

MANAGEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY
ABOUT STOCK SIZE AND SUSTAINABLE YIELD

Resumption of Fishing

9.1 At last year's meeting, the Commission recognised that no clear policies or measures exist to manage fisheries which have been closed but are under consideration for reopening. The Commission requested the Scientific Committee to provide advice on this matter (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraphs 8.26 and 9.9).

9.2 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's advice that fisheries may lapse for a variety of reasons (including both economic and sustainability factors). It also agreed that information and procedures similar to those required for the initiation of a new fishery (Conservation Measure 31/X) and/or for the execution of an exploratory fishery (Conservation Measure 65/XII) should be required during the resumption of a closed fishery (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraphs 6.2 and 6.3).

9.3 In all cases, the Commission agreed that it is highly desirable for prior notification of the intention to resume a fishery be provided so that an assessment of the status of the stock, taking into account all historical and new information available, could be made and management advice given to the Commission. To this end, the Commission requested the Secretariat maintain a register of lapsed fisheries.

9.4 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's advice that one of the key issues in resuming a fishery which had not been exploited for some time is uncertainty over the current status of the stocks. This is either where a fishery has been closed as a result of the Commission adopting a specific conservation measure due to an assessment that the stock has been overfished (e.g. *N. rossii* in Subarea 48.3), or where fishing activity has ceased for other reasons, for example due to lack of commercial viability (e.g. *E. carlsbergi* in 48.3) (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraphs 6.6 and 6.10).

9.5 In the first case, a reassessment will require recent information on stock abundance from a scientific survey. Scheduling a reassessment will require prior notice of an interest in reopening a fishery so that the required scientific assessment work can be done. In the second case, where a fishery has lapsed rather than being closed by a conservation measure, the Scientific Committee should, wherever possible, attempt to calculate precautionary catch limits which could then remain in effect in case a fishery recommences. Once a fishery has recommenced, normal assessments can be resumed as further information on the status of the

stocks is acquired. As in the first case, a notification of an interest in resuming exploitation is necessary so that survey and other data collection requirements can be coordinated and reviewed by the Scientific Committee and its working groups.

9.6 The Commission noted that its current procedure of seeking information from Members about future fishing plans during its annual meeting has proved unreliable. Therefore, the Commission agreed that a formal notification procedure was needed. The Commission, therefore, requested the Scientific Committee and its working groups to develop a formal procedure for dealing with lapsed fisheries.

Stock Identity

9.7 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's view that studies on stock identity, species overlap, fish movement and dispersal of the stocks of *D. eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni* have a high priority, particularly in light of the increase in the geographical spread of fishing. It agreed with the Scientific Committee's view that if uncertainty in stock identity cannot be overcome by further direct research in the near future, the properties of the assessment methods will require further study (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 6.11).

Feedback Management for *D. eleginoides*

9.8 The Scientific Committee recognised the need for further development of suitable feedback methods to apply to the *D. eleginoides* fisheries. The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's concern that abundance of the total stock cannot be directly estimated by estimating the absolute abundance of young fish using trawl surveys. However, currently there is no reliable method for monitoring trends in the total stock. The Commission also noted that the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA are exploring the properties of methods which may be useful for this purpose (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 6.12), and encouraged the Scientific Committee to continue its work in this area.