

CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

3.1 In the 2000/01 season, 60 fishing trips in the Convention Area were observed by CCAMLR-designated international scientific observers, or national observers, from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, UK and Uruguay (SC-CAMLR-XX/BG/23). So far this season, scientific observers have provided 100% coverage of all trips undertaken in CCAMLR fisheries targeting *C. gunnari*, *Dissostichus* spp. and *M. hyadesi*, as well as partial coverage of the fisheries for *E. superba*.

3.2 The Scientific Committee noted that the national observer on board a Japanese-flagged trawler fishing for krill had followed the sampling protocols described in CCAMLR's *Scientific Observers Manual*.

3.3 The Scientific Committee noted that all but four of the logbooks, and all but five of the observer cruise reports, had been submitted before the start of the meeting of WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 3.36). The Scientific Committee noted apologies from Argentina and Australia for the delayed submission of observer data from one trip by an Argentinean observer on board a Uruguayan-flagged longliner in Subarea 88.1 and two trips by national observers on board Australian-flagged trawlers in Division 58.5.2. Both Australia and Argentina had taken steps to ensure that these data would be submitted after the meeting.

3.4 Mr A. Lozano (Uruguay) stated that the Uruguayan Delegation regretted that the Secretariat had not received the observer's report for the *Isla Alegranza* (Annex 4, Table 12), but this matter had been rectified. He also went on to say that both the *Isla Alegranza* (Spanish system) and the *Isla Gorriti* (autosetting system) complied with the line-sinking regime as stipulated in Conservation Measure 210/XIX, although only the former vessel is noted in paragraph 7.78 of the WG-FSA report (Annex 5).

3.5 Dr Marschoff commented on a misunderstanding about the submitting mechanism of reports in the case when two observers are on board. He agreed that it was the designating country's responsibility to submit the international observer's report. This situation has been resolved and the complete report and datasets have been submitted to the Secretariat.

3.6 Dr Goubanov outlined the program of observation undertaken by Ukrainian observers during the 2000/01 season. Ukraine had deployed both national and international observers on board vessels fishing in the Convention Area. The logbooks and reports had been submitted to the Secretariat and recently analysed by WG-FSA and WG-IMALF. Dr Goubanov and his team of scientific observers thanked Dr E. Sabourenkov (Science Officer) for his excellent work in coordinating CCAMLR's System of International Scientific Observation and his assistance during 2000/01.

3.7 The Scientific Committee thanked all scientific observers for their work during the 2000/01 fishing season and for the great deal of very useful information and material collected. In doing so, it also recognised the importance of technical coordinators participating at the meetings of WG-FSA. The Scientific Committee noted that WG-FSA had suggested that a workshop for technical coordinators and scientific observers to deal with matters of their common interest, including the revision of the list of priorities of the observers' tasks (Annex 5, paragraph 3.50), might be held in the future.

3.8 Developments in scientific observations in the krill fishery in Area 48 in the 2000/01 season were reviewed by WG-EMM. The Scientific Committee endorsed the advice provided by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 2.36 to 2.41), and reminded Members involved with krill fisheries to provide further information on:

- (i) the spatial and temporal distribution of these fisheries (Annex 4, paragraph 2.10);
- (ii) krill processing factors, particularly from modern processing machinery (Annex 4, paragraph 2.23); and
- (iii) the economics of the krill fisheries and on the market developments that might affect the development of such fisheries (Annex 4, paragraph 2.28).

3.9 The Scientific Committee gratefully acknowledged receipt of completed questionnaires on krill fishing tactics from the master of the Polish fishing vessel *Acmar*. This information was considered to be of substantial value for an analytical description of fishing activities. The Scientific Committee recognised that some of the data requested on the questionnaire may be commercially sensitive and that modification of the questionnaire may be required for different fishery operations. It was noted that the data would be used to describe the tactics of various krill fisheries and in the interpretation of catch and effort data, and that CCAMLR has provisions for the protection of proprietary data. Accordingly, other fishing operators were encouraged to make similar submissions and/or provide practical suggestions as to how the forms may be modified. The Scientific Committee noted that WG-EMM recommended that the questionnaire be incorporated into the *Scientific Observers Manual*, recognising that the questionnaire may need modification and that some portions may need to be completed by scientific observers. Most Members agreed with the Working Group's recommendations.

3.10 However, Dr S. Kawaguchi (Japan) expressed the following reservations:

- (i) most of the information could be obtained by the methods already included in the *Scientific Observers Manual*. These methods include haul-by-haul records as well as the recording system of krill fishing vessel activity;
- (ii) the quality of the data expected to be collected may be subjective and premature, especially the diagram for the positions of krill aggregations, tracks and tows; and
- (iii) before incorporating the questionnaire form in the *Scientific Observers Manual*, its usefulness should be established on a voluntary basis.

3.11 Logbooks and reports from scientific observers on board vessels targeting *C. gunnari*, *Dissostichus* spp. and *M. hyadesi* had been reviewed and analysed by WG-FSA. The Scientific Committee welcomed the developments provided by WG-FSA and WG-IMALF (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.35 to 3.52, 3.69 to 3.83, 7.94 to 7.103, 8.25 and 8.26), including the following points.

- (i) WG-FSA had reviewed current protocols for sampling catches from longlines (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.53 to 3.66), and had provided interim advice to observers working on longliners as well as trawlers (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.67

and 3.68). WG-FSA had tasked a subgroup to further examine these issues during the 2001/02 intersessional period.

- (ii) Species identification sheets, drafted in 2000/01, would be finalised, published as laminated waterproof sheets, and sent to technical coordinators for distribution to observers on board longliners in 2001/02 (Annex 5, paragraphs 4.299 and 4.300). Copies of the species identification sheets would also be included in the *Scientific Observers Manual*.
- (iii) New protocols had been defined for measuring the length of macrourids (Annex 5, paragraph 4.301) and skates (Annex 5, paragraph 3.136). The new standardised body length measurement to be used for *Macrourus* spp. should be

from the tip of the snout to the anus. The Working Group suggested that total length and total width 'wingspan' should be recorded for all specimens of skates and rays measured.

- (iv) WG-IMALF had identified a number of desirable updates and revisions to the *Scientific Observers Manual*, endorsed by WG-FSA, which are set out in detail in Annex 5, paragraphs 7.95 to 7.99 and 8.20. Information on the potential use of video monitoring as a substantial adjunct to parts of the work of scientific observers are contained in Annex 5, paragraphs 7.100 to 7.103.

3.12 The Scientific Committee also noted that data on conversion factors (from processed weight to whole live weight) for *Dissostichus* spp. caught in 2000/01 had been analysed by WG-FSA. The Scientific Committee reminded both the designating countries (providing the observers) and the Flag States that the CCAMLR guidelines provided to scientific observers and skippers for collecting data on conversion factors should be followed (Annex 5, paragraph 3.78). Further, observers should record the conversion factors used by the vessels in their reports. The Scientific Committee agreed that conversion factors should be regularly evaluated throughout the season to take into account biological variability such as seasonal changes due to spawning condition.

3.13 Prof. Moreno cautioned the Scientific Committee on the use of conversion factors of finfish adjusted for season and location. Experience in Chile had shown that conversion factors were highly variable, and that it may be difficult for the Scientific Committee to reach agreement on values to be used. Prof. Moreno proposed that the Scientific Committee consider each fishery, setting a single conversion factor to be used throughout the season and area of fishing.

3.14 Finally, the Scientific Committee recommended that information on tagging studies on *Dissostichus* spp., and other species of interest, be listed in the *Scientific Observers Manual*. Guidelines for the recording of recaptured fish should also be included to assist observers with the recovery of data on tagged fish. The Scientific Committee requested that Members currently conducting tagging studies provide this type of information to the Secretariat no later than 31 January 2002, so that this information may be included in revision of the *Scientific Observers Manual* for the 2001/02 season.