

## ASSESSMENT OF INCIDENTAL MORTALITY OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

### Marine debris

6.1 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's advice on marine debris in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.34(viii)). This advice encouraged Members with marine debris data, or the potential to collect such data, to participate in CCAMLR's marine debris monitoring program.

6.2 The Commission also noted the advice from the Scientific Committee for Members conducting marine debris surveys to continue to seek input from fishing industry experts on the potential origins of any fishing gear debris (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, Annex 7, paragraph 13.14).

6.3 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations concerning the CCAMLR marine debris program (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35(xiii)).

### Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals during fishing operations

6.4 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's general advice on incidental marine mammal and seabird mortality during fishing operations (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.34(ii)). It thanked the Scientific Committee and WG-IMAF for their work. In particular, the Commission noted the continued low level of incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in CCAMLR-managed fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, Annex 7, Tables 2 to 8).

6.5 The Commission also endorsed the recommendations of the Scientific Committee in respect of incidental mortality and on the dangers posed by marine debris in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35). The Commission also endorsed the actions recorded in SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.36.

6.6 France informed the Commission of the reduction of seabird mortality within its EEZ by 67% (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/11). It underlined its ongoing commitment to further reduce seabird mortality.

6.7 France also noted that reduction in populations of seabird species at Crozet and Kerguelen Islands was not only linked to the impact of incidental seabird mortality within the Convention Area, but was also potentially linked to fisheries in adjacent zones. Therefore, France noted that it was necessary for CCAMLR to work intensely with RFMOs and other international organisations, such as ACAP, to help reduce the incidental mortality of Convention Area seabirds.

6.8 The Commission acknowledged the progress made by France with its three-year plan to reduce seabird incidental mortalities to near-zero levels and urged France to continue with its efforts.

6.9 Ukraine noted that seabird interactions with the fishery vary for different fisheries and for every area or vessel, therefore extrapolations of incidental mortalities of seabirds for unobserved krill vessels would not be appropriate (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.3). Ukraine also noted that this further emphasised the importance of mandatory observers on all fisheries in the Convention Area.

#### Changes to conservation measures

6.10 The Commission endorsed the new definitions of offal, discards, releases and benthic organisms proposed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.10).

#### Incidental mortality of seabirds outside the Convention Area

6.11 The European Community informed the Commission that it was engaged with a number of RFMOs on the issue of incidental mortality, and considered that there was great benefit in further development of relationships between CCAMLR and other relevant RFMOs on the issue (see paragraph 15.24).

6.12 The USA noted that ACAP holds important information that can assist the work of CCAMLR. It therefore continued to support and encourage the relationship between CCAMLR and ACAP. The USA informed the Commission that it was currently not a Member of ACAP, but hoped to be in the future.

6.13 ACAP thanked the Commission for its support and noted that many of the species covered by the Agreement spend time in the Convention Area. ACAP hoped that closer links with CCAMLR, facilitated by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (paragraphs 15.5 to 15.12 and Annex 7), would help both organisations in their work.

#### Incidental mortality of seabirds during unregulated fishing in the Convention Area

6.14 The Commission noted with concern the inability to produce an estimate of the levels of incidental mortality of seabirds or marine mammals in IUU fishing due to a lack of information on the potential rate of interactions with IUU gillnet fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.17).

6.15 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request that Members submit information on incidental mortality of seabirds during IUU fishing in the Convention Area, particularly with respect to gillnet fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35(vi)).

## Streamlining the work of the Scientific Committee

6.16 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that WG-IMAF meet on a biennial basis (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 5.35(xiv)), and thanked the Co-conveners for their work.

6.17 Some Members expressed concern over the consequences for SCIC with WG-IMAF meeting biennially. However, the Commission agreed that it was a sign of the success of WG-IMAF that it does not have to meet every year.