

## FISHERY STATUS AND TRENDS

### Krill

#### Harvest Levels for the 2000/01 Season and Intentions for the 2001/02 Season

2.1 Reported catches of krill (*E. superba*) from catch and effort reports are shown in Table 1. A total of 98 414 tonnes was caught during the 2000/01 season (to 18 October 2001), all from Area 48. Catches were highest in Subarea 48.1 (South Shetland Islands) but also substantial in Subarea 48.2 (South Orkney Islands). The catch was taken by Japan, Republic of Korea, Poland, Ukraine and the USA.

2.2 Fishing activity in Area 48 has shifted towards Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 during the austral autumn and winter since 1996. Easier access through reduced sea-ice extent was recognised as a major factor influencing this change in the fishery.

2.3 The Scientific Committee noted the growing value of catch and effort data from the Japanese fishery and encouraged submission of similar data from other participants in the fishery. The value of data reported in a systematic and compatible fashion was emphasised and a high priority was assigned to re-examining the use of indices derived from these data.

2.4 The Scientific Committee also requested updated information on krill processing, market developments, economic analyses and any other information that may assist WG-EMM in monitoring the development of the krill fishery. Japan noted that the market price of krill in Japan is not available publicly.

2.5 The following plans for krill fishing during the 2001/02 season were reported: Japan expects to have three vessels catching ~65 000 tonnes; Republic of Korea, one vessel catching ~8 000 tonnes; Poland, three vessels; Ukraine, three to four vessels catching ~40 000 to 50 000 tonnes; Uruguay, one vessel; USA, two vessels.

2.6 Dr E. Goubanov (Ukraine) indicated that in 2002 the Ukraine fishery will be carried out in the traditional sectors of Area 48 (Subareas 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3). On board every vessel (or at least on board one vessel of the group operating in the same sector) there will be a national scientific observer.

2.7 The Scientific Committee noted that the expected catch in 2001/02 could be about 50% higher than the catch last year based on these fishing plans. At this stage no other interest in the krill fishery from non-Member countries was known to the Secretariat.

### Fish

#### Fishing Activity in the 2000/01 Season

2.8 Eight fisheries, including three exploratory fisheries, were prosecuted under conservation measures in force during the fishing season of 2000/01, including fisheries for *D. eleginoides* and *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2, and exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1, for *C. wilsoni* and other species in Division 58.4.2, and

for the squid *M. hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3. Other fisheries for *D. eleginoides* occurred in the EEZs of South Africa (Subareas 58.6 and 58.7) and France (Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.5.1). Details of the catches in these fisheries are found in Annex 5, Table 2.

#### Reported Catches of *Dissostichus* spp.

2.9 Reported catches of *Dissostichus* spp. are shown in Tables 1 and 2. Inside the CCAMLR Convention Area a total of 10 619 tonnes (9 995 tonnes of *D. eleginoides* and 624 tonnes of *D. mawsoni*) was reported during the 2000/01 season (to 18 October 2001) compared with 16 395 tonnes in the previous year. Catches outside the Convention Area were 30 152 tonnes during the 2000/01 split-year compared with 11 553 tonnes in the previous year (Annex 5, Table 3). Much of this additional catch appears attributable to increased catch reporting (especially from Areas 41 and 51) arising from entry into force of the CDS in May 2000 (Table 3).

#### Estimates of Catch and Effort from IUU Fishing

2.10 WG-FSA used the approach adopted in recent years to estimate the magnitude of IUU fishing effort and catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in various subareas and divisions during the 2000/01 split-year. The results of this analysis indicate that the estimated unreported catch for all subareas and divisions in the Convention Area was 7 599 tonnes (Annex 5, Table 5). This compares to an estimated IUU catch of 6 546 tonnes in the 1999/2000 split-year and 4 913 tonnes in 1998/99. The estimated unreported catch within the Convention Area was some 39% of the total catch in 2000/01 compared with 32% in 1999/2000. When the 30 152 tonnes of toothfish reported via the CDS as caught outside the Convention Area are added, the total removal of toothfish in the 2000/01 split-year is estimated at 51 129 tonnes.

2.11 The Scientific Committee noted the discussion of CDS data provided by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.17 to 3.25) and the conclusion that Area 51 has assumed importance as a source of *D. eleginoides*. However, it was not possible to conclude whether this was a true indication of increased catches in this area or whether it may include fish taken from inside the Convention Area. Illegal fishing persists around Crozet, Kerguelen and Heard Islands, but has fallen to low levels around Prince Edward Islands, probably due to low stock levels of toothfish. The estimates of IUU catches are considered to be minimum estimates and any catches attributed to Area 51 increase this uncertainty.

2.12 Prof. G. Duhamel (France) pointed out to the Scientific Committee that for a large number of reasons he did not believe the catches reported from Area 51 were possible. These reasons included:

- (i) there were no reports of landings for *D. eleginoides* in recent FAO annual landings (FAO, 1998) from Area 51 (Indian Ocean, western area);
- (ii) geographical distribution of *D. eleginoides* in Area 51 is not known in the more recent publications (Fischer and Hureau, 1985; Gon and Heemstra, 1990);

- (iii) fisheries surveys in the Indian Ocean (southwest) by Australia, France, South Africa and Ukraine, both trawling and longlining, have never found fishing concentrations and commercial catches of *D. eleginoides* in Area 51. Conversely, other subtropical species such as alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*), orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), blue-eye (*Hyperoglyphe antarctica*), armourheads (*Pentaceros capensis*) and grouper (*Polyprion oxygeneois*) are currently found in this area;
- (iv) oceanographic barriers (sub-Antarctic and subtropical hydrological fronts) stop the northern distribution of *D. eleginoides* north of about 44°S; and
- (v) more recent surveys of *D. eleginoides* from open ocean areas closest to Area 51, such as in the area north of the Marion Islands, show negligible biomass of the species (WG-FSA-01/72).

2.13 The Scientific Committee agreed with Prof. Duhamel and concluded that practically all the toothfish catches reported from Area 51 represent catches taken as a result of IUU fishing in other areas inside the Convention Area.

2.14 The Scientific Committee recommended:

- (i) the Secretariat be tasked with providing information to WG-FSA in time for the 2002 meeting on the extent of catches both within and outside the Convention Area using CDS, vessel sightings and reported catch data; and
- (ii) that the Commission investigate more closely the CDS records which pertain to catches from Area 51 and those other areas where reported catches have increased since the implementation of the CDS.

2.15 The Chair conveyed to SCOI the concerns of the Scientific Committee.

#### Crabs

2.16 Crab species were taken as by-catch of the pot fishery in Subarea 48.3 during the 2000/01 season with 14 tonnes reported.

2.17 Japan and the USA have notified their interest, under Conservation Measure 215/XIX, to fish for crab in Subarea 48.3 during the 2001/02 season. Japan has not carried out an experimental harvest regime as set out in Conservation Measure 214/XIX and so will be obliged to conduct this experimental regime.

#### Squid

2.18 The exploratory fishery on *M. hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3 carried out by the UK and the Republic of Korea during the 2000/01 season caught 2 tonnes.

2.19 There were no notifications of intention to fish for squid in 2001/02.