

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

9.1 The Scientific Committee was chaired during this section by Mr López Abellán, Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee.

### Cooperation with the Antarctic Treaty System

#### CEP

9.2 The report of the Chair of the Scientific Committee (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/11) outlined his participation in CEP-VI under the Madrid Protocol (Madrid, Spain, July 2003). The most important issues of relevance to CCAMLR were:

- (i) CEP addressed the issue of establishing ‘Specially Protected Species’. In contrast to the case for ‘Specially Protected Areas’ where well-established procedures for the cooperation with CCAMLR exist, definitions and procedures for this are still unresolved. The CEP Intersessional Contact Group (ICG) was asked to consider these issues.
- (ii) The ICG was also asked to continue the work under the Terms of Reference agreed by CEP relating to ‘The State of the Antarctic Environment Report’.
- (iii) Subsequent to the CEP meeting, the convener of the ICG asked for CCAMLR to be represented in that group. The Scientific Committee agreed that the Chair of the Scientific Committee should participate in the work of the group.

9.3 The Scientific Committee noted that work on ‘The State of the Antarctic Environment Report’ has been under way for some time and cautioned that the workload of the Scientific Committee did not allow taking on new obligations. It was noted that CCAMLR already summarises data and results from its fisheries and ecosystem monitoring work. CEP should be encouraged to develop – and summarise – work of a complementary nature, including topics such as environmental pollution and diseases.

#### SCAR

9.4 Dr Fanta, CCAMLR Observer at SCAR and SCAR Observer at CCAMLR, reported on intersessional activities of the SCAR Life Sciences Standing Scientific Group (LSSSG), during the 2002/03 intersessional period (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/32):

- (i) The Group on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms – EVOLANTA – held a workshop on ‘Evolutionary Adaptation of Antarctic Marine Organisms’, in Pontignano, Italy, in December 2002, and contributions will be published in a special issue of *Antarctic Science* in 2004. Interaction with groups within CCAMLR conducting research on molecular markers, and stocks identification should be improved, and collaboration established between EVOLANTA and a future WG-FSA initiative to examine ‘The influence of Southern Ocean physical dynamics on the population structure and movements of *D. eleginoides* and

*D. mawsoni*?. An EVOLANTA webpage (under construction) aims to be a tool to favour multilateral and international collaboration, and shall establish links with the SCAR and the CCAMLR websites.

- (ii) The Expert Groups on Seals and Birds have continued their work to help SCAR to provide scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty System on specially protected species. Information and data are supplied to WG-EMM and CEMP every five years.
- (iii) A symposium held in Plymouth, UK, in May 2003, by the Expert Group on Human Biology and Medicine, on 'Extreme Medicine and Antarctica' has outcomes that are important for all those who participate in Antarctic expeditions, surveys or fisheries.
- (iv) A Marine Biodiversity Information Network is proposed aiming to contribute to the compilation, dissemination, and integration of fundamental biodiversity information on Antarctic marine biodiversity for scientific, monitoring, management and conservation purposes, and might provide useful information for ecosystem monitoring purposes in CCAMLR.
- (v) The first part of the XXVIII SCAR meeting will be held in Bremen, Germany, from 25 to 31 July 2004 when LSSSG will meet around an Open Science Conference ([www.scar28.org](http://www.scar28.org)).
- (vi) The IX SCAR Biology International Symposium will be held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 24 to 28 July 2005. A wide participation of Antarctic scientists, including those involved in the work of national programs, SCAR and CCAMLR is expected.

9.5 The Scientific Committee welcomed this report. It noted that in considering establishing any marine biodiversity information network, due consideration should be given to existing Biodiversity Information Networks like OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System) and GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility).

#### Reports of Observers from International Organisations

##### IWC

9.6 The IWC Observer, Dr Kock, reported on relevant elements from the meeting of SC-IWC held in Berlin, Germany, 26 May to 6 June 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/2):

- (i) Progress with respect to the collaboration with SO GLOBEC and CCAMLR was presented during two key note lectures given by Dr J. Watkins (IWC–CCAMLR) and Prof. Hofmann (IWC–SO GLOBEC). The presentation on IWC–CAMLR activities focussed on krill, its physical environment, competition and predators. There are marked interactions between the physical environment and population dynamics of krill.

