

SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

11.1 CCAMLR-designated scientific observers (national and international) were deployed on all vessels fishing in the Convention Area for finfish and crabs (research) during the 2006/07 season. In addition, six observation programs were conducted on krill trawl vessels (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2).

11.2 The Commission noted and endorsed the advice of SCIC and the Scientific Committee on implementation and improvements to the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation (Annex 5, paragraphs 1.5, 6.15 to 6.18; SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6, 5.33 and 7.5).

11.3 Japan requested clarification on advice from WG-SAM concerning the need for increased high-quality length-frequency data from the krill fishery (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 3.6).

11.4 Australia informed the Commission that the information relating to krill length-frequency data was important to understanding krill spatial structure and natural mortality. High-quality length-frequency data are required for several years in order to provide an integrated assessment of the stocks.

11.5 Japan further expressed concerns that the use of krill length-frequency data may compromise industry confidentiality associated with it, and that the free availability of such data could damage relationships with the krill fishing industry. Therefore, access to, and the use of such data should be treated with caution, for example, by confining its use to limited scientific analyses or under specific data confidentiality rules.

11.6 The UK drew the Commission's attention to the need for an assessment of the required level of observer coverage in the krill fishery, and that such assessments should be undertaken before agreeing on any observer coverage plan (paragraph 4.46; SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 3.14 to 3.16).

11.7 The Commission welcomed the formation by the Scientific Committee of ad hoc TASO, and noted that it would initially meet for two days in 2008 to deal with high-priority issues and develop its terms of reference (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 7.8 to 7.13; see also paragraph 4.92).

11.8 The Commission noted that TASO would also be tasked with addressing such issues as observer training and accreditations (as outlined in SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/9 Rev. 1).

11.9 The USA supported the formation of TASO and suggested that development of sampling and data collection protocols for benthic invertebrate fauna by-catch could be used in identifying VMEs (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 7.5(iic)), and that this should be included as the fifth high-priority issue for discussion along with the other four items identified in SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 7.11.

11.10 The Commission endorsed the US proposal outlined in paragraph 11.9.