

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-XXX, paragraphs 4.2 to 4.5).

Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals during fishing operations

6.2 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's general advice on incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals (SC-CAMLR-XXX, paragraphs 4.6 and 4.7), in particular noting that the total extrapolated mortalities of seabirds within the French EEZ in Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.5.1 was estimated to be 220 and that incidental mortalities elsewhere in the Convention Area were similar to the near-zero levels of recent years.

6.3 France indicated that the three-year plan to reduce incidental seabird mortality in the French EEZ had come successfully to an end and thanked the Scientific Committee and the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) for their contributions to this success. France reiterated its intention to implement all measures possible to further reduce seabird mortality to near-zero levels.

6.4 The Commission endorsed the advice from the Scientific Committee regarding proposals to vary mitigation measures within a fishery in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXX, paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10).

6.5 Noting that seabird by-catch outside the Convention Area presents a significant risk to Convention Area seabirds, the Commission encouraged all Members that are engaged in fisheries management bodies in areas adjacent to the Convention Area to implement best-practice mitigation to reduce seabird by-catch.

6.6 The Commission noted that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in respect of general cooperation, including on seabird by-catch mitigation, that had been forwarded by CCAMLR three years ago was still under consideration by CCSBT and requested the Executive Secretary to write to CCSBT to urge progress in this matter.

6.7 In response to a request for an update on interactions between ACAP and CCAMLR following the MoU between the respective Secretariats signed in 2008, the ACAP Observer noted that these interactions have been very effective in promoting the exchange of information and expert advice on issues of relevance to the respective organisations. Noting in particular that, as WG-IMAF will no longer meet annually, this continuing coordination between the Secretariats will be essential if ACAP is to provide expert advice on issues being addressed by the Scientific Committee and the Commission.

6.8 The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific Committee in respect of the continued and enhanced engagement between the Secretariats of ACAP and CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XXX, paragraph 4.15).

6.9 The Commission endorsed the clarification regarding the definition of ‘stick water’ and the proposed revision to CM 25-03 (SC-CAMLR-XXX, paragraph 4.17). It requested advice from the Scientific Committee as to whether a similar clarification could also apply to stick water generated in the process of finfish fishing and whether a similar revision should be made to CM 25-02 next year.