

## ADDITIONAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Marine Debris

6.1 As requested by the Scientific Committee last year (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 6.8), the Secretariat prepared a paper on the current status of national surveys on monitoring of marine debris and its impact on marine mammals and seabirds in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/25).

6.2 The CCAMLR marine debris database contains data from 11 sites, all within Area 48. Of these, three sites have data for at least three years that have been collected according to the CCAMLR standard methods. Members, locations and durations are as follows:

- (i) beached marine debris: Chile (Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands 1993 to 1997) and UK (Bird Island, South Georgia 1989 to present, and Signy Island, South Orkney Islands 1991 to present);
- (ii) debris associated with seabird colonies: UK (Bird Island 1993 to present);
- (iii) marine mammal entanglement: UK (Bird Island 1991 to present and Signy Island 1997 to present);
- (iv) hydrocarbon soiling: UK (Bird Island 1993 to present).

6.3 A summary of the trends presented in SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/25 indicated that:

- (i) marine debris, principally packaging items and fishing gear, reached a peak in the period from 1994 to 1996 at Bird Island and Signy Island and has declined thereafter;
- (ii) the level of marine debris found in seabird colonies at Bird Island has increased particularly since 1998, with fishing gear such as lines and hooks forming the major part of the debris;
- (iii) marine mammal (Antarctic fur seal) entanglement at Bird Island reached a peak in 1993 and showed a decline until 2000, since when there has been a slight increase with packaging bands, synthetic string and longline being the main entanglement material;
- (iv) the number of seabirds contaminated with hydrocarbons remains low.

6.4 The Scientific Committee thanked the Secretariat for its report and recognised that it provided a significant improvement in the presentation of information on the status and trends of marine debris. Members were encouraged to work with the Secretariat during the intersessional period in order to improve presentation and develop standardised procedures for the analysis of marine debris data.

## Surveys of Marine Debris on Beaches

6.5 Standardised surveys of marine debris were reported from King George Island, South Shetland Islands (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/20), Signy Island, South Orkney Islands (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/12) and Bird Island, South Georgia (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/10). Fisheries-related debris, including plastic packaging bands, were the dominant debris type in all areas.

## Entanglement of Marine Mammals in Marine Debris

6.6 Standardised reporting of the entanglement of Antarctic fur seals in marine debris was reported from Signy Island, South Orkney Islands (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/13), where a single entangled animal was recorded between 24 October 2002 and 1 April 2003, and Bird Island, South Georgia (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/11) where 25 entangled seals were recorded between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003, a reduction of 50% from the previous year. Nylon braid and plastic packaging bands were the most frequently recorded entangling material.

## Marine Debris associated with Seabird Colonies

6.7 Marine debris associated with seabirds at Bird Island, South Georgia, from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 was reported in SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/9. There were 72 items of fishing gear, 58 of which were longlining hooks and line, which was a reduction from the previous year but still higher than the levels recorded between 1993 and 1998.

## Seabirds and Marine Mammals Soiled with Hydrocarbons

6.8 Eleven cases of contamination with oil of wandering, black-browed and grey-headed albatrosses were recorded at Bird Island, South Georgia, between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/9). In all cases, no more than about 1–2% of the birds' plumage was oiled, and breeding success was apparently not affected.

## Submission of Data on Marine Debris

6.9 Dr Fanta reported that the Brazilian Antarctic Program had removed marine debris at Admiralty Bay, King George Island, South Shetland Islands, over the past 20 years. However, there were still difficulties in submitting this data in the CCAMLR standard format.

6.10 Prof. Torres reported that Chile continued to collect marine debris at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands, in collaboration with the USA, but that these data had not been submitted to the Secretariat in the CCAMLR standard format. Prof. Torres suggested that the continued high incidence of marine debris, particularly plastic packaging bands, may well be indicative of IUU fishing in the region and the Convention Area generally.

6.11 Dr Naganobu reported that, as in the previous years, no fishing gear had been lost from Japanese krill trawlers and that all damaged nets had been disposed of in the incinerators installed on board all of those vessels.

6.12 Dr H. Nion (Uruguay) reported that in addition to the data on marine debris reported in SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/20, there were no incidents of the entanglement of marine mammals in marine debris, no marine debris associated with seabird colonies or seabirds and marine mammals soiled with hydrocarbons at King George Island, South Shetland Islands.

6.13 Consul D. Chmiel (Poland) reported that during the Polish krill fishing operations no fishing gear had been lost and no marine debris sighted. In accordance with Conservation Measure 25-01, the plastic packaging bands were cut and incinerated on board.

6.14 The Scientific Committee noted that very few Members provided information on marine debris on the CCAMLR standard reporting forms and requested that Members submit such data in order to facilitate the consideration of the status and trends in marine debris by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 6.23).

6.15 Prof. Torres informed the Scientific Committee that from 20 to 22 August 2003 the Chilean Ministry of Public Health organised the seminar 'VIDA CHILE' in Punta Arenas with the theme 'For a longer and more plentiful life in Magallanes', where a paper entitled 'The marine debris problem in Antarctica' was presented. Arising from this, INACH and Universidad de Magallanes propose to develop a research and education plan to address issues of marine debris in the Magallanes region following the protocols developed by CCAMLR.

6.16 The Scientific Committee welcomed this report of the positive contribution made by CCAMLR to the monitoring of marine debris in regions outside the Convention Area and especially in a location with a number of direct links, both through logistic and fishery operations, to the Antarctic.

#### Marine Mammal and Bird Populations

6.17 The Scientific Committee noted new data on population status and trends for albatross and petrel species (Annex 5, paragraphs 6.138 to 6.165), including the latest revision of the global conservation status of some species, as reported in the latest (2003) edition of the IUCN/BirdLife International Red List for Birds (WG-FSA-03/101). Although most new data were from populations outside the Convention Area, it was still of considerable concern that four species of albatross (black-browed albatross, Indian and Atlantic yellow-nosed albatrosses and sooty albatross), of relevance to the Convention Area, now meet international criteria for increased global risk of extinction.

6.18 Dr Constable also noted the long-standing desire to assess demographic data in relation to population trends. He suggested that this might be incorporated into the next quinquennial review of the status and trends of marine mammal and bird populations.

6.19 The Scientific Committee recommended that planning for this review should commence at the WG-EMM and WG-IMAF meetings next year. The working groups were requested to develop terms of reference for this review, and to consider the groups and

individuals whose expertise and involvement would be most appropriate and valuable. They should prepare proposals for discussion at the Scientific Committee meeting next year.

6.20 The Scientific Committee noted that 14 papers on the status and trends in marine mammal and bird populations in the Southwest Indian Ocean had been considered by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 4.60 to 4.69). Several species of seabirds, including sooty and yellow-nosed albatrosses and gentoo, rockhopper and macaroni penguins showed a long-term decline in the population size that was attributed to fishery-induced mortality, avian disease and reduced reproductive performance. In contrast, the populations of king penguin and Antarctic fur seals, both of which fed predominantly on myctophid fish, had undergone considerable increases at a range of sites.

6.21 The Scientific Committee agreed that information from the Southern Indian Ocean had emphasised the importance for some seabirds of incidental mortality associated with fisheries, periodic reductions in food availability associated with changing climatic regimes in the Southern Ocean and the potential utility of comparing the responses of predators to changes in food availability in krill- and non-krill-centred ecosystems.