

## SECRETARIAT SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

### Data Management

12.1 The Scientific Committee noted the Data Manager's report (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/6) which outlined the work undertaken by the Data Management team in 2004/05, and measures taken to maintain the integrity of CCAMLR data.

#### Development of analytical routines and databases

12.2 A number of analytical routines and databases were revised and extended during the intersessional period.

- (i) a new trial electronic version of the *CCAMLR Statistical Bulletin* (eSB) was developed as a Microsoft Access database (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/5). This development was discussed in paragraphs 4.16 to 4.18;
- (ii) the routine for generating catch-weighted length frequencies was reviewed and further developed following intersessional consultation (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4);
- (iii) a procedure was developed for identifying hauls which matched the criteria of the research plan under Conservation Measure 41-01 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 5, paragraph 5.20);
- (iv) a method is being developed to treat 'missing catch values' for by-catch species using estimates derived from the mean weights of by-catch species by fishing gear, region and period (Annex 5, paragraph 3.5);
- (v) further developments were undertaken in the tagging database, which is now being populated with data (Annex 5, paragraph 3.6) and the ageing database;
- (vi) the new CEMP method for calculating the growth rate of fur seal pups (SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 4, paragraphs 4.103 and 4.104) was further developed. The mean annual growth deviate is now calculated for male and female pups, and separate time series of this index (C2b) were presented to WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 4.1);
- (vii) measures of fishery–predator overlap in krill fisheries in Area 48 were further developed. Overlap indices can now be estimated taking account of variations in predation rates between species, SSMUs, month and depth zone of foraging. This progress was presented to WG-EMM using a relative measure of overlap based on the Fishing-to-Predation Index (Annex 4, paragraph 4.1).

## Data processing

12.3 All fishery and observer data from 2004/05 submitted prior to the 2005 meetings of WG-FSA and WG-IMAF had been processed in time for these meetings (Annex 5, paragraph 3.28). In addition, fishery data from the French EEZs in Division 58.5.1 and Subarea 58.6 in 2004/05 (to August 2005) were also submitted. Preliminary validation of the data for 2004/05 was undertaken prior to WG-FSA-05.

12.4 Validation and logic testing on CEMP data continued and is now complete for data submitted to 1 June 2005. CEMP indices were updated and presented to WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 4.1).

## CCAMLR fisheries

12.5 Notifications for new or exploratory fisheries, and krill fisheries, were collated by the Data Management team. Twelve Members submitted paid notifications for exploratory fisheries in 2005/06 (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/5). Notifications for krill fisheries in 2005/06 were considered by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 3.7).

12.6 In 2004/05, the Data Management team monitored 179 catch limits for managed species in SSRUs, management areas, divisions, subareas and areas (CCAMLR-XXIV/BG/13). The majority of these limits were monitored at five-day intervals between December 2004 and August 2005. The CCAMLR model for forecasting fishery closures was used routinely, once the reported catch of a managed species exceeded 50% of its catch limit, and this resulted in the closure of 16 fishing areas.

12.7 Most of the closures were triggered when the catch of a target species (*Dissostichus* spp.) approached the agreed limit. However, on four occasions in the exploratory fishery in Subarea 88.1, closures were triggered by the catch of a by-catch species (*Macrourus* spp.) approaching the limit. Events which lead to the closure of fisheries and SSRUs, and in some cases over-runs of catch limits, are summarised in CCAMLR-XXIV/BG/13.

12.8 In 2004/05, the Secretariat's workload associated with monitoring fisheries increased markedly. This is illustrated by using the volume of catch and effort reports submitted to the Secretariat as a proxy for the workload associated with monitoring fisheries. The number of catch and effort reports submitted over the past five seasons was as follows:

- 2000/01        778 records
- 2001/02        489 records
- 2002/03        707 records
- 2003/04        625 records
- 2004/05        1 018 records.

12.9 The increase in workload in 2004/05 is largely a result of increased fishing effort in exploratory fisheries and the large number of parameters which need to be monitored in these fisheries.

