

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

14.1 The Scientific Committee noted that one of the Vice-Chairs, Dr Kawaguchi, had resigned from this position in October 2003 due to changed job circumstances. As a result, at the start of its meeting, the Scientific Committee sought nominations for a new Vice-Chair. Dr Sushin was unanimously elected to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2003 and 2004).

14.2 Mr López Abellán's term as Vice-Chair ended with SC-CAMLR-XXII, and the Scientific Committee sought nominations for a new Vice-Chair. Dr Barrera-Oro was unanimously elected to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2004 and 2005).

14.3 The Scientific Committee thanked Dr Kawaguchi and Mr López Abellán for their ongoing contributions to its work.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joint Assessment Group

15.1 Dr M. Richardson (UK), on behalf of the Convener of JAG, briefed the Scientific Committee on the first meeting of the group which was held on 23 and 24 October 2003, immediately following WG-FSA-03 (SCIC-03/13).

15.2 JAG had agreed that for that meeting the group would be given an ad hoc status which would be considered further by SCIC, the Scientific Committee and the Commission. The ad hoc group agreed that its two principal terms of reference should be:

- (i) to develop methods for estimating total removals of toothfish from inside and outside the Convention Area;
- (ii) to develop a comparative methodology for determining compliance with conservation measures.

15.3 The ad hoc group had also developed a work plan to address each term of reference.

15.4 The Scientific Committee was advised that SCIC had endorsed the draft terms of reference prepared by the ad hoc group, and that SCIC had concluded that these terms of reference would be best addressed by two separate groups. The development of methods for estimating the total removals of toothfish and the annual estimation of annual removals would be addressed by JAG, whereas the second term of reference on compliance assessment would be dealt with by SCIC. Accordingly, SCIC had noted the work plans and agreed that these should act as guidelines for the future work of these groups.

15.5 The Scientific Committee noted that the estimates of total removals of toothfish were an essential component of the assessment conducted by WG-FSA, and that total removals had been routinely estimated during the first few days of its meetings. This was problematic because of the time required to derive the estimates of total removals, and also because such estimates were used by WG-FSA without prior endorsement by SCIC.

15.6 The Scientific Committee reiterated the need for estimates of total removals of toothfish to be provided to WG-FSA prior to its meeting so that the annual assessments could incorporate the best available information on total removals of toothfish.

15.7 The Scientific Committee noted its discussion of potential approaches to comprehensive assessment of compliance of fishing vessels with conservation measures in paragraphs 7.2 to 7.5.

Secretariat's Presentations at the Fourth World Fisheries Congress

15.8 The Scientific Committee noted that the Secretariat had submitted two abstracts to the Fourth World Fisheries Congress (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/22). The abstracts reviewed CCAMLR's work in addressing the objectives of the Convention and CCAMLR's approach to managing by-catch. The Scientific Committee expressed concern, particularly in relation to the latter abstract, over the presentation and potential publication of scientific information derived from the main work of working groups of the Scientific Committee without prior review by those responsible for the work carried out within those groups. It was also concerned at potential overlap between the contents of the by-catch presentation and that of the conveners of WG-EMM and WG-FSA, already endorsed by the Scientific Committee, for presentation at the same meeting. This matter was referred to the Secretariat for immediate consideration in consultation with the Chair of the Scientific Committee and conveners of working groups and to the Commission in respect of any matters of principle involved.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

16.1 The report of the Twenty-second meeting of the Scientific Committee was adopted.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

17.1 Dr Holt thanked all Members of the Scientific Committee and the rapporteurs for their dedicated work at the meeting. The meetings were becoming increasingly complex and he greatly appreciated the willingness of all to ensure that the meeting was successful.

17.2 Dr Holt thanked Dr Hewitt, Convener of WG-EMM, Dr Everson, Convener of WG-FSA, and Prof. Croxall, Convener of ad hoc WG-IMAF, for their tremendous amount of work undertaken at the working group meetings and in preparation for the Scientific Committee. Dr Holt also thanked the coordinators of the working group subgroups for their efforts in developing detailed elements of the Scientific Committee's work. He also thanked Dr Hanchet for accepting to convene WG-FSA following Dr Everson's retirement.

17.3 Dr Holt thanked the staff of the Secretariat for their relentless work during the meeting and in the intersessional period, and the interpreters and sound technicians for their work during the meeting.

17.4 In closing, Dr Holt thanked Dr Everson for his lifelong contribution to the work of the Scientific Committee which had come a long way over its 22 meetings. Dr Everson had

personally contributed great scientific knowledge and leadership in developing the Scientific Committee and its working groups; it was hard to imagine a meeting of CCAMLR without him. The Scientific Committee wished Dr Everson a very happy and rewarding retirement, and he was presented with some 'traditional' gifts.

17.5 Dr Everson thanked the Scientific Committee for its good wishes. This was the last meeting of the Scientific Committee in which he would participate. The work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups had been a major part of Dr Everson's working career, and he was very pleased to see that much progress had been made since CCAMLR had been established. Dr Everson had made many friends in CCAMLR as well as locally in Hobart. He was pleased to note the attendance of young scientists at recent meetings of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, and the enthusiasm of all participants to continue the work of the Scientific Committee. He would always remain interested in this work and wished all Members of the Scientific Committee continued success.

17.6 Members showed their appreciation of Dr Everson with a standing ovation.

17.7 Prof. Croxall, on behalf of the Scientific Committee, thanked Dr Holt for a successful meeting which he had chaired fairly and courteously.

17.8 The meeting was closed.

REFERENCES

- Barrera-Oro, E.R., E.R. Marschoff and R.J. Casaux. 2000. Trends in relative abundance of fjord *Notothenia rossii*, *Gobionotothen gibberifrons* and *Notothenia coriiceps* at Potter Cove, South Shetland Islands, after commercial fishing in the area. *CCAMLR Science*, 7: 43–52.
- de la Mare, W.K., R. Williams and A.J. Constable. 1998. An assessment of the mackerel icefish (*Champsocephalus gunnari*) off Heard Island. *CCAMLR Science*, 5: 79–101.
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