

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD
MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
(Hobart, Australia, 25 to 29 October 2004)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources met under the Chairmanship of Dr R. Holt (USA) from 25 to 29 October 2004 at the Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart, Australia.

1.2 Representatives from the following Members attended the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

1.3 The Chair welcomed to the meeting observers from Mauritius, Netherlands and Peru (Acceding States), Mozambique and Indonesia (non-Contracting Parties), along with observers from ASOC, CCSBT, COLTO, FAO, IUCN, IWC and SCAR, and encouraged them to participate in the meeting as much as possible.

1.4 The List of Participants is given in Annex 1. The List of Documents considered during the meeting is given in Annex 2.

1.5 The following rapporteurs were appointed to prepare the report of the Scientific Committee:

- Dr K. Sullivan (New Zealand) – CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation
- Drs R. Hewitt and P. Penhale (USA) – Ecosystem monitoring and management
- Dr S. Nicol – Krill resources
- Drs C. Jones (USA) and C. Davies (Australia) – Fish resources (except by-catch)
- Mr B. Watkins (South Africa) – Fish by-catch
- Dr G. Kirkwood (UK) – New and exploratory fisheries
- Dr C. Southwell (Australia) – Crab resources and Squid resources, and Scientific research exemption
- Prof. J. Croxall (UK) – Incidental mortality
- Ms K. Rivera (USA) – Additional monitoring and management issues
- Dr K.-H. Kock (Germany) – Management under conditions of uncertainty about stock size and sustainable yield
- Prof. B. Fernholm (Sweden) – Cooperation with other organisations
- Dr D. Ramm (Secretariat) – all other matters.

Adoption of Agenda

1.6 The Provisional Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/1). The Scientific Committee agreed to expand Subitem 13(ii) to include consideration of the structure of the report from WG-FSA, and Item 14 to cover the election of a Vice-Chair. With these additions, the Agenda was adopted (Annex 3).

Report of the Chair

Intersessional meetings

1.7 The following meetings of working groups of the Scientific Committee were held during 2004:

- (i) The tenth meeting of WG-EMM was held from 12 to 23 July in Siena, Italy. It was convened by Dr Hewitt and attended by 36 participants, representing 13 Members.

The Workshop on Plausible Ecosystem Models for Testing Approaches to Krill Management was held during the first week of WG-EMM, from 12 to 16 July and was convened by Dr A. Constable (Australia). Attendees at the workshop included an invited expert, Dr B. Fulton, from CSIRO in Australia.

- (ii) The meeting of WG-FSA was held in Hobart from 11 to 22 October, prior to the Scientific Committee meeting. It was convened by Dr S. Hanchet (New Zealand).

WG-FSA-SAM met from 5 to 9 July in Siena, Italy, immediately prior to the WG-EMM meeting, and was convened by Dr Constable.

- (iii) Ad hoc WG-IMAF conducted its meeting as part of WG-FSA-04. It was convened by Prof. Croxall.

1.8 On behalf of the Scientific Committee, the Chair thanked the conveners for their significant contributions to the intersessional meetings. The report of WG-EMM is attached as Annex 4 and that of WG-FSA, including ad hoc WG-IMAF, as Annex 5.

CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation

1.9 Scientific observations reported under the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and submitted to CCAMLR are summarised in SC-CAMLR-XXIII/BG/6. In accordance with the scheme, scientific observers were deployed on all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area. A total of 55 observation programs was undertaken (for 44 longline and 11 trawl vessels). In addition, a single observation cruise was carried out on board a krill fishing vessel and data were reported in accordance with the scheme.

Fisheries

1.10 Under the conservation measures in force in the 2003/04 season (1 December 2003 to 30 November 2004), Members fished in 10 managed fisheries:

- fishery for *Champscephalus gunnari* in Subarea 48.3
- fishery for *Champscephalus gunnari* in Division 58.5.2
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 48.6
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Division 58.5.2
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.2
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.3b
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1
- exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.2
- fishery for *Euphausia superba* in Area 48.

1.11 In addition, four other managed fisheries were conducted in the Convention Area in 2003/04:

- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Division 58.5.1 (French EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.6 (French EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.6 (South African EEZ)
- fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 58.7 (South African EEZ).

1.12 In all, 16 Members fished: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, UK, Uruguay and the USA. In addition, Vanuatu fished for krill.

1.13 Based on data submitted to CCAMLR by 24 September 2004, and subject to various conservation measures in force for 2003/04, Members have reported a total catch of 87 133 tonnes of krill, 13 307 tonnes of toothfish and 2 737 tonnes of icefish from the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/BG/1). A number of other species have been taken as by-catch (Annex 5, Tables 6.3 and 6.4).

Scientific Committee representation at meetings of other international organisations

1.14 The Scientific Committee was represented at a number of meetings of other international organisations during the intersessional period. Observers' reports from these meetings were considered in detail under Agenda Item 9.