

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

9.1 The Scientific Committee was chaired during this section by Dr Kawaguchi, Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee. Reports under Agenda Items 9(i) and 9(iii) were reported in brief to the meeting by the rapporteur of this section.

Cooperation with the Antarctic Treaty System

CEP

9.2 The report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee, CCAMLR-XXI/BG/8, outlined his participation in CEP-V under the Madrid Protocol (Warsaw, Poland, 10 to 16 September 2002). The most important issues of relevance to CCAMLR were:

- (i) SCAR presented to CEP two reports regarding marine acoustic technology and Antarctic environment. SCAR concluded that there is no evidence of negative impacts on the Antarctic marine organisms from the appropriate use of acoustic technology equipment. However, Germany had reservations concerning SCAR's reports. CEP asked SCAR to bring forward a final report on the environmental impacts of acoustic technology at CEP-VI.
- (ii) Argentina and SCAR provided papers pertaining to the issue of specially protected species in Antarctica. CEP agreed with the two papers' conclusion that the IUCN Red List criteria should be used as the basis for the assessment of the status of species in Antarctica. SCAR offered to undertake, in conjunction with the IUCN, an assessment of the status of well-documented species using the IUCN criteria, beginning with birds and seals. CEP recognised the need for a dialogue with CCAMLR on how the category of specially protected species might be applied to marine species under the purview of CCAMLR.
- (iii) CEP received a paper from the UK concerning biological prospecting in Antarctica. CEP recognised that the subject is complex and included legal and political issues. It agreed that these complexities and rapid developments in this field were strong reasons for the Antarctic community to be pre-emptive on the issue and that biological prospecting needed to be discussed during the next CEP meeting.
- (iv) Four revised management plans for SPAs which contained marine components were reviewed by CEP. CEP recognised that these must be approved by CCAMLR prior to being accepted by the ATCM. In addition, Italy introduced a paper proposing a new ASPA in Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea, which also must be approved by CCAMLR.
- (v) Dr A. Press (Australia), CEP's Observer to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee, presented a report highlighting the main aspects of the last meeting of CCAMLR's Scientific Committee. Dr Press was appointed CEP Observer to this year's Scientific Committee.
- (vi) Dr Press was elected as the new Chair of CEP.

Reports of Observers from International Organisations

ASOC

9.3 The ASOC representative drew attention to CCAMLR-XXI/BG/27 and BG/28 and gave the following recommendations to CCAMLR:

- (i) ASOC commended WG-EMM on dividing Area 48 into SSMUs and urged WG-EMM to move forward and develop a plan to manage the fishery based on these units.
- (ii) Following on from this, ASOC encouraged the harmonisation of the krill fishery with the finfish fisheries regarding standardised reporting requirements, independent observers, and mandatory VMS, especially considering the uncertainties surrounding the growth of the fishery in the near future.
- (iii) In the true precautionary nature of the Convention, ASOC believed that the Scientific Committee has a tremendous opportunity to adopt a precautionary management plan that protects krill and its predators while there are relatively few vessels active in the fishery. To this end, ASOC encouraged the Scientific Committee to acquire fine-scale data from throughout the fishery in order to develop rapidly a precautionary management plan.
- (iv) ASOC commended the progress of most regulated fisheries in reducing seabird by-catch. It shares this Committee's grave concern about the unsustainable bird by-catch in the IUU fishery and urged the Scientific Committee to use the strongest language possible to communicate its concern to the Commission and urge the Commission to take decisive action against IUU fishing.
- (v) ASOC urged Parties to use all available means to stop the alarming level of bird by-catch in the regulated fishery in Division 58.5.1, including a limited fishing season. With an estimated IUU catch that is at least twice the legal catch figure which does not include toothfish nominally caught outside the Convention Area – ASOC questioned the argument that the year-round presence of legal boats deters IUU boats.
- (vi) Finally, ASOC directed delegates' attention to an informal document titled 'The Alphabet Boats', which describes the increasing sophistication and organisation of the IUU fleet.

IUCN

9.4 IUCN's report (CCAMLR-XXI/BG/34) summarised pertinent resolutions and recommendations from the 2000 World Conservation Congress and highlighted IUCN activities, including the upcoming World Parks Congress in September 2003 where the contribution of marine protected areas to sustainable development will be featured.

