term for the Workshop concerning a procedure for identifying areas of protection has still not been addressed. ASOC commented on its paper and noted the need to consider relevant policy issues such as site selection, area design and implementation. ASOC also particularly mentioned its recommendation that CCAMLR establish a comprehensive adequate and fully representative series of MPAs including fully protected marine reserves by 2012. ASOC urged the Commission not to lose momentum considering this matter to be fundamental to implementing the precautionary and ecosystem approaches.

7.18 The Commission considered and endorsed the following Scientific Committee recommendations for future work on bioregionalisation:

- (i) the primary regionalisation for the pelagic environment can be regarded as useful for application by CCAMLR and CEP; and the initial regionalisation for the benthic environment should be reviewed and optimised for use by these two bodies;
- (ii) refinements to this bioregionalisation could be made in the future as methods are improved and further data are acquired and analysed. However, additional finer-scale bioregionalisation work could be undertaken in a number of areas using existing data;
- (iii) future work could include efforts to delineate fine-scale provinces, where possible with the assistance of WG-SAM, in considering approaches to fine-scale regionalisation, including use of statistical methods and other potential data sources;
- (iv) the inclusion of process and species information could be considered further, particularly in the context of systematic conservation planning, and in developing a spatial decision-making framework;
- (v) a procedure should be established for identifying areas for protection and to further the conservation objectives of CCAMLR.

7.19 The Commission also noted the Scientific Committee's view that further work should be undertaken within the context of WG-EMM, given the existing focus within that Working Group on issues relating to Southern Ocean ecosystems and spatial management.