

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

54. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee introduced the report (SCAMLR-VII) and drew the Commission's attention to paragraphs requiring the special attention of the Commission.

Krill

55. In accordance with the recommendation of the Scientific Committee, the Commission agreed that a permanent Working Group on Krill should be formed and approved its terms of reference set out in SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 2.26.

56. It was agreed that the Working Group on Krill should meet during the intersessional period. The primary objectives for the meeting are given in SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 2.29.

57. It was also agreed that a meeting should be held during the intersessional period to develop specific recommendations for the Scientific Committee on the implications of the results from the Krill CPUE Simulation Study. It was noted that there would be considerable value in holding the meeting of the Working Group and the meeting for the Krill CPUE Study back to back at the same location.

58. The Commission gratefully accepted an offer by the United States to host both meetings at the Southwest Fisheries Center in La Jolla, California, USA during 1–14 June 1989.

59. Pursuant to Article XX of the Convention, the Commission agreed that reporting of fine-scale catch data for krill taken from Subarea 48.2 and the three CEMP Integrated Study Areas (SC-CAMLR-V, Annex 6, paragraphs 48, 60 and 70) should continue. It also agreed that fine-scale fishing effort data for krill should be collected by Members and held in national archives.

Fish Resources

60. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee and its Fish Stock Assessment Working Group had been able to undertake more thorough and wide ranging analyses than in past years due to provision by Members of more detailed and comprehensive data and by the

considerable advances made within the Secretariat in its capacity for handling and analysing such data.

61. The Commission noted the usefulness of the assessment summaries in the Scientific Committee's report (SC-CAMLR-VII, Appendix 5, Annex 4) and encouraged the Fish Stock Assessment Working Group to extend the summaries to finfish stocks in other statistical areas.

62. The Commission also welcomed the advice provided by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraphs 3.15–3.16) in response to its request for advice on various measures relating to the management of fisheries for *Champocephalus gunnari* (CCAMLR-VI, paragraph 84).

63. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee provided additional advice in respect of catch levels for *Notothenia gibberifrons*, including discussion of the extent and nature of the by-catch of this species during fishing for *Champocephalus gunnari* (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraphs 3.17 and 3.18) and the potential for conflicting management strategies raised by the issue of by-catches (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 3.19).

64. The Commission encouraged the initiative of the Scientific Committee and the Fish Stock Assessment Working Group in investigating the implications of various alternative strategies for fisheries management (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 3.20). For the present, however, the Commission re-emphasised its decision of last year that an appropriate management strategy for fish stocks would be to limit fishing mortality to a low level, preferably $F_{0.1}$ (CCAMLR-VI, paragraph 61).

65. The Commission noted the data and items of information given in SC-CAMLR-VII (Annex 6) that are required to improve assessment of fish stocks by the Scientific Committee. It was agreed, in accordance with Article XX of the Convention, that every effort should be made to provide this information.

66. The Commission endorsed the proposal made by the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment and endorsed by the Scientific Committee for changes to the details in the procedures by which biological data and information from the finfish fisheries should be reported to CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 3.13).

67. The Commission agreed that it was particularly important for Members to provide representative length composition data from commercial fishing (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 3.13). The attention of Members was drawn to their responsibilities in this regard.

Squid

68. The Commission noted that there had been no commercial catch of squid in the Convention Area since 1979 but endorsed the Scientific Committee's view that further research on squid, particularly integrated studies linking squid to their food supplies and predators, were important.

Ecosystem Monitoring and Management

69. The Commission agreed with the Scientific Committee's recommendation that the Working Group for CEMP should meet during the 1989 intersessional period either immediately prior to or after the IWC/CCAMLR Workshop on the Feeding Ecology of Southern Baleen Whales. The Commission gratefully accepted Argentina's offer to host the meeting. It is envisaged that the meeting will be held in early September 1989.

70. The Commission noted the publication of the CCAMLR Standard Method Sheets for Monitoring of Selected Prey Parameters and the need for development by the Ecosystem Monitoring Group of standard method sheets for additional predator parameters, prey parameters and environmental variables.

Registration and Protection of Land-Based CEMP Sites

71. The Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific Committee called attention to the need to protect land-based CEMP study sites from certain forms of human interference and called upon the Commission to advise the Committee on the appropriate procedures for providing such protection (SC-CAMLR-VI, paragraphs 7.32 and 7.51).

72. To assist in considering this matter during the Seventh Meetings of the Scientific Committee and Commission, the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Convener of the Working Group for CEMP, prepared and distributed papers suggesting a possible approach for describing and affording appropriate protection to CEMP study sites (SC-CAMLR-VII/3 Rev. 1 and CCAMLR-VII/6).

73. The approach outlined in the referenced papers did not fully explore the possibility that measures taken to protect CEMP study sites under CCAMLR could affect and be affected by actions taken under other components of the Antarctic Treaty system and that the procedure for registering CEMP sites should therefore provide for consultation and co-operation with the Antarctic

Treaty Consultative Parties and the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals and the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities.

74. The United States delegation prepared and distributed an informal paper to facilitate consideration of this matter.

75. Although it was agreed that the informal U.S. paper provided a useful basis for discussion, there was insufficient time to consider it in depth. It was therefore agreed that the paper should be annexed to this report and be considered at the next Commission meeting. The paper titled 'Registration of Land-Based CEMP Study Sites' is attached at Annex G.

76. In providing preliminary comments on the U.S. paper, several delegations indicated that it should be made clear that the suggested procedures for proposing, registering, and regulating activities at land-based CEMP study sites could apply only to sites in the Antarctic Treaty Area (south of 60° South).

77. Several delegations also noted that, while consultation and co-operation with other components of the Antarctic Treaty System is essential, necessary consultations should be completed without undue delay and provision should be made for restricting, on an interim or provisional basis, activities that could interfere with CEMP studies pending completion of the consultations.

78. The Commission, while noting paragraph 55 of CCAMLR-VI, endorsed paragraphs 5.19 and 5.20 of the Scientific Committee's Report which specify information that should be included in proposals for registration of CEMP study sites and information that should be included in proposed management plans for such sites.

79. The Commission recognised that work was being undertaken to develop management plans for the land-based sites identified in Tables 1 and 4 of SC-CAMLR-VI (Annex 4) and that it must establish a procedure for adopting and implementing such management plans as soon as possible.

Marine Mammals and Bird Populations

80. The Commission endorsed the proposal by the Scientific Committee that it would be useful for the Committee periodically to review the status of marine mammal and bird populations in the Antarctic with particular attention to populations that are increasing or decreasing.

81. The Commission recognised the efforts by two Subgroups of SCAR in the initial phases of this work and asked the Executive Secretary to thank them as well as to ask if they would be prepared to continue to assemble and review such data on trends in Antarctic seals and seabirds.

Review of the Long-Term Program of Work of the Scientific Committee

82. The Commission endorsed the long-term program of work described in the Scientific Committee's Report (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraphs 8.3–8.11).

83. The Commission agreed with the Scientific Committee's decision that the Secretariat should, in future, circulate requests for information on planned research to national CCAMLR representatives (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 8.8).

84. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had re-elected Dr Inigo Everson of the UK to serve as Chairman for another term and offered its congratulations.