

MANAGEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY
ABOUT STOCK SIZE AND SUSTAINABLE YIELD

Reopening Lapsed Fisheries

10.1 Last year, the Commission noted that its current procedure of seeking information from Members about future fishing plans during its annual meeting had proven unreliable and agreed that a formal notification procedure was needed. The Commission, therefore, had requested that the Scientific Committee and its working groups provide advice on a formal procedure for dealing with lapsed fisheries.

10.2 The Commission noted the development of a registry of fisheries in the CCAMLR Convention Area maintained by the Secretariat (SC-CAMLR-XVI/BG/16 Rev. 2). While there were no specific guidelines for determining which fisheries should be regarded as lapsed, the Scientific Committee had identified a number of fisheries which it considered fell under this category (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Table 6).

10.3 The Commission noted the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that lapsed fisheries should be reopened according to precautionary principles. Resumption of such fisheries should involve prior notification and a data collection plan similar to those required for exploratory fisheries and detailed in SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, Appendix E.

10.4 The Commission noted the views of the Scientific Committee in relation to lapsed and closed fisheries, and endorsed the European Community's proposal that this matter be further examined in relation to the status of fisheries more generally. The inter-relationship of all stages of fisheries development, including those of new and exploratory fisheries, should be reviewed to ensure that there was a coherent progression from unexploited resources through to fully exploited fisheries. The same process applies to the resumption or reopening of lapsed and closed fisheries. It was further agreed that Members should examine this issue intersessionally and submit proposals to the Secretariat for timely transmission to all Parties.

Long-term Management Plan for *C. gunnari*

10.5 The Commission noted that the current decision rules for determining long-term yield for *C. gunnari* cannot be applied because of the large natural variations in spawning stock biomass. The Scientific Committee has scheduled a workshop immediately prior to the 1998 meeting of WG-FSA to begin developing long-term management strategies for *C. gunnari* (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 5.62). The Commission approved revised terms of reference for this workshop (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 5.62).

Feedback Management Approach for *D. eleginoides*

10.6 The Commission recalled its concern that the abundance of the total *D. eleginoides* stock cannot be directly assessed from estimates of abundance of young fish by trawl surveys, as is current practice, and noted three major problems:

- (i) in Subarea 48.3, the trend in the spawning stock biomass of *D. eleginoides* predicted from the Generalised Yield Model (GYM), and the trend in standardised CPUE derived from the Generalised Linear Model (GLM) cannot be reconciled;
- (ii) determination of precautionary catch limits in the new and exploratory fisheries for *D. eleginoides* is constrained by a lack of local data, including survey data. As a result, information has to be extrapolated from other areas (e.g. SC-CAMLR-XVI, Table 5); and
- (iii) the high level of unreported catches compared to reported catches in some areas introduces a high degree of uncertainty about the status of the fish stocks.

10.7 The Commission noted these management problems, and requested the Scientific Committee to continue work aimed at resolving them.