

CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

2.1 For the 2003/04 season, reports and data were submitted by international and national observers from a total of 44 cruises fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. using longlines in the Convention Area. Cruises were undertaken in Subareas 48.3 (16), 48.6 (1), 58.6 and 58.7 (2), 88.1 and 88.2 (22), and in Divisions 58.4.2 and 58.4.3b (1) and 58.5.2 (2). Observers were deployed by eight Members: Australia (1), Chile (7), Russia (5), South Africa (14), Spain (1), Ukraine (2), UK (12) and Uruguay (2).

2.2 Trawl cruises fishing for finfish in Subarea 48.3 (6) and in Division 58.5.2 (5) were observed by 11 scientific observers (6 international and 5 national) provided by: Australia (5), South Africa (2), Spain (1) and the UK (3). A single trawl cruise fishing for krill in Area 48 was observed by a single international observer designated by Ukraine.

2.3 In the krill fishery, six sets of international scientific observer data were submitted for the 2002/03 fishing season, bringing the total submissions over all years to 14. Eleven of these datasets were submitted in the last two years by observers on board krill trawlers operating in Subarea 48.3 (South Georgia) (Annex 4, paragraph 3.22).

2.4 Observers on several krill fishing vessels noted that Antarctic fur seals were always present during krill fishing operations and described several incidental entanglements. It was also noted that entanglements were most common when the crews had limited experience in the krill fishery and that simple mitigation measures substantially reduced the problem. Accordingly, WG-EMM requested that descriptions of mitigation measures be submitted to ad hoc WG-IMAF as a matter of priority, and that once advice had been developed it would expect to recommend that mitigation measures be deployed on all krill fishing vessels (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.23 to 3.25).

2.5 WG-EMM recommended that international scientific observers continue to be placed on as many krill vessels as possible. Some participants considered that a high level of observation would be required to acquire the information necessary to determine sampling protocols, and that this ought to apply equally to all krill fisheries (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.29 and 3.30).

2.6 WG-EMM agreed to establish a dialogue with krill fishing vessel operators in order to obtain information on krill distribution patterns, overwintering tactics of krill, interactions between krill predators and the fishery, by-catch and the behaviour of fishing vessels. In particular, it was noted that the capture of acoustic data from echosounders used routinely on board fishing vessels could be valuable in describing distribution patterns. Members with an interest in collaborating on this topic were encouraged to develop appropriate proposals (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.31 to 3.42).

2.7 The Scientific Committee reiterated its advice (SC-CAMLR-XXI, paragraph 2.3) that all technical coordinators ensure that only the current versions of cruise reports and logbook forms be used, and should ensure that observers are aware of the correct data fields when recording data. In particular, observers need to be reminded to familiarise themselves with changes to the cruise reports, logbooks and associated instructions, and that all data fields requested need to be completed. Current observation requirements as detailed in conservation measures are summarised in Annex 5, Table 11.1.

2.8 Based on a recommendation received from WG-FSA, the Scientific Committee and the Commission agreed that there should be a major review of the *Scientific Observers Manual* (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 2.10 and Annex 5, paragraph 10.45; CCAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 4.5 and 6.17(iv)). The review refers to consideration of the manual format, structure and contents.

2.9 WG-EMM recommended that the review of the *Scientific Observers Manual* include consideration of: (i) the number of samples required for description of the catch of krill and the by-catch of other species; (ii) observer access to the factory decks in order to assess conversion factors and by-catch; (iii) extent of observer coverage required for unbiased data; and (iv) should include a meeting and/or correspondence involving practicing observers and observer coordinators (Annex 4, paragraph 3.43).

2.10 The Secretariat consulted intersessionally with technical coordinators and members of WG-FSA and WG-EMM in order to clarify potential shortcomings of the current manual and to elaborate a plan of work on the proposed review (WG-FSA-04/16). Several reasons for the proposed review of the manual were identified in the consultation. In general, the key need was that following extensive development and additions over many years, the manual is now due for an overhaul of its structure and contents (as it is also done periodically for other CCAMLR manuals and guidelines).

2.11 WG-FSA recommended that in order to accomplish the proposed review, the Scientific Committee and its working groups should first review research priorities for different fisheries, target and by-catch species and the types of data to be collected to allow research priorities to be met. An initial assessment of data collected by observers, an assessment of whether the collected data are used and the source of the data request are given in Annex 5, Table 11.2. This initial review needs additional input from other working groups and technical coordinators. The next stage of the review would be to determine whether existing data collection and recording protocols meet the identified data collection requirements. This phase should include development of clear guidance on prioritisation of observer tasks where requested data collection exceeds the time available to the observer at sea. The final stage of the review would be consideration of the most appropriate structure, format and contents of the manual.

2.12 In 2004, WG-FSA was not able to undertake the review of the manual and estimated that the proposed review of the manual could require more than one intersessional period. The Secretariat was requested to arrange for intersessional work in consultation with Mr N. Smith (New Zealand) and Dr E. Balguerías (Spain), technical coordinators of national observer programs and, as required, with other members of WG-FSA/ad hoc WG-IMAF and WG-EMM. The Working Group noted that additional resources, possibly including external consultants, may be needed to undertake the review in a comprehensive and timely manner.

2.13 The Secretariat advised that such consultant input could be estimated at comprising approximately 20 working days in 2005/06 and would cost about A\$7 200. This would be additional to the A\$20 000 allocated in the 2004/05 budget for Secretariat involvement in the manual's revision.

2.14 Unlike previous years, this year WG-FSA has not comprehensively assessed all CCAMLR scientific observer reports to compile and analyse additional data on compliance with relevant conservation measures. While this was mainly due to the large volume of

observer reports received this year, WG-FSA felt it was inappropriate for it to carry out this type of analysis. The Scientific Committee recommended that SCIC could take initial responsibility for this function in future given its role and expertise in relation to compliance matters.

2.15 WG-FSA suggested that the Scientific Committee inform SCIC of the information identified by WG-FSA as relevant to its business, and that it may wish to further investigate electronic monitoring as a potential additional tool for monitoring compliance with conservation measures in future (Annex 5, paragraphs 11.56 to 11.60).

2.16 The Scientific Committee noted the recommendations by WG-FSA on data to be collected by observers (Annex 5, paragraphs 11.12 to 11.29).

2.17 The Scientific Committee endorsed the additions and modifications to the *Scientific Observers Manual* logbook data recording and reporting sheets, and instructions to scientific observers and technical coordinators outlined by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 11.61), and supported continuing action taken to ensure observer safety at sea (Annex 5, paragraph 11.9).

2.18 The Scientific Committee recommended the participation of Secretariat staff in the Fourth International Fisheries Observer Conference to be held from 8 to 11 November 2004 in Sydney, Australia, and the importance of feedback after that conference on the implementation of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation (Annex 5, paragraph 11.55).

Advice to the Commission

2.19 The Scientific Committee recommended:

- (i) that international scientific observers continue to be placed on as many krill vessels as possible (paragraph 2.5);
- (ii) that the timing and cost of the review of the *Scientific Observers Manual* (paragraphs 2.8 to 2.13) should be noted by the Commission;
- (iii) that SCIC should take initial responsibility for the review of compliance with conservation measures using scientific observer reports (paragraph 2.14);
- (iv) the implementation of changes to observer data collection outlined in paragraphs 2.16 and 2.17.