

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

### Long-term Work Plans

13.1 The Scientific Committee reviewed and endorsed the work plan of WG-EMM and WG-FSA.

### Long-term Work Plan of WG-EMM

13.2 The Scientific Committee noted that the Working Group had reviewed progress towards its long-term goal of developing a feedback approach to manage the krill fishery, by which management measures are adjusted in response to ecosystem monitoring. The schedule of meetings and workshops leading to this had been summarised in SC-CAMLR-XX, Annex 4, paragraph 6.3.

13.3 The Working Group is making progress toward the shorter-term requests of the Scientific Committee and Commission (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 5.14 and 5.15; CCAMLR-XIX, paragraph 10.11) to subdivide the precautionary catch limit of krill in Area 48.

13.4 The long-term plan of the Working Group has been revised to reflect progress during 2002 and needs for future work (Table 1).

13.5 The Scientific Committee noted that the results of the WG-EMM workshops would provide advice for use in the development of the long-term plan. It was recognised that such advice may be improved when better scientific information becomes available.

13.6 The Scientific Committee noted that the CEMP Review Workshop planned in 2003 would be held during the first week of WG-EMM-03, and that plenary sessions discussing core business would be held in the second week. This format would allow participants and invited experts to attend selected parts of the meeting if they so wished. WG-EMM had recognised that this format may not be suitable for all future workshops because some workshops may require input from plenary sessions.

13.7 The Scientific Committee welcomed and accepted the invitation from the British Antarctic Survey to host the 2003 meeting in Cambridge, UK, from 18 to 29 August 2003. WG-EMM recognised that the timing of the 2003 meeting was constrained by the availability of a suitable meeting venue.

13.8 Participants were reminded that proposals for future meetings of WG-EMM should be scheduled, when possible, earlier in the year (e.g. July). This would allow sufficient time for the full translation of the report prior to the meeting of the Scientific Committee.

## Reorganisation and Work Plan of WG-FSA

13.9 The Scientific Committee noted that a new work format had been developed by WG-FSA in consultation with Members during the intersessional period (SC CIRCs 02/01 and 02/18 and COMM CIRC 02/56). Key elements of this new approach were:

- a reorganisation of the meeting format, so that information essential to the assessments is considered during days 1 and 2 of the meeting in order to allow assessments to be run and completed during the first week;
- a reorganisation of the meeting report, so that background information and advice on future work of WG-FSA is removed from the report and will not be translated. They will be disseminated as background papers to the Scientific Committee which will reduce the size of the report of the Working Group and improve readability and access to information and advice necessary to the Scientific Committee;
- the development of species profiles for *C. gunnari* and *D. eleginoides* – these reference documents contain species parameters which will be reviewed and updated by WG-FSA as new information becomes available; and
- development of an assessment manual to be reviewed and updated each year.

13.10 The Scientific Committee noted that the activities of subgroups of WG-FSA had worked during the intersessional period. These subgroups, with the support of the Secretariat, had produced valuable work and information that had contributed to the assessments and review of information available at the meeting. WG-FSA had agreed that the activities of several of these groups should be extended during the 2002/03 intersessional period. Where possible, each subgroup would focus on a small number of key issues. The subgroups would also provide a conduit for information on a wide range of related research. In addition, other tasks were specifically assigned to the Secretariat and/or Members.

13.11 The Scientific Committee noted that membership to the subgroups was open.

13.12 The subgroups for the intersessional period are:

- (i) a subgroup to review observer reports and information, coordinated by Dr E. Balguerías (Spain) and Mr N. Smith (New Zealand);
- (ii) a subgroup to continue developing assessment methods, coordinated by Dr Constable. This subgroup will interact and coordinate activities in the middle of the year (as detailed in Annex 5, Item 9). An invitation from Imperial College, London, UK, to host this group was made and accepted;
- (iii) a subgroup to review, and where necessary assess, the biology and demography of species considered by the Working Group (Convener to appoint coordinator);
- (iv) a subgroup on by-catch coordinated by Ms E. van Wijk (Australia);
- (v) a subgroup to identify in conjunction with the SCAR EVOLANTA Program up-to-date information on stock identity for species within the Convention Area, coordinated by Dr Fanta;

- (vi) a subgroup on conversion factors, coordinated by Mr Smith;
- (vii) a subgroup on fisheries acoustics, coordinated by Drs Collins and Gasiukov;
- (viii) a subgroup on estimation of IUU, coordinated by Dr Ramm; and
- (ix) a subgroup on otolith exchange (CON), coordinated by Dr M. Belchier (UK).

13.13 Each subgroup was requested to develop a work plan for the intersessional period, in consultation with appropriate colleagues and with the Convener of WG-FSA and the Chair of the Scientific Committee.

