

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Reorganisation of the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

13.1 Dr Constable introduced SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/30, the latest version of proposals, earlier versions of which had been discussed in some detail at WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 7.21 to 7.28) and WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 4.15 to 4.27), to streamline the work of the Scientific Committee by reorganising aspects of the nature, operation and work programs of its subsidiary groups. In introducing his paper, Dr Constable noted:

- (i) a number of factors are impinging on the work of the Scientific Committee, including:
 - (a) an increasingly heavy workload for the working groups;
 - (b) the increasing expectations and work needing to be undertaken by WG-FSA-SAM in its one-week meeting;
 - (c) the need to attract new members to the working groups;
 - (d) the need to accommodate the increasing number of global initiatives, especially to do with the conservation of high-seas biodiversity;
- (ii) two themes of work are paramount in the work of the Scientific Committee, which had been discussed at the 2005 CCAMLR Symposium in Valdivia, Chile:
 - (a) developing an ecosystem-based approach to managing the krill, toothfish and icefish fisheries, including reviewing the decision rules used for all fisheries to be confident that they are couched in terms of the latest theory on the ecosystem effects of fishing on target species such as top predators;
 - (b) the development of methods and advice to satisfactorily address the conservation of marine biodiversity, such as the use of marine protected areas, which is an issue raised in the United Nations General Assembly;
- (iii) the Scientific Committee and its working groups do not spend sufficient time discussing biological, ecological and conservation theory that might facilitate its work;
- (iv) the work of WG-EMM and WG-FSA has converged in recent years and that the work in these groups might benefit from having the respective experts come together to discuss these common issues rather than working on them independently and in parallel;
- (v) the current work program could potentially be subdivided so that some work could be undertaken less frequently, such as icefish assessments may be undertaken by request of Members following surveys, toothfish assessments might be reviewed every 2–3 years once the assessments are consolidated and krill assessments may be reviewed every 5 years;

- (vi) it is important that the meeting structure and commitments be such that Members with limited budgets and resources remain able to contribute to the work of the Scientific Committee, which may mean that the work program is readjusted to accommodate the highest priority work rather than creating more meetings and workshops to address new issues;
- (vii) the proposal in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/30 took into account many issues raised at WG-EMM and WG-FSA and tried to accommodate the new initiatives, the need for integration of the expertise, the need to streamline the priorities of work and the need to facilitate the participation of all Members of the Scientific Committee in its work.

13.2 The Scientific Committee, particularly via an ad hoc subgroup, discussed the implications of this proposal, taking account of the earlier comments of working groups and additional ideas expressed by participants.

13.3 As a result of these discussions, the Scientific Committee agreed that it was an appropriate time to undertake a detailed appraisal of ways in which the work of the Scientific Committee might be streamlined in order for it to progress its work to help the Commission meet its objectives.

13.4 The Scientific Committee endorsed the need to consider a reorganisation of its work to improve the balance, conduct and integration of work between the major current elements of its work program, particularly:

- (i) fundamental aspects of biology and ecology
- (ii) the development of robust assessment methods
- (iii) the development of appropriate models
- (iv) the application of all these approaches in the development of a full range of advice on conservation and management procedures for systems and stocks.

It recognised that the approach outlined in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/30 was one way to achieve this, and noted that much deliberation on this proposal had already taken place and that the tables in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/30 provide a very valuable overview of the current and prospective work program of the Scientific Committee.

13.5 The Scientific Committee also recognised the need to address various other issues relating to a reorganisation of its work program and the working arrangements for the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary groups, *inter alia*:

- (i) developing a program of workshops closely linked to the main work themes;
- (ii) proposals for elements of intersessional work which could be conducted primarily through electronic communication;
- (iii) review of the structure and function of existing subgroups;
- (iv) review of the frequency with which topics need to be considered by subgroups;
- (v) feasibility of involving additional experts and other resources to supplement the work of the working groups and the Scientific Committee.

13.6 To achieve all this, the Scientific Committee established a Steering Committee, comprising the conveners of its main existing subsidiary groups (WG-EMM, WG-FSA, ad hoc WG-IMAF and WG-FSA-SAM), requesting them to coopt a small number of additional members of the Scientific Committee with complementary expertise and representation. The Steering Committee would be convened by Dr Holt.

13.7 It requested the subgroup to prepare initial proposals for consideration at the 2006 meeting of WG-EMM, and to revise these as appropriate for discussion at the 2006 meetings of WG-FSA and the Scientific Committee. At each stage of the process, the proposals should be available for comment by all Members of the Scientific Committee (e.g. via a specific area of the Scientific Committee section of the CCAMLR website).

13.8 The Scientific Committee noted that, should consensus on the proposed reorganisation be readily achieved at its 2006 meeting, it would not be possible for the necessary changes to take place earlier than at the 2007 meetings of working groups. If the subgroup is required to undertake further work during 2007, then changes could not be implemented until 2008 at the earliest. Existing working group structures and arrangements would be expected to be maintained in the interim.

13.9 The Scientific Committee noted that any changes are likely to have budgetary and related implications. It recognised that whatever changes were recommended and adopted, these were unlikely to require less than five weeks per annum of formal working group meetings (at least initially). Consideration will need to be given as to how to maintain the involvement of Members with limited resources.

13.10 In developing its terms of reference, the Steering Committee recognised that any proposal for change must provide a plan that increases the efficiency of the work of the Scientific Committee, and the emphasis should be on effectiveness rather than speed of implementation. It is important to recall that under the current structures the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR has progressed a number of areas of science very successfully and that the process of change should be regarded as a process of evolution. As with the evolution of WG-Krill and WG-CEMP to WG-EMM, this may not require wholly new working groups with totally new agendas, but that the working group structures would be an appropriate refinement and reorganisation of the existing work programs and initiatives.

13.11 The Scientific Committee approved the following terms of reference for the Steering Committee on the Review of the Structure of the Working Groups of the Scientific Committee:

1. The work of the Steering Committee should be considered in three parts:
 - (i) review of science priorities and impediments to achievement;
 - (ii) provide options to facilitate the work of the Scientific Committee including an appropriate implementation schedule;
 - (iii) provide a decision paper to the Scientific Committee.

2. The review process should include the examination of alternative options that might include the following:
 - (i) how the current structure of the working groups might be developed and what mechanisms may be required for greater interaction between them;
 - (ii) produce revised terms of reference for the existing working groups to better address the objectives of the Scientific Committee;
 - (iii) collate the current priorities of the Scientific Committee and the existing working groups and then to design a structure capable of delivering these priorities.
3. Any changes that are to be implemented should not negatively impact the delivery of advice to the Scientific Committee. Therefore the Steering Committee should develop an implementation schedule such that the transition from the existing structures to any arrangements has a minimal impact on the delivery of scientific advice to the Scientific Committee. The implementation schedule for the different options will depend on the extent of the changes associated with the different options.
4. The Steering Committee should aim to present a decision paper to the Scientific Committee, following consultation with all of the working groups, at its meeting in 2006. If this is not possible then it should be presented no later than its meeting in 2007. This paper should outline the alternative restructuring options and their associated implementation schedules.
5. The Steering Committee should operate primarily by email, potentially facilitated by the Secretariat newsgroup facility, and is open to all Members of the Scientific Committee and its existing working groups.

Intersessional activities during 2005/06

13.12 The Scientific Committee accepted with great pleasure Namibia's invitation to host the 2006 meeting of WG-FSA-SAM (one week) and the meeting of WG-EMM (two weeks) from 10 to 28 July 2006. In addition, a meeting of the newly reformed JAG would be held in association with the meeting of WG-FSA-SAM. The exact dates and venues for these meetings would be announced as soon as possible.

13.13 The Scientific Committee reviewed and endorsed the intersessional work plans of WG-EMM, WG-FSA and ad hoc WG-IMAF.

13.14 The Scientific Committee agreed to the following meetings in the 2005/06 intersessional period:

- (i) meeting of SG-ASAM in Hobart in March 2006, in association with the meeting of the ICES Working Group on Fisheries Acoustic Science and Technology (ICES-FAST) (Annex 5, paragraphs 13.9 to 13.11) (Convener – Dr R. O'Driscoll (New Zealand));

- (ii) the second workshop on the age determination of *C. gunnari* is scheduled between April and June 2006 (Annex 5, paragraph 9.11) (Convener – to be announced).
- (iii) meeting of WG-FSA-SAM in Namibia in the week immediately prior to WG-EMM-06 (approximate dates: 10 to 14 July 2006) (Convener – Dr Jones);
- (iv) meeting of JAG in Namibia during the week following WG-FSA-SAM-06 (approximate dates: 17 to 21 July 2006) (Convener – to be announced);
- (v) meeting of WG-EMM in Namibia from 17 to 28 July 2006 – the Second Workshop on Management Procedures will be held in week 1 of the meeting (Co-Conveners – Ms Akkers and Dr Reiss);
- (vi) meeting of WG-FSA, including ad hoc WG-IMAF, in Hobart from 9 to 20 October 2006 (Convener – Dr Hanchet).

13.15 The dates and venue of the meetings of JAG, SG-ASAM and the age determination workshop will be determined in consultation with meeting organisers and information will be circulated to the Scientific Committee in early 2006.

13.16 The Scientific Committee agreed that the Secretariat should afford the highest priority to the following areas of its work in 2005/06:

- work in support of WG-FSA's assessments of toothfish, icefish and by-catch species;
- work in support of WG-EMM's subdivision of krill catch limits amongst SSMUs in Area 48.

13.17 The Scientific Committee extended a warm welcome to Dr Reid as the incoming Convener of WG-EMM.

Report of WG-FSA

13.18 The Scientific Committee thanked WG-FSA for reorganising the structure and format of its report in line with the guidance provided by the Scientific Committee in 2004 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 13.12 and 13.13). The main part of the WG-FSA report provided a clear and balanced presentation of the work accomplished in 2005. However, the numerous appendices contributed to a large and complex report which was 119 pages longer, overall, than the report of WG-FSA-04. This had resulted in a budget over-run of some A\$44 000 (paragraph 10.1).

13.19 The Scientific Committee recognised that the large size of the report was due partly to reporting of a new assessment method (CASAL) and the first assessment of an exploratory fishery (toothfish in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2), and to the reporting of divergent views regarding some assessments (e.g. toothfish in Subarea 48.3).

13.20 The Scientific Committee also recognised that WG-FSA had developed ‘Fishery Reports’ for eight fisheries and these were included in the appendices. Some of these fishery reports were not expected to change much over the coming years, and may not require translation on a regular basis.

13.21 The Scientific Committee was very concerned about the budget over-run and discussed ways to reduce the future costs of translating and publishing the report of WG-FSA. All Members agreed that the report was large. However Members’ individual needs for information were varied and precluded consensus being reached over which sections of the report should be retained, and which may be removed.

13.22 Further, the Scientific Committee recalled that WG-FSA had tried to reduce the cost of translation in 2003 by placing some appendices in background documents. This approach resulted in information being available in English only and subject to the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data. While saving considerable costs, this approach was found to be generally unacceptable to Members (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 10.3 to 10.5; SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 13.11).

13.23 The Scientific Committee also noted that the development of new assessment methods and new assessments of exploratory fisheries would require WG-FSA to continue to develop detailed documentation of its work over the next 2–3 years. However, once methods were established, and fishery assessments developed for exploratory fisheries, it was expected that the report of WG-FSA may be reduced in size and complexity.

13.24 The Scientific Committee sought the Commission’s advice on the contents of the WG-FSA report: which sections of the report were essential to the Commissioners’ work, and which sections were not required? Sections which were not required may be placed in the WG-FSA archive for reference at future working group meetings.

13.25 In order to reduce some of the costs associated with the large WG-FSA report in 2005, the Scientific Committee agreed that the translated Fishery Reports should only be published electronically on the CCAMLR website. It was agreed that these reports would be placed on the ‘Publication’ section of the website which was in the public domain. The remaining appendices would be translated and published in the report of SC-CAMLR.

Second meeting of the Subgroup on Acoustic Survey and Analysis Methods

13.26 Following recommendations from WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 13.11), the Scientific Committee agreed to hold a second meeting of SG-ASAM.

13.27 The terms of reference for that meeting would be limited to issues with respect to surveys of *C. gunnari*, namely: (i) frequency-specific definition of *C. gunnari* target strength; and (ii) classification of volume backscattering strength attributed to *C. gunnari* versus other taxa.

13.28 The Scientific Committee also requested more general advice on the conduct of acoustic surveys, namely: (i) survey design; (ii) documentation of survey methods; (iii) presentation of results; and (iv) protocols for archiving data.

13.29 Members agreed to make available experts for consultation, particularly those associated with ICES-FAST.

13.30 The Scientific Committee endorsed a plan offered by Dr Hanchet whereby Dr O'Driscoll would convene the second meeting of SG-ASAM, that the meeting would be held for 1–3 days in conjunction with the meeting of ICES-FAST in Hobart, Australia, from 27 to 30 March 2006, and that financial support for the participation of up to three experts be provided. It was expected that financial support for invited experts would be limited to living expenses for experts already in Hobart for the meeting of ICES-FAST.

13.31 The Scientific Committee agreed to the following terms of reference for the participation of invited experts:

1. Attend second meeting of SG-ASAM to be held in conjunction with the meeting of ICES-FAST in Hobart, Australia, from 27 to 30 March 2006.
2. Provide consultation and advice on frequency-specific definition of the acoustic target strength of *C. gunnari*.
3. Provide consultation and advice on classification of volume backscattering strength attributed to *C. gunnari* versus other taxa.
4. Provide consultation and advice on the conduct of acoustic surveys, including:
(i) survey design; (ii) documentation of survey methods; (iii) presentation of results; and (iv) protocols for archiving data.

13.32 The Scientific Committee noted that future meetings of SG-ASAM could address target strength and classification of volume backscattering from other taxa; namely *Pleuragramma* spp., myctophid spp. and *E. crystallophias*.

Activities of the CCAMLR-IPY Group during the intersessional period

13.33 In 2004 the Scientific Committee agreed that a synoptic survey in the South Atlantic region would be the most appropriate activity for CCAMLR in the IPY-2008 (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 15.4 to 15.7). The Scientific Committee had noted the suggestions of WG-EMM regarding possible CCAMLR-related activities for the IPY (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, Annex 4, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.4), but recognised that a single large-scale CCAMLR activity for the IPY was most likely to win support of the IPY Planning Group. It was agreed to conduct a synoptic acoustic and net sampling survey in the South Atlantic region which would focus on krill but would collect a range of ancillary physical and biological data including observations on marine zooplankton, marine mammals and birds.

13.34 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had established an intersessional steering group under the convenership of Dr Siegel to formulate CCAMLR's Expression of Intent (EoI) for activities in the IPY and submit this document to the IPY Joint Group by the deadline of 14 January 2005 (CCAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 19.8).

13.35 The steering group has developed and submitted this EoI to the Joint IPY Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/2 Rev. 1). Concurrently contact was established with the IWC

Scientific Committee Chair, the Chair of the SCAR Group of Experts on Birds and the steering group of the CoML, inviting these groups to actively participate in the CCAMLR-IPY-2008 activity.

13.36 The Joint IPY Committee evaluated the CCAMLR proposal and formal recognition of the CCAMLR initiative was received by IPY. The CCAMLR proposal was listed on the IPY home page as EoI 148. After comprehensive assessments and discussions in the CCAMLR steering group and with the IPY Joint Group, the CCAMLR Survey 2008 became the 'lead project' for the topic 'Natural Resources, Antarctic'.

13.37 The CCAMLR Steering Committee discussed future activities during the 2005 meeting of WG-EMM. For this purpose it was felt necessary to develop terms of reference for the group to conduct its future planning work. Given that the CCAMLR-IPY-2008 Survey had become the 'lead project' for the core topic 'Natural Resources, Antarctic', the subgroup discussed the wider context of the objectives of the CCAMLR-IPY-2008 Survey.

13.38 Accordingly, and with the support of WG-EMM, the umbrella proposal was drafted and circulated among members of the Steering Group as well as lead scientists of the related proposals that fell within the scope of the CCAMLR consortium. The final proposal was submitted to IPY as a consortium proposal on 7 September 2005 (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/2 Rev. 1).

13.39 The Scientific Committee endorsed the CCAMLR proposal submitted as EoI 148 to conduct a large-scale multi-national multi-ship synoptic survey in 2008. The Scientific Committee also endorsed the extended proposal submitted by the CCAMLR Steering Group and related EoIs as the CCAMLR consortium 'umbrella proposal', which has a wider circum-Antarctic perspective than the core proposal submitted by CCAMLR. The draft 'Terms of Reference' for the CCAMLR Steering Group (see SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/2 Rev. 1 and Annex 4, Appendix E) were endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

13.40 The Scientific Committee requested that the Commission formally endorse the CCAMLR core project (EoI 148) and the umbrella project.

13.41 At this time, one Member has committed ship-time for the core project. Several other Members had indicated their willingness to participate in the large-scale survey.

13.42 The Scientific Committee noted the interest expressed by Peru to join the CCAMLR-IPY-2008 Survey. The Scientific Committee welcomed Peru to participate in this international multi-ship exercise as an Acceding State to the Commission. The Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendation to invite Peruvian scientists to the next meeting of WG-EMM and future planning meetings of the CCAMLR-IPY steering group.

13.43 The Scientific Committee encouraged all Members to actively participate in the CCAMLR core project. Firm commitments for ship-time and other activities should be provided to the next subgroup meeting which will be held in association with WG-EMM in July 2006. This information is essential so as the subgroup may begin to plan and coordinate the field activities in accordance with the terms of reference.

Joint CCAMLR-IWC workshop

13.44 The Scientific Committee noted the discussion by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 6.55) on the work being undertaken in a variety of forums to model the Antarctic marine ecosystem, particularly modelling of krill predators to provide advice on management issues in the region by the Scientific Committees of CCAMLR and the IWC. It also noted the request by WG-EMM for a proposal to be developed for consideration by the Scientific Committee for a joint CCAMLR-IWC workshop (Annex 4, paragraphs 6.33 to 6.37), which was provided in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/31.

13.45 The Scientific Committee noted that:

- (i) SC-CAMLR is the leading body to collect, collate and utilise knowledge of krill predators and their interactions with krill and other parts of the ecosystem for the purposes of providing advice on the management of the Antarctic marine ecosystem;
- (ii) the Scientific Committee of the IWC (SC-IWC) is the leading body to collect, collate and utilise knowledge of the abundance of whales and utilises these estimates and other knowledge of the Antarctic marine ecosystem for the purposes of providing management advice;
- (iii) Members of both Scientific Committees are now developing models of the Antarctic marine ecosystem which could form the basis for providing management advice;
- (iv) it would be useful for both Scientific Committees to utilise knowledge of krill predators in a consistent way, such knowledge would be estimates of abundance, trends in populations and parameters for key ecological processes, in particular the physical environment and food-web dynamics.

13.46 The Scientific Committee agreed that a workshop would be useful ‘to review the state and characteristics of information, including knowledge on abundance, trends in populations and parameters, required for ecosystem models being developed to provide management advice on krill predators in the Antarctic marine ecosystem.’ Also, it would be desirable for this workshop to be jointly coordinated by the Scientific Committees of CCAMLR and the IWC.

13.47 The Scientific Committee agreed to establish a Steering Committee to develop a work program leading to a workshop in 2008. The terms of reference for the workshop were agreed to be:

1. Consider the types of information needed for models on the Antarctic marine ecosystem that could be developed for providing management advice.
2. Consider how the information could be used in modelling the Antarctic marine ecosystem, the quality of the information and key gaps needing to be resolved before such information might be used in the development of those models.

3. Consider metadata, rather than reviewing individual datasets and undertaking analyses to summarise the data, where the metadata would comprise information on the estimates of abundance, population trends and parameters, their data sources and methods used to estimate them.

13.48 The Scientific Committee requested the Steering Committee liaise, as needed, with data owners about how to report on the information to be used in the workshop that arises from their data.

13.49 The Scientific Committee agreed that experts in the development of Antarctic marine ecosystem models generally, such as in GLOBEC, ICED, should be involved in the workshop in order to help facilitate discussion on the types and quality of information needed in developing models for the provision of management advice.

13.50 In undertaking its work, the Steering Committee should consider, *inter alia*:

- (i) the Report of the Workshop on Plausible Ecosystem Models for Testing Approaches to Krill Management (SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 4, Appendix D);
- (ii) reviewing the state and characteristics