

## ADVICE TO SCIC AND SCAF

11.1 The Chair presented the Scientific Committee advice to SCIC and SCAF during the meeting. The advice to SCAF is in Section 10.

### Advice to SCIC

11.2 Dr Holt, Scientific Committee Chair, was asked to brief the SCIC Members regarding items of mutual interest to the Scientific Committee and SCIC. He presented an overview of items identified by WG-FSA and endorsed by the Scientific Committee. These included:

- estimates of finfish catches in the Convention Area (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.11 to 3.15 and Tables 3.1 and 3.2);
- estimates of finfish catch and effort from IUU fishing (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.16 to 3.20);
- evaluation of the threats arising from IUU activities with respect to toothfish (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.307 to 5.312);
- incidental mortality of seabirds during unregulated longline fishing in the Convention Area (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.110 to 6.127),
- incidental mortality of seabirds during longline fishing outside the Convention Area (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.128 to 6.132);
- Scheme of International Scientific Observation (Annex 5, paragraphs 10.1 to 10.37);
- information relevant to SCIC (Annex 5, paragraph 10.38) which included advice concerning:
  - observer information on the monitoring of implementation of conservation measures (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.37, 6.54 and 6.260; WG-FSA-03/63 Rev. 1, 03/64 Rev. 1 and 03/65 Rev.1);
  - information relative to offal discharge (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.37 to 6.39);
  - compliance with Conservation Measures 24-02, 25-02 and 25-03 (Annex 5, paragraph 6.260);
  - submission of datasets after the agreed deadlines (Annex 5, paragraph 3.7);
  - failure of Members to notify of intention not to enter an exploratory fishery (Annex 5, paragraph 5.8);

- failure to conduct a minimum number of research sets on entering an SSRU (Conservation Measure 41-01) (Annex 5, paragraph 5.9);
- vessels exceeding catch limits in fine-scale rectangles and SSRUs (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.67 to 5.69).

11.3 Finally, SCIC was provided with advice regarding CCAMLR-XXII/52 which suggested a potential approach, to be implemented by SCIC, towards developing a new system for undertaking assessment of compliance of fishing vessels with conservation measures. This included advice with respect to toothfish fishing (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.302 to 5.305) and regarding seabird mortality (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.58 to 6.65).

### Fishing Seasons

11.4 The Scientific Committee recollected its previous advice (see SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraphs 11.7 to 11.9 and Annex 5, paragraphs 6.30 to 6.46) relating to the issue of extensions to the longline fishing season once levels of seabird incidental mortality are negligible and vessels have achieved full compliance with all relevant conservation measures.

11.5 It noted the summary of last year's discussions on this topic and the decision by the Commission (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.47 to 6.49; CCAMLR-XXI, paragraphs 5.7 to 5.11) resulting in one vessel being allowed to commence fishing in Subarea 48.3 two weeks earlier (in April) than the start of the main fishing season (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.50 and 6.51).

11.6 It noted that this year full compliance appeared to have been achieved by eight vessels in Subarea 48.3 (Annex 5, Table 6.7) and noted that levels of seabird incidental mortality in this fishery had been negligible.

11.7 The Scientific Committee recommended that, taking into account the advice in Annex 5, paragraphs 6.53 and 6.54:

- (i) extension of the fishing season into April should not be permitted;
- (ii) where a trial season extension is under consideration, that this should only occur in September as an option for any vessel that has achieved full compliance with Conservation Measure 25-02.