- (ii) The 2002/03 SOWER cruise initially planned to cover the Ross Sea region had to be modified due to the unfavourable ice conditions which provided no access to the Ross Sea.
- (iii) A new abundance estimate was provided from the SOWER cruise 2001/02 for minke whales in the western part of Area V (130–150°E). The estimate was 9 593 (5 950–15 460).
- (iv) A total of 440 minke whales was caught within the CCAMLR Convention Area under the remit of the IWC in 2002/03.
- (v) Blue whales are still found in low numbers. However, over the last 20 years the population of blue whales found in the Southern Ocean has increased 2–3 times from about 700.
- (vi) The Southern Ocean Sanctuary which was established in 1994 will be reviewed by the SC-IWC in 2004.

#### CCSBT

9.7 A report from the Fourth Meeting of CCSBT-ERSWG held in Tokyo, Japan, from 26 to 28 November 2001 (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/21) was introduced by Japan. It contained 10 attachments, several of which indicated the similarity in problems discussed in this group to those of CCAMLR, e.g. regarding mitigation procedures and scientific observer programs.

9.8 The Scientific Committee welcomed this report and encouraged all members of CCSBT to submit to WG-IMAF, papers from the ERSWG relevant to the work of the CCAMLR group. It noted that the meeting was held two years ago and hoped to receive updated information from papers tabled for the next meeting of the group, to be held in February 2004 in New Zealand.

#### ASOC

9.9 ASOC introduced CCAMLR-XXII/BG/27. It commended the work of WG-FSA and its quick reaction to the discovery of errors in its assessment of toothfish in Subarea 48.3. The most precautionary and conservative advice possible is required at this time to prevent long-term damage to the fishery. ASOC commended the Scientific Committee for agreeing to provide advice to the Commission. It was pleased that the setting of the catch limit in Subarea 48.3 will not be a purely political decision. However, ASOC was disappointed that the Scientific Committee chose to account for only one of the two errors. The most precautionary and practical advice would have been to account for both errors and recommend a lower catch limit. ASOC looked forward to WG-FSA's precautionary and conservative correction next year, which it expected would lead to a much reduced catch limit. ASOC commended WG-EMM's diligence in developing a management plan for krill based on SSMUs that protect predators. It reminded the Scientific Committee of predictions earlier in the week that the trigger level could be reached as soon as five to six years from now. ASOC certainly hoped that the krill management plan is ready. Finally, ASOC

reminded the Scientific Committee that the definition of IUU fishing is ‘Illegal OR Unreported OR Unregulated Fishing’. Each of these fisheries has similarly damaging effects on marine ecosystems. There have been disturbing discussions this week that suggest that unregulated fishing in Areas 51 and 57 are not illegal and therefore cause no damage. Unregulated fishing is included in the FAO definition of IUU fishing precisely because it is equally as damaging to the ecosystem as illegal fishing.

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

##### CWP

9.10 The Data Manager participated in the 20th Session of the CWP which was held in January 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/4). Topics discussed included:

- development of global initiatives for improving the quality of fishery information, including observer data and statistics on by-catch;
- harmonisation of global fishery statistics and other information on fisheries resources;
- exchange of trade data including information on commodity classification;
- exchange of data on landings and fleet statistics.

9.11 With regard to statistics on by-catch, the Scientific Committee noted that some CWP Members had further developed their by-catch species data collection. However some CWP Members (e.g. IOTC, SPC, CCSBT) were not mandated to collect data on by-catch but are working towards the implementation of data collection.

9.12 At its 20th Session, CWP had urged its members to provide CCAMLR with information on incidental catches of Southern Ocean seabirds and other species arising from fishing in areas adjacent to CCAMLR’s Convention Area. In addition, CWP Members were encouraged to consider ways of improving and standardising the reporting of by-catch of non-fish species (e.g. seabirds, turtles).