12.10 The Data Management team has maintained the database which holds the information on Fishery Plans (Annex 5, paragraph 3.12) and key data for 2004/05 have been added to the time series. The inventory of Fishery Plans is listed in Table 9.

## Publications

12.11 The Scientific Committee noted that the following documents had been published in 2005 in support of its work:

- (i) Report of the Twenty-third Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- (ii) *CCAMLR Science*, Volume 12 (published immediately prior to CCAMLR-XXIV)
- (iii) *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts 2004*, available on the CCAMLR website
- (iv) *Statistical Bulletin*, Volume 17
- (v) Revisions to the *Scientific Observers Manual*.

12.12 The Scientific Committee agreed that language support for *CCAMLR Science* would be required in 2006. The Commission had approved level funding for 2006 (see Section 10).

## Guidelines for the submission of meeting documents

12.13 At the request of SC-CAMLR-XXIII, the Secretariat prepared a single reference document which provides guidelines for the submission of meeting documents to the Scientific Committee, WG-EMM and WG-FSA (including ad hoc WG-IMAF). In doing so, the Secretariat noted some working group-specific differences in relation to: submission deadline, exception to the deadline, and approach to accepting revised documents. These specific differences were considered by both WG-EMM and WG-FSA.

12.14 WG-EMM agreed that standardising the Working Groups' guidelines in relation to the submission of meeting documents would simplify and unite the guidelines which participants to both WG-EMM and WG-FSA are required to follow. Standardisation would also simplify the Secretariat's work in preparing information and documents for meetings. Consequently, WG-EMM agreed to a proposal to standardise the specific differences which related to the submission of documents to its meetings.

12.15 In revising its guidelines, WG-EMM also agreed to the following points (Annex 4, paragraphs 7.14 to 7.20):

- (i) Papers would not be limited to 15 pages, but authors should note that long papers may not be given full attention if there is limited time.
- (ii) In relation to the submission of published papers to the meeting, WG-EMM agreed that authors should continue to provide an electronic version of the published paper. It was also agreed that the author of the published paper was responsible for any copyright issue arising from the submission to the meeting.
- (iii) Papers that were 'in press' at the time of the meeting should be considered as published documents with respect to copyright.

- (iv) References to in-press and published papers should continue to be listed under 'Other Documents' in the 'List of Documents' which is appended to the report.
- (v) There is a need for easily identifying published papers for which the authors have requested consideration by the Working Group. The Secretariat was asked to consider a simple method for identifying such papers, for the purpose of the meeting.
- (vi) All meeting documents distributed by the Secretariat should be in locked pdf format to avoid any unauthorised use or incidental change to the text. However, in order to facilitate the work of the rapporteurs, it was agreed that the one-page synopses should be made available separately and in unlocked pdf during the meeting.

WG-FSA considered its submission guidelines, and agreed to amend its guidelines to include points (i) to (vi) above.

12.16 The Scientific Committee endorsed the changes to the guidelines for the submission of meeting documents to WG-EMM and WG-FSA, and requested that the Secretariat place the agreed guidelines on the Scientific Committee's webpage. Members were urged to follow these guidelines when submitting documents at future meetings.

#### Access to meeting documents

12.17 The Scientific Committee considered WG-FSA's proposal that documents submitted at previous meetings be made available electronically in a reference library at future meetings of WG-FSA and, generally, CCAMLR working groups (Annex 5, paragraph 14.34).

12.18 The Scientific Committee recalled that, under the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data, meeting documents shall not be cited or used for purposes other than the work of the CCAMLR Commission, Scientific Committee or their subsidiary bodies without the written permission of the originators and/or owners of the data therein. These documents are presented for consideration by CCAMLR and may contain unpublished data, analyses and/or conclusions subject to change.

12.19 The Scientific Committee endorsed this proposal and agreed that an electronic reference library of all relevant meeting documents should be made available generally to meeting participants under the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data (see also Item 15).