9.5 The IUCN Observer noted that the commitment of Governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002) to protection of biodiversity

in areas beyond national jurisdiction also called for the development of representative systems of marine protected areas (MPAs). The IUCN Observer encouraged CCAMLR Members to consider several actions to progress the development of such a system for the Southern Ocean, through, *inter alia*:

- (i) developing, in conjunction with CEP, guiding principles to assist with the selection and designation of a network of Antarctic MPAs and extending the systematic environmental geographic framework to the offshore marine environment, pursuant to Article 3(1) of Annex V to the Antarctic Environmental Protocol;
- (ii) adding an additional criterion for CCAMLR's review of MPAs that reflects how the proposed protected area will contribute to the achievement of the principles of conservation, ecosystem-based management and precautionary decision making pursuant to Article IX.1(f) and IX.2(g) of the Convention; and
- (iii) considering as a priority for a system of MPAs the establishment of protected areas co-extensive with at least the foraging areas of seals, penguins and other seabirds when they have dependent offspring.

9.6 In regard to pirate fishing and seabird mortality from longlining in the Southern Ocean and adjacent waters, IUCN encouraged Members to consider whether CITES may bring some added value to the existing CCAMLR measures for toothfish through its more comprehensive membership and global coverage of international trade.

9.7 The Scientific Committee noted the information and suggestions on MPAs in paragraph 9.5 and referred these to the WG-EMM Subgroup on Protected Areas for consideration.

FAO

9.8 The FAO Observer informed the meeting about the conference 'Deep Sea 2003' to be held in New Zealand in December next year, which will address issues of 'management and governance' of deep-sea fisheries. Specific sessions will address topics that include the environment, fisheries habitat, population biology, resource management, harvesting strategies, technology, compliance, management policies and instruments, future governance and identification of an ongoing program of activities.

9.9 He informed the Scientific Committee that the organisers – the Ministry of Fisheries in New Zealand, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in Australia and FAO – particularly wish to invite organisations and government departments that share similar objectives to join as co-sponsors and assist in setting the conference's goals and contribute to its design. This could be done, for example, through the funding of speakers.

9.10 The organisers were of the view that the topic of the conference was central to CCAMLR's program and that the Commission would have much to contribute. He also believed that the conference should enable strategic and conceptual issues to be addressed for which there was rarely time to do so at Commission meetings. Existing co-sponsors include IUCN, Subsecretaría de Pesca in Chile and the Ministerio del Mar in Peru.

Reports of SC-CAMLR Representatives at Meetings of Other International Organisations

CWP

9.11 The Data Manager reported on the 2001/02 intersessional meeting of the CWP held in Rome, Italy, on 21 and 22 March 2002 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/11). Key topics discussed at that meeting and of interest to the Scientific Committee included:

- (i) development of CWP's advocacy role;
- (ii) participation by CWP members in a new Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS). A proposed partnership between CCAMLR and FIGIS-FIRMS (Fishery Resources Monitoring System) is described in SC-CAMLR-XXI/6;
- (iii) definition of CWP's position on the proposed International Plan of Action on the Status and Trends Reporting in Fisheries;
- (iv) consideration of catch and trade certification schemes; and
- (v) development of the agenda for the 20th session of CWP (CWP-20).

9.12 CCAMLR's involvement in the work of CWP, and participation by the Data Manager in the meetings of CWP, allows CCAMLR to interact directly with other intergovernmental and regional agencies involved with the collection and dissemination of fisheries statistics. Such interactions are important in order to promote and establish common definitions and formats for the global exchange of fisheries information such as catch data, species codes and vessel registry data.

9.13 Referring to SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/11, Prof. Croxall noted that CWP, in seeking to improve the quality, nature and relevance of fisheries statistics, is giving increased emphasis to reporting on elasmobranchs, including as by-catch. On behalf of ad hoc WG-IMAF, he requested that the Secretariat raise with CWP the issue of improving and standardising the reporting of by-catch of non-fish species (e.g. seabirds, turtles), drawing attention to CCAMLR's work in this area. This was agreed.

CMS

9.14 The progress toward an agreement on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels is presented in SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/20 (see also paragraph 5.29(ii)).

ICES

9.15 The report from the 2002 meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in Copenhagen, Denmark, is given in SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/25. At the Annual

Science Conference this organisation celebrated the Centenary of its existence by signing the Copenhagen Declaration, a statement of renewed commitment to support marine science through ICES.

9.16 The conclusions of relevance to CCAMLR, contained in the ICES Strategic Plan and the ICES Integrated Action Plan, were:

- (i) understand the physical, chemical and biological functioning of marine ecosystems;
- (ii) understand and quantify human impacts on marine ecosystems, including living marine resources;
- (iii) advice on the sustainable use of living marine resources and protection of the marine environment;
- (iv) enhance collaboration with organisations, scientific programs and stakeholders (including the fishing industry) that are relevant to the ICES goals;
- (v) broaden the diversity of the scientists who participate in ICES activities;
- (vi) keep abreast of the needs and expectations of ICES member countries; and
- (vii) make the scientific products of ICES more accessible to the public.

IWC

9.17 The IWC Observer, Dr Kock, reported on the meeting of SC-IWC held in Shimonoseki, Japan, from 27 April to 9 May 2002 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/2).

9.18 A total of 440 minke whales was caught within the CCAMLR Convention Area under the remit of the IWC in 2001.

9.19 Cooperation with other international organisations and programs was discussed, such as SO-GLOBEC activities in 2001/02, the CCAMLR–IWC relationship, ongoing activities of the three organisations in the foreseeable future and whale research conducted by the IWC, such as SOWER 2002 in the Southern Ocean.

9.20 The Southern Ocean Sanctuary which was established in 1994 will be reviewed by the SC-IWC in 2003.

9.21 The collaboration between CCAMLR and the IWC regarding cooperative analysis of krill data and whale observations collected in the course of the CCAMLR-2000 Survey has resulted in a paper describing these analyses being submitted for inclusion in a special issue of *Deep-Sea Research*. The next step in this collaboration will be the inclusion of a whale-sighting survey as part of a survey to South Georgia and the Scotia Sea in January and February 2003 which will be conducted by the British Antarctic Survey. Subsequent data analysis will be carried out in close collaboration between CCAMLR and IWC researchers. A presentation of the analyses is envisaged for 2004.

GLOBEC

9.22 Dr Nicol reported on the Second GLOBEC Science Meeting held in Qingdao, China, from 15 to 18 October 2002 (SC-CAMLR-XXI/BG/36).

9.23 Of key interest to CCAMLR were the results from the SO-GLOBEC Regional Program. Preliminary results of studies carried out off the Western Antarctic Peninsula during autumn and winter 2001 and 2002 were presented, and papers at the meeting addressed:

- (i) long-term change in Antarctic populations, including krill;
- (ii) suggestions of an increase in the range of salps in the Southern Ocean at the expense of krill;
- (iii) results from Chinese research on circumpolar estimates of condition in Antarctic krill and on acoustic estimates of krill biomass in the Prydz Bay region;
- (iv) winter studies on Antarctic krill which investigated its relationship to sea-ice, larval growth rates and general condition;
- (v) relationships between krill predators and krill distributions in winter; and
- (vi) spatial and temporal variability in Antarctic marine ecosystem processes at the macro-, meso- and micro-scale.

9.24 Also of interest to CCAMLR were the developments being made in the modelling of larval transport and recruitment in several fish species as part of the Small Pelagics and Climate Change Program (SPACC) which are analogous with many of the processes occurring in Antarctic krill. SPACC was interested in holding a workshop in 2003 on the economics of small pelagic fisheries which would be of direct interest to CCAMLR because of the potential interaction between the fisheries for small pelagic fish, the krill fishery and the global fish meal market.

SCAR

9.25 The SCAR/CCAMLR Observer and Liaison Officer, Dr Fanta, reported on SCAR activities in 2001/02 and on the XXVII SCAR Meeting held in Shanghai, China, from 13 to 26 July 2002 (CCAMLR-XXI/BG/33).

9.26 At the meetings of the SCAR Working Group on Biology and the new Standing Scientific Group of Life Sciences, items of potential interest to CCAMLR include:

- (i) the next SCAR Biology Symposium will be held in Brazil in 2005;
- (ii) a compilation of best practice for the prevention of diseases in the Antarctic wildlife will be prepared by Australia;
- (iii) the EASIZ Program will continue for two more years;

- (iv) the Sub-committee on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms will hold a workshop on Evolutionary Adaptation in Antarctic Organisms in Pontignano, Italy, from 1 to 7 December 2002, the results being published in a special volume of *Antarctic Science* in 2003;
- (v) SCAR proposes to develop a new program entitled 'Evolution and biodiversity in Antarctica: the response of life to change', which will include some research topics previously covered by EASIZ and EVOLANTA;
- (vi) the SCAR Group of Specialists on Seals and the Sub-committee on Bird Biology both met prior to XXVII SCAR. They discussed a number of items of relevance to CCAMLR, *inter alia*, status and trends in seal populations, dietary studies of seabirds, the conservation status of Antarctic birds and potential adverse effects of penguin banding. Reports from these meetings will be made available to CCAMLR;
- (vii) SCAR was asked to contribute, in respect of Area 66 (Antarctica and the Southern Ocean), to the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA), an initiative of UNEP. A workshop in 2003 in Curitiba, Brazil, convened by Drs Fanta, C. Howard-Williams (New Zealand) and D. Walton (UK), will establish a working plan for the GIWA project for Antarctica;
- (viii) a new structure for SCAR was adopted. The SCAR Standing Scientific Group on Life Sciences, will include: Action Groups (GIWA; Best Practices for Conservation), Expert Groups (Birds; Seals; Human Biology and Medicine), Scientific Program Planning Groups (Evolution and Biodiversity in Antarctica: the response of life to change; Biological Monitoring) and Scientific Program Groups (EASIZ, APIS, EVOLANTA, RiSCC); and
- (ix) SCAR was awarded the 'Prince of Asturias Prize for International Cooperation 2002', and will use it to establish a 'SCAR Fellowship Program' to fund relevant research of young scientists.

