

MANAGEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY
ABOUT STOCK SIZE AND SUSTAINABLE YIELD

10.1 The Commission commended the Scientific Committee on the progress it had made in considering management under conditions of uncertainty this year (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraphs 2.79, 10.1 to 10.8), in response to its request in 1993 (CCAMLR-XII, paragraph 4.26), and endorsed its advice. It endorsed the approach taken by the Working Groups to consider appropriate assessment methods and management advice on a stock-by-stock basis. It particularly encouraged the elaboration of advice based on a series of decision rules which took into account effects of uncertainty on the stock and on predators, such as those developed by WG-Krill and applied both to krill and some finfish (paragraph 3.10; SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraphs 2.42, 2.70 and 2.79).

10.2 It noted that the techniques and models currently being used to incorporate uncertainty in the stock assessments operate in such a way that estimated yields and catch limits usually decrease as uncertainty in model parameters increases (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 10.7).

10.3 The Commission noted that further elaboration of methods for dealing with uncertainty is required, and endorsed the comments of the Scientific Committee that there is further scope for incorporation of uncertainty into its assessments (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 10.4).

10.4 The Delegation of Australia noted that consideration of the matter as an agenda item, both on the Commission's and the Scientific Committee's agenda, had enabled Members to keep abreast of developments across the field, even though the Working Groups are proceeding on a stock-by-stock basis. The Commission agreed and decided that it should retain this agenda item in future.