9.13 CWP is proposing to review and develop quality indicators for fisheries data. This work is linked to the implementation of some elements of FAO’s Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The proposal will address the needs for improved data quality and methods for maintaining information quality and security. The proposal may also include methodology for developing an understanding of the cost-effectiveness of improved statistical projects and programs in supporting improved fisheries science and better management.

9.14 The Scientific Committee noted that CWP had recommended that any statistical boundary changes should only be implemented if historical data can be adjusted to retain consistent time series.

## FIRMS-FIGIS

9.15 CCAMLR-XXII/45 provided a watching brief on FIRMS which is being developed under the auspice of CWP, of which CCAMLR is a member. The central element of FIRMS is a partnership of national institutions, mandated national governments and intergovernmental bodies that hold responsibilities for the preparation and publication of fisheries information. This partnership will be established by bilateral arrangements between the hosting FIRMS partner (FAO) and each of the other FIRMS partners. These arrangements define the responsibilities of the partners and the ownership and security of the information provided.

9.16 The first set of partnership arrangements will be implemented in 2004. The founding partners will be CWP Members and these are likely to include FAO, IATTC, ICCAT, ICES, IOTC, NAFO and SPC. Partners will form a Steering Committee, which will oversee the further development and operation of FIRMS.

9.17 The Scientific Committee recollected the advice last year from WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XXI, Annex 5, paragraphs 13.2 to 13.5), in which it reported that it was unable to identify any obvious benefit to WG-FSA from the proposed partnership. It was noted that nothing of relevance had changed to revise this conclusion. Therefore, 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.

## ICES

9.18 The report from the 2003 meeting of ICES in Tallinn, Estonia, 26 September to 1 October 2003 (SC-CAMLR-XXII/BG/22), was introduced by the rapporteur of this section.

9.19 ICES has the dual function of coordinating and promoting marine research in the North Atlantic and to supply advice to international organisations, foremost the European Commission. The meeting was attended by more than 500 scientists from the 19 ICES Member States and a number of international organisations.

9.20 Many items of interest to CCAMLR were discussed, for example:

- stock recovery and recovery plans;
- management within the precautionary approach;
- the role of benthic communities as indicators of environmental quality and ecosystem change;
- a dialogue meeting on ecosystem approaches will take place in Dublin, Ireland, 26 to 27 April 2004.

9.21 The Scientific Committee noted that additional information, reporting on interactions between working groups and these and new organisations, can be found in the WG-FSA report (e.g. Annex 5, paragraphs 6.161 to 6.197).

#### Future Cooperation

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

- Deep Sea 2003 Conference, 1 to 5 December 2003, Queenstown, New Zealand – New Zealand;
- Second South American Workshop on Incidental Mortality of Albatrosses and Petrels, 2 to 6 December 2003, Futrono, Valdivia, Chile – Prof. Moreno;
- 5th Meeting of CCSBT-ERSWG, 2 to 5 February 2004, Wellington, New Zealand – New Zealand;
- Fourth World Fisheries Congress, 2 to 6 May 2004, Vancouver, BC, Canada (see SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 9.33) – WG-EMM and WG-FSA Conveners;
- CEP-VII – Antarctic Treaty, 24 May to 4 June 2004, Cape Town, South Africa – Chair, Scientific Committee;
- Third International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application, 11 to 16 July 2004, Townsville, Queensland, Australia – CCAMLR Otolith Network;
- 56th Annual Meeting of the SC-IWC, 29 June to 10 July 2004, Sorrento, Italy – Dr Kock;
- XXVIII SCAR / XVI COMNAP Science Meeting and Symposium, 25 to 31 July 2004, Bremen, Germany – Dr Fanta;
- ICES Annual Science Conference, 22 to 25 September 2004, Vigo, Spain – Belgium;
- SCOR 2004 General Meeting, 27 to 30 September 2004, Venice, Italy – Italy;
- 4th Biennial International Fisheries Observer Conference, 8 to 11 November 2004, Sydney, Australia – Australia;
- Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), (dates to be decided), Hobart, Australia – Australia.

#### Future Procedure

9.23 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 again 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.