ADDITIONAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Proposal for Extension of CEMP Sites

6.1 No proposals for extensions of CEMP sites had been submitted to the meeting of WG-EMM-02.

Marine Debris

6.2 Last year the Scientific Committee and Commission adopted new standard reporting formats for marine debris (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.101; CCAMLR-XX, paragraph 6.4).

6.3 The Scientific Committee also recommended that data provided by Members on:

(i) surveys of marine debris on beaches;
(ii) entanglement of mammals in marine debris; and
(iii) marine debris associated with seabird colonies;

for sites where at least five years of validated standard data exist (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.101(v)(a–c)) would be incorporated into the CCAMLR database; other validated data would be archived in electronic formats (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.102).

6.4 The Secretariat was also requested to prepare an annual report on status and trends relating to all the main aspects of marine debris related observations provided to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.99(iv)).

6.5 The Secretariat tabled a report summarising the data relating to marine debris submitted by Members to the CCAMLR database using the standard formats (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/13).

6.6 In 2002 data on surveys of marine debris were submitted by Norway, Uruguay and the UK. The UK also submitted data on entanglement of marine mammals (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/13, Table 1).

6.7 The Scientific Committee recollected that the request to the Secretariat referred to a report on the status and trends relating to all of the main aspects of marine debris related observations (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 4.99(iv)). It noted that SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/13 represented an inventory of the data rather than a report of status and trends shown in the data.

6.8 The Scientific Committee requested the Secretariat to produce a report of status and trends relating to all the main aspects of marine debris related observations following procedures and principles analogous to those used in the preparation of reports of the status and trends arising from the data submitted to CEMP.

6.9 In addition, the Scientific Committee encouraged Members to update the CCAMLR database with historical data collected using standard methods. It recommended that the

Secretariat enter into the CCAMLR database historical data, collected using standard methods, that have already been reported to the Scientific Committee, and consult with relevant Members to ensure appropriate data validation.

Surveys of Marine Debris on Beaches

6.10 Standardised surveys of marine debris on three beaches in the vicinity of Artigas Base, King George Island (Subarea 48.1), were reported by Uruguay in SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/35. All the items recovered were considered to be derived from all operations conducted in the Convention Area.

6.11 Prof. D. Torres (Chile) reported that debris had been collected at 36 beaches at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island (Subarea 48.1), but that these data had not been submitted to the Secretariat. Prof. Torres indicated that the items collected were principally associated with fishing activities and included a large number of packaging bands, ropes and net.

6.12 Dr E. Fanta (Brazil) indicated that, since 1992, Brazil had reported on marine debris at Admiralty Bay, King George Island. In 2001/02 the new CCAMLR standard reporting form was officially adopted by the Brazilian Antarctic Program and data will be submitted regularly to the Secretariat in the forthcoming intersessional period.

6.13 During the 11th year of standardised beach surveys of man-made debris at Bird Island, South Georgia, a total of 290 items was collected during the period 1 October 2000 to 30 September 2001 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/3). This represents a 33% decrease on the total of 408 items recorded in 1999/2000 and the lowest level during summer (147 items) since 1995. This was the first year in which the number of items collected in summer and winter was almost equal. Nylon line/braid and debris associated with fisheries remained the major component of all marine debris collected.

6.14 During 2001/02 the 12th annual beach debris survey was carried out at Signy Island, South Orkney Islands (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/5). A total of 39 items was collected, the largest number of items since 1999/2000. Plastic waste was predominant and there was an increase in the number of plastic packaging bands (eight) from the single record in the previous season, an abrupt change to what has otherwise been a declining trend since 1993/94.

6.15 Dr Naganobu reported that no fishing gear had been lost from Japanese krill trawlers and that all damaged nets had been disposed of in the incinerators that are installed on all of those vessels.

6.16 The Scientific Committee noted that packaging bands continue to be reported in debris surveys in Area 48 but that they may derive from IUU vessels or fisheries in adjacent areas rather than indicating use in the regulated fisheries in the Convention Area.

Entanglement of Marine Mammals in Marine Debris

6.17 The number of entanglements of Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*) at Bird Island, South Georgia (Subarea 48.3), during the winter of 2001 and summer 2001/02 showed an increase from recent years, the number of entanglements during winter (20) were the same as in the previous year, however, the number of entanglements during summer (48) increased by 118% (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/4). Plastic packaging bands and synthetic string (nylon braid) accounted for the majority of all entanglements in both winter and summer. Loops of nylon string/braid, as used in longline fishing, is now the most frequently recorded entangling material, whilst numbers of entanglements involving plastic packaging bands are comparable with those before CCAMLR established measures to prohibit their use.

6.18 During the sixth annual survey of entanglement of marine mammals at Signy Island, South Orkney Islands (Subarea 48.2), there was a single sighting of an entangled Antarctic fur seal (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/6). This follows a year in which no entanglements were recorded at this site.

6.19 Prof. Torres indicated that there had been a total of five incidents of entanglements of Antarctic fur seals at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island (Subarea 48.1), during December 2001 and January 2002.

Marine Debris associated with Seabird Colonies

6.20 A single record of a dead Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*) found entangled in fishing net was reported from King George Island (Subarea 48.1) (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/35).

6.21 In the ninth year of standardised reporting of marine debris associated with seabird colonies at Bird Island, South Georgia (Subarea 48.3), fewer hooks and other longline fishery discards were recorded in association with wandering albatrosses compared to last year, but the number of items (63) remains well above the average recorded over the period 1994 to 2002 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/7).

Seabirds and Marine Mammals Soiled with Hydrocarbons

6.22 In October 2001 a black-browed albatross returning to a breeding colony at Bird Island, South Georgia (Subarea 48.3), had small patches of heavy black oil on its underparts (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/7).

Submission of Data on Marine Debris

6.23 The Scientific Committee again requested Members to submit data on standard forms in a timely fashion as this would allow the Secretariat to produce a report that would greatly simplify consideration of this topic by the Scientific Committee.

Marine Mammal and Bird Populations

6.24 At its sixth meeting the Scientific Committee decided to review the status of trends in marine mammal and bird populations every three to five years. The Scientific Committee noted that the last review took place in 2000. Information relevant to such a review included a survey of Antarctic fur seal pup production in the South Shetland Islands (paragraph 3.8; Annex 4, paragraphs 3.49 and 3.50) and data provided in material submitted to ad hoc WG-IMAF (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.110 to 6.126; SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/22).

Management Areas

6.25 Dr Constable introduced Australia's proposal to separate William's Ridge as a separate management area from the Heard Island Plateau area in Division 58.5.2 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/7). The proposal was based on the separation of this ridge from the plateau by waters deeper than 2 000 m, which are deeper than the depth range used by WG-FSA to delimit the biological management areas of toothfish stocks. The Scientific Committee recommended that William's Ridge should be considered a separate management unit from the Heard Island Plateau area at 79°20'E.