

INTERSESSIONAL WORK

Intersessional activities during 2004/05

13.1 The Scientific Committee accepted with great pleasure Dr Naganobu's invitation, on behalf of Japan, to host the 2005 meeting of WG-EMM (two weeks) and the meeting of WG-FSA-SAM (one week) during the period from 27 June to 22 July 2005. These meetings would be held in the Tokyo area, and the exact dates of the meetings would be announced as soon as possible. Major activities scheduled by the Scientific Committee in the 2004/05 intersessional period are listed in Annex 6.

13.2 The Scientific Committee reviewed and endorsed the intersessional work plans of WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4, Table 4), WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 5, Table 13.1) and ad hoc WG-IMAF (Annex 5, Appendix D).

13.3 The following CCAMLR meetings are planned during the 2004/05 intersessional period:

- meeting of WG-EMM scheduled in the Tokyo area, Japan, during a two-week period between 27 June and 22 July 2005;
- meeting of WG-FSA, including ad hoc WG-IMAF, scheduled in Hobart from 10 to 21 October 2005;
- meeting of WG-FSA-SAM scheduled in the Tokyo area, Japan, during the week immediately prior to WG-EMM-05.

13.4 In addition, a second workshop on the age determination of *C. gunnari* is scheduled in 2005 (Annex 5, paragraphs 9.8 to 9.12). The dates and venue of the meeting will be determined in consultation with the subgroup members and information will be circulated to the Scientific Committee in early 2005.

13.5 Following recommendations from WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 4.89 to 4.93 and 4.123) and WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 10.8) to establish SG-ASAM, Members agreed to make available experts for consultation, particularly those associated with the ICES-FAST Working Group (see also paragraphs 3.94 and 3.95). It was tentatively agreed that the first meeting of SG-ASAM would be held sometime before the 2005 meeting of WG-EMM in July. It was also agreed that the terms of reference would be restricted to issues with respect to krill surveys, namely: (i) alternative models of krill target strength and (ii) delineation of volume backscattering attributed to krill versus other taxa. The Scientific Committee endorsed a plan offered by Dr Hewitt as Convener of WG-EMM, whereby a circular announcing the meeting and specifying the terms of reference would be sent to all Members. Members could then elect to send an expert to the meeting with the understanding that recommendations with respect to the analysis of acoustic krill surveys would be forwarded to WG-EMM for consideration at their 2005 meeting.

13.6 The Scientific Committee noted Dr Hewitt's need to retire as the Convener of WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 8.3). It was agreed that the incoming Chair of the Scientific Committee would canvass Members with a view of finding a new convener for WG-EMM in the coming year.

Revision of the Scientific Committee agenda
and format of the WG-FSA report

13.7 The Scientific Committee noted that the Chair had further considered the format of the agenda in consultation with the conveners of WG-EMM and WG-FSA. No further changes had been proposed.

13.8 The Scientific Committee reviewed the format of the WG-FSA report. The report, in the format submitted to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIII/4), contained approximately 240 pages of text and 40 pages of tables. Translation of the report had pushed the Secretariat's resources to breaking point, and staff had worked very long hours in order that the report be available to the Scientific Committee, in all languages, by the second day of its meeting.

13.9 While the Scientific Committee acknowledged the significant improvements arising from the restructure of the report, it was generally agreed that the report, in its present format, had become unmanageable.

13.10 Two options were considered to improve the focus of the report and the accessibility of information to the Scientific Committee and the Commission. Both options focused on retaining management advice and information essential to the work of the Scientific Committee in the body of the report. The two options differed in the way in which the remaining text, which provided background information and advice for future work of WG-FSA, would be presented.

13.11 Under Option 1, the remaining text would be placed in an appendix to the report. This appendix would be translated during the intersessional period and published with the report of WG-FSA. Under Option 2, the remaining text would be placed in a SC-CAMLR background document. These documents are not translated and the information contained within is subject to the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data. Both options resulted in a significant reduction in the size of the WG-FSA report, as illustrated by an example prepared by the Convener of WG-FSA.

13.12 The Scientific Committee acknowledged the editorial difficulties faced by the Convener in preparing the example report. In order to facilitate this process during future meetings of WG-FSA, the Scientific Committee offered the following guidance:

- rapporteurs at WG-FSA be encouraged to remove background documentation from the main body of the report;
- in cases where consensus is not reached, the report of WG-FSA should include a balanced presentation of the various views;
- the main body of the report should include the detail necessary to understand the development of each element of management advice.

13.13 The Scientific Committee agreed that Option 1 would best suit the needs of Members, and this option should be used to guide the format of future reports of WG-FSA. Further, it was agreed that the new format should be kept under review, and that WG-FSA should strive to identify material in its reports which may be placed in documents which do not require translation.

13.14 The Scientific Committee considered the request of WG-EMM for it to consider how best to coordinate and structure its work given the overlap between the working groups and the need to give more time to consider some issues (Annex 4, paragraphs 6.28 to 6.30). The Scientific Committee agreed that the strategic planning work forecast by WG-EMM could become a general planning workshop for the Scientific Committee to consider how best to structure its work, including harmonising the work of the working groups. It invited submissions on these matters from Members to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee with the intention of facilitating discussion on the terms of reference, timing and preparation for a workshop.

Invitation of observers to the next meeting

13.15 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2004 meeting, as well as ACAP, would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXIV.

Next meeting

13.16 The Scientific Committee noted that arrangements have been made for the next meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Commission to be held in Hobart from 24 October to 4 November 2005.