

OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION

8.1 The Chairman of SCOI, Dr W. Figaj (Poland), presented the report of SCOI to the Commission. Discussions in paragraphs below relate to the implementation of the System of Inspection and the Scheme of International Scientific Observation. The matter of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the Convention Area was discussed under Agenda Item 5.

8.2 The Chairman of SCOI expressed his gratitude to all Members for their work in the Committee. He also thanked the Secretariat for its excellent work during the past years in support of the Committee.

8.3 The report of SCOI was endorsed in general. The Commission then considered the findings and recommendations made by SCOI.

Operation of the System of Inspection and Compliance with Conservation Measures

8.4 As required in accordance with Article XX.3 and XXI of the Convention, further information on the national legal and administrative procedures to give effect to CCAMLR conservation measures had been reported by Australia, Norway, USA and South Africa (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.2 to 3.4).

8.5 Three inspections of fishing vessels carried out in accordance with the System of Inspection, were reported to the Secretariat in 1997/98. All inspections were carried out in Subarea 48.3 by CCAMLR inspectors designated by the UK. Inspectors reported that certain provisions of Conservation Measures 63/XV and/or 29/XVI had not been fully complied with by the vessels inspected.

8.6 The Commission also considered the advice of the Scientific Committee on the matter of compliance with Conservation Measure 29/XVI (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraph 4.47; Annex 5, paragraph 3.9).

8.7 The Commission reminded Members of the necessity to ensure full compliance with all provisions of Conservation Measures 63/XV (the use of plastic packaging bands) and 29/XVI (in particular, line weighting and offal discharge requirements) (Annex 5, paragraph 3.10).

8.8 Reports by Flag States of actions taken in respect of inspections undertaken were received from Chile and South Africa. The Commission joined SCOI in its appreciation of the clear and important information provided by Chile and South Africa on sanctions imposed and legal proceedings undertaken on infringements against CCAMLR conservation measures (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.14 to 3.18).

8.9 Australia, supported by several other Members, had expressed at SCOI a need to have a summary of all vessels licensed or permitted by Members to fish in the Convention Area placed on the CCAMLR website (Annex 5, paragraph 3.20). The Commission agreed with this proposal. Further decisions on this and other proposals related to the CCAMLR website were made under Agenda Item 3 'Finance and Administration'.

8.10 The Commission requested the Secretariat to circulate for guidance and action a schedule of information required to be submitted by Members in the 1998/99 season in accordance with the System of Inspection (Annex 5, paragraph 3.21).

Operation of the Scheme of International Scientific Observation

8.11 During 1997/98, international scientific observers undertook 21 observation programs on 14 longline vessels and one program on a trawl vessel. National scientific observers undertook eight observation programs on three longline vessels and five programs on three trawl vessels (Annex 5, paragraph 4.1).

8.12 The Scientific Committee advised the Commission that improvement in the timely submission and the quality of the data logbooks was noted in 1997/98. This was mainly due to efforts of scientific observers and to improved communication between the Secretariat and technical coordinators of national observer programs.

8.13 The Commission agreed with views of the Scientific Committee and SCOI, however, that late submission of scientific observer reports make it difficult for the Secretariat to prepare and analyse data in time for the annual WG-FSA meetings. The Commission, therefore, reminded Members that the submission of reports of scientific observers one month after returning to port should be enforced rigorously (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraph 3.3; Annex 5, paragraph 4.4).

8.14 The Commission also requested the Secretariat to circulate for guidance and action a schedule of information to be submitted by Members in accordance with the Scheme of International Scientific Observation (Annex 5, paragraph 4.5).

8.15 Last year, the Commission asked Members to consider intersessionally the extent to which it would be appropriate to involve scientific observers in collecting information on vessels fishing in the Convention Area in contravention of CCAMLR conservation measures (CCAMLR-XVI, paragraph 8.20). The advice received from the Scientific Committee was considered by SCOI (Annex 5, paragraph 4.10).

8.16 Taking into account the recommendation of SCOI (Annex 5, paragraph 4.11) and the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraph 3.14), the Commission agreed that scientific observers should report factual data on sightings of fishing vessels in the Convention Area as specified in the report of the Scientific Committee. It was noted, however, that the independence and integrity of scientific observers should not be compromised and that their activities should be confined to gathering information and data in support of the Scientific Committee. This type of data would not be expected in real time and should be submitted to the Secretariat at the end of the voyage in the observers' reports.

8.17 The Commission decided to review the effectiveness and the need to continue this activity after a two-year trial period.

8.18 The Commission endorsed the evaluation by scientific observers in the coming season of a new procedure for estimating conversion factors for *D. eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni* described in SC-CAMLR-XVII, Annex 5, Appendix D. The Commission looked forward to the reporting of conversion factors so obtained and encouraged observers to comment on the proposed methodology in time for further evaluation at the next meeting of WG-FSA.

Organisation of the Future Work of SCOI

8.19 The Commission noted the recommendation of SCOI on the subject of contents and timing of submission of various reports which are now required from Members (Annex 5, paragraph 6.2). The Commission agreed that the Secretariat be requested to examine intersessionally whether improvements could be made to Members' reporting obligations in order to reduce the number of reports, duplication between reports and to improve the timing of the reports' deadlines.

8.20 The Commission also noted that SCOI had drawn the attention of the Commission to the fact that the number of issues dealt with under SCOI had grown considerably over recent years. The Commission confirmed that the following items of its work should generally be considered by SCOI:

- (i) the systems of observation and inspection;
- (ii) application of and compliance with conservation measures by Contracting Parties;
- (iii) non-Contracting Party activities; and
- (iv) new proposals relating to any of the above items.

8.21 Some Members noted that given this list of tasks there may be a need to re-examine the terms of reference and operation of SCOI. In order to meet this concern, the Commission agreed to consider, intersessionally, the tasks assigned to SCOI, the terms of reference of SCOI, Secretariat support needed for its work and the SCOI agenda.