13.14 The intersessional work plan for ad hoc WG-IMAF (Annex 5, Appendix D) sets out its plan for undertaking routine tasks which are carried out each year, and also activities for which longer-term strategic plans have been established. Examples of the latter relate to:

- (i) assessment of seabird foraging ranges to determine risks of interactions with longline fisheries;
- (ii) review of population status and trends of seabird species affected by longline fishery by-catch;
- (iii) acquisition of data from longline fisheries in areas adjacent to the Convention Area in order to assess risks to Convention Area seabirds; and
- (iv) improvements to existing, and development of, new mitigation measures to minimise by-catch of seabirds in fisheries in the Convention Area and adjacent regions.

#### Intersessional Activities in 2002/03

13.15 The following activities of the Scientific Committee are planned in 2002/03:

- meeting of WG-EMM (18 to 29 August 2003, Cambridge, UK);
- meeting of WG-FSA (13 to 23 October 2003, Hobart, Australia); and
- meeting of the WG-FSA Subgroup on Assessment Methods (12 to 15 August 2003, London, UK).

13.16 A fishery acoustic workshop was also scheduled at the time of WG-EMM-03.

13.17 The Scientific Committee noted that the past intersessional activities of the Secretariat and working groups had been reviewed during the meetings of WG-EMM and WG-FSA. The future work of WG-EMM is detailed in Annex 4 (paragraphs 6.33 to 6.40, Tables 3 and 4 and Appendix E, Attachment 4), and that of WG-FSA in Annex 5 (paragraphs 12.1 to 12.8, Table 12.1 and Appendix D). In addition, major activities scheduled by the Scientific Committee in the 2002/03 intersessional period are listed in Annex 7. The Chair of the Scientific Committee, together with the conveners of the working groups, agreed to provide the Secretariat with a list of activities in 2002/03 which should be considered as high priority.

13.18 The Scientific Committee recalled that Dr Everson had agreed to convene WG-FSA-02 on the understanding that Dr Hanchet would be able to assist with this task, as well as accept a term as Convener of the Working Group commencing in 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XX, Annex 5, paragraph 13.4). The Scientific Committee noted that the reorganisation of the work of WG-FSA, which had been initiated by Dr Everson, was well in progress. However, this reorganisation would require another meeting in order to complete. With Dr Hanchet's agreement, the Scientific Committee accepted Dr Everson's offer to retain the convenership of WG-FSA for another year so that the reorganisation of the work of WG-FSA could be completed under his guidance. It was noted that Dr Everson's offer was subject to funding. If Dr Everson was unable to participate in WG-FSA-03, then Dr Hanchet would take up his role as convener in 2003.

#### Revision of the Scientific Committee Agenda

13.19 The Scientific Committee agreed that the reorganisation of its meeting agenda was a success, and thanked the Chair for finalising this new structure during the intersessional period. Two modifications were proposed for next year's meeting:

- a revision of the way in which by-catch is considered in the agenda; and
- reports under Item 9 (Cooperation with Other Organisations) should be submitted by 0900 h on the first day of the meeting so that these reports can be read and considered in advance of the Scientific Committee's deliberations. Further, the Committee agreed that, in future, any such report submitted after 0900 h on the first day of the meeting would not be considered formally during the meeting. Observers would be advised of this change of procedure in the letter of invitation to SC-CAMLR-XXII.

13.20 The Scientific Committee encouraged working groups to review their meeting agendas with the aim of further enhancing the flow of information and advice from the working groups to the Committee.

#### Invitation of Observers to the Next Meeting

13.21 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2002 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXII.

13.22 The Scientific Committee also considered the application from ASOC to participate in the meeting of WG-FSA in 2002 and WG-EMM and WG-FSA in 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/5). The Scientific Committee advised ASOC that its application to participate in the meeting of WG-FSA in 2002 (dated August 2002) was inappropriate because the Scientific Committee had discussed and rejected this application in 2001 (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 18.10).

13.23 The Scientific Committee considered ASOC's application to participate in the meeting of WG-EMM and WG-FSA in 2003. As was the case last year (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs 18.7 to 18.9), the Scientific Committee was unable to reach consensus on this matter, and the application was rejected.

13.24 A number of Members reminded the Scientific Committee that, last year, most Members supported this application in the interests of transparency of the work conducted by CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 18.7). This view was reiterated by a number of Members at this meeting.

13.25 A number of Members questioned ASOC's scientific capacity and possible contribution to the work of the working groups because ASOC is primarily concerned with developing policies dealing with fisheries and conservation, and also because no details on their scientific expertise were provided in the application.

13.26 Most Members encouraged ASOC to contribute scientific papers to future meetings of the Scientific Committee. To assist with this task, they agreed that a pre-publication copy of the report of the meeting of WG-EMM-03 would be forwarded to ASOC on the understanding that ASOC abides by the Rules of Access and Use of CCAMLR Data.

13.27 However, some Members objected to such a proposal, because ASOC did not conduct its own research. Other Members supported that objection at the time of adopting the report.

#### Next Meeting

13.28 The next meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held in Hobart from 27 to 31 October 2003.