CCAMLR DATA MANAGEMENT

10.1 Dr Ramm reported on the main activities of the Data Centre during the 2000/01 intersessional period (SC-CAMLR-XX/BG/14). The Data Centre had continued to support the work of the Commission, Scientific Committee and working groups, including the recently held WAMI. Major activities and analyses were reported in meeting papers and publications produced by the Data Centre during 2000/01.

10.2 The Scientific Committee noted that the Data Centre's activities during the 2000/01 intersessional period had included:

(i) assistance with the development and operation of the CDS database – this work included further development of the database structure and the addition of a web-based interface;

(ii) further development and consolidation of data processing and extraction routines – this work included the initial development of a routine to transfer data from the electronic data forms to the database;

(iii) further development of data queries in the research survey database to facilitate extraction of data for CMIX and TrawlCI for all surveys; and

(iv) further transfer and validation of data from old or non-CCAMLR formats to the new research survey database.

10.3 The Scientific Committee also noted that the use of CCAMLR research survey data has been impeded, historically, by:

(i) storage of research survey data in the format used for holding fine-scale catch and effort data, with the resultant loss of research-specific fields (e.g. ground distance, trawl net width);

(ii) the lack of an agreed CCAMLR format for submitting research data; and

(iii) the absence of a mechanism whereby data originators can provide corrections and updates to CCAMLR data.

10.4 The Scientific Committee agreed that the Data Centre complete the development of a standard CCAMLR format for the submission of research data in 2001/02.

10.5 The Scientific Committee noted that most of the data submitted to the Secretariat are now sent in electronic format using CCAMLR formats and codes. However, a considerable amount of time is still spent detecting data which have not been submitted by their deadlines, and then requesting their submission. For example, only 45% of all fine-scale data collected in 2000/01 were submitted by the deadlines (CCAMLR-XX/BG/7 Rev. 1, Table 3).

10.6 One of the Data Centre's key functions was the monitoring of all fisheries conducted under the conservation measures in force. Fishing activities are monitored using the catch and effort reporting system established under Conservation Measures 51/XIX (five-day catch and

effort reporting system), 61/XII (10-day catch and effort reporting system) and 40/X (monthly catch and effort reporting system).

10.7 Despite the majority of catch and effort reports being submitted to the Secretariat by the deadlines (CCAMLR-XX/BG/7 Rev. 1, Table 2), the Scientific Committee noted with concern that overdue catch and effort reports continued to jeopardise the Secretariat's ability to monitor fisheries in accordance with conservation measures in force. Twice in 2000/01, Members failed to advise the Secretariat of a vessel's entry into a CCAMLR fishery, and failed to submit five-day catch and effort reports by their respective deadlines. The Secretariat had detected the operation of these vessels through ancillary information. Formal notices were issued under Conservation Measure 51/XIX (paragraph 9), and data were subsequently submitted.

10.8 The Scientific Committee agreed that this problem may be alleviated if the Secretariat was to be notified each time a fishing vessel entered or left a statistical subarea or division within the Convention Area. Such a requirement may be included, for example, in Conservation Measure 148/XVII (automated satellite-linked VMS). The type of information needed may include: date, vessel name and call sign, subarea or division and vessel's intention (e.g. start fishing for *C. gunnari*, departing area etc.). The Scientific Committee wished to draw the attention of the Commission to this matter.

10.9 The Scientific Committee noted that Mrs L. Bleathman (Data Administrative Assistant) had resigned in December 2000, and Mr N. Williams (Computer Systems Administrator) had resigned in July 2001. A search was under way for a replacement Computer Systems Administrator. The Scientific Committee joined the Secretariat in thanking Mrs Bleathman and Mr Williams for their dedication and contribution to the work of CCAMLR.

10.10 Dr Goubanov noted the excellent support provided by the Data Centre, and the Scientific Committee joined in thanking Dr Ramm and his staff for their work. The Scientific Committee also noted with pleasure that the computing support provided to its working groups and during this meeting was a great improvement on that available in 2000.