9.27 Matters arising from the meeting of GOSEAC in April 2002 in College Station, Texas, USA, included:

- (i) GOSEAC will be replaced by a new SCAR group providing scientific and environmental advice to the ATCM and CEP.
- (ii) Annex II of The Protocol on Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora and the list of Specially Protected Species will be discussed and reviewed in connection with IUCN and CCAMLR (see paragraph 9.2(ii)).
- (iii) SCAR should outline for the ATCM the importance of the adoption of the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure that the Antarctic biological resources are treated on an equal basis to those of the rest of the world (see paragraph 9.2.(iii)).

9.28 In relation to the GIWA initiative (paragraph 9.26(vii)), the Scientific Committee requested SCAR to inform it of the results of the proposed planning workshop; it encouraged

Dr Fanta, and any other attendees familiar with the work of CCAMLR, to table at the workshop appropriate materials relating to the work of CCAMLR and to identify any areas where further input from CCAMLR might be necessary or appropriate.

FIGIS-FIRMS

9.29 The Scientific Committee considered SC-CAMLR-XXI/6, a proposal of partnership between CCAMLR and FIGIS-FIRMS. The document was also considered by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 13.2 to 13.5), who reported that they were unable to identify any obvious benefit to WG-FSA from the proposed partnership.

9.30 The Scientific Committee noted that the information system proposed in this FAO initiative might, when further developed, provide benefits for CCAMLR. However, it was felt unnecessary to undertake any formal partnership at this stage. Through its continuing interaction with CWP, the Secretariat was asked to keep the Scientific Committee and its working groups informed of relevant developments.

Future Cooperation

9.31 The Scientific Committee noted a number of international meetings of relevance to its work and nominated the following observers:

- (i) International Fisheries Observer Conference (sponsored by NOAA Fisheries and the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans), 18 to 21 November 2002, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA – no nomination;
- (ii) 20th Session of the CWP on Fishery Statistics (including discussions on FIGIS), 21 to 24 January 2003, Victoria, Seychelles – Data Manager;
- (iii) Modelling Antarctic Ecosystems (a UBC Fisheries Centre Workshop), 14 to 17 April 2003, Vancouver, Canada – no nomination;
- (iv) 55th Annual Meeting of the SC-IWC, 26 May to 6 June 2003, Berlin, Germany – Dr Kock;
- (v) CEP-VI – Antarctic Treaty, 9 to 20 June 2003, Madrid, Spain – Chair of the Scientific Committee;
- (vi) ICES Annual Science Conference, 23 to 27 September 2003, Tallinn, Estonia – Belgium;
- (vii) SCAR meetings of relevance, (to be advised) – Dr Fanta; and
- (viii) Eighth Conference of the Parties to CMS, (no information) – no nomination.

9.32 The Scientific Committee noted that the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre had made a first announcement (and call for papers) for a workshop on ‘Modelling

Antarctic Ecosystems' to be held at the University of British Columbia, Canada, from 14 to 17 April 2003. The edited workshop proceedings would be published as a Fisheries Centre Research Report. Further information is available from events@fisheries.ubc.ca.

9.33 The Scientific Committee endorsed the proposal by WG-EMM and WG-FSA for the involvement of the conveners of these groups in the planning of a session on the Southern Ocean at the Fourth World Fisheries Congress, to be held from 2 to 6 May 2004, in Vancouver, Canada (Annex 4, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.4; Annex 5, paragraph 8.7). The Scientific Committee noted that this would be an important opportunity to present CCAMLR science and resource management in a global context. It was noted that abstracts needed to be submitted by April 2003 to be considered for oral presentation. Further information may be obtained from Drs Everson and Hewitt.

Future Procedure

9.34 Recognising the complexity of this agenda item and the difficulties posed to participants and rapporteurs by late delivery of reports from observers, the Scientific Committee agreed to consider only those reports which had been submitted to the Secretariat by 0900 h on the opening day of its meeting. This requirement should be clearly drawn to the attention of all relevant observers.