#### Trial electronic volume of the *Statistical Bulletin*

12.20 The Scientific Committee considered the trial electronic version of the *Statistical Bulletin* (eSB) which the Secretariat had developed at the request of WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XXI, Annex 5, paragraph 13.8). This development was reported in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/5.

12.21 The eSB, which supports all four official languages, would allow users to replicate the six sections which are published in the hard copy of the bulletin, namely:

- Section A Maps and standard abbreviations.
- Section B Catch and effort data based on STATLANT data which are reported by Members. Catch statistics are presented for all taxa of fish and invertebrates reported in the STATLANT data.
- Section C Catch histories for species which have a total reported catch in any one season of more than 2 000 tonnes. Catches are taken from the STATLANT data.
- Section D Fine-scale catches of target species, plotted by fine-scale rectangle (0.5° latitude by 1° longitude) and three-month period (quarter), in Area 48 based on aggregated fine-scale data.
- Section E Landing and trade data reported under the CDS for *Dissostichus* spp.
- Section F Seabed areas used in fishery assessments conducted by WG-FSA. These areas are mostly derived from the global and seafloor topography dataset of Sandwell and Smith.

12.22 In addition, the eSB would allow users to access the complete dataset of statistics underlying Sections B to E and to develop user-defined queries to summarise these data, generate tables and graphics, and extract selected data (as requested by WG-FSA).

12.23 Users of the eSB would have access to the following datasets:

- (i) STATLANT data, as submitted by Members;
- (ii) aggregated fine-scale data. These data are highly aggregated and do not allow users to obtain vessel-specific, location-specific or country-specific information. The aggregated fine-scale data available in the eSB are limited to the following fields:
  - Species (code, name)
  - Area (subarea, division)
  - Coordinates of the fine-scale rectangle
  - Season
  - Month
  - Quarter
  - Catch (tonnes);
- (iii) aggregated CDS data, as presented in tables in Section E of the hardcopy;
- (iv) seabed areas, as presented in Section F of the hardcopy.

12.24 The Scientific Committee noted that aggregated fine-scale data for target species in Area 48 have been published in the bulletin in graphic form since 1990, and in digital format since 2002 (in the Excel version of the electronic volume). These data do not contain any effort information and could not be used to calculate catch rates.

12.25 The Scientific Committee noted the comments of WG-FSA on the publication of aggregated fine-scale data in the eSB (Annex 5, paragraphs 14.10 to 14.13):

- (i) the concern by some Members that these data, although aggregated, may provide information which may be used by IUU fishing vessels and that it may also divulge proprietary information;
- (ii) the trade-off between protecting confidential information and providing detailed information to users;
- (iii) the three options for addressing these concerns:
  - (a) accept that the aggregated fine-scale data were sufficiently aggregated to protect the interests of Members;
  - (b) categorise the catch reported in the aggregated fine-scale data using a scale similar to that currently used to plot catches for Area 48;
  - (c) make the data available to Members only, according to the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data;
- (iv) the need for the Scientific Committee and the Commission to address this issue and decide on an appropriate approach concerning fine-scale data.

12.26 The Scientific Committee agreed that the policy governing the publication of aggregated fine-scale data should be uniformly applied to all fisheries in all areas.

12.27 The Scientific Committee requested that the Commission determine the policy for publication of aggregated fine-scale data, including whether it should be available in the *Statistical Bulletin*, taking into account the comments in paragraphs 12.21 to 12.24. This policy should be determined in relation to both the trial eSB and the annual hard copy publication.

#### Internet newsgroup

12.28 The Scientific Committee endorsed the Secretariat's proposal for establishing an Internet newsgroup in support of working groups' activities (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/9). The Scientific Committee agreed that the Internet newsgroup would be established in accordance with agreed terms of reference, and would not require any moderation by the Secretariat. Funding for the development of the newsgroup system would be provided by the Commission (paragraph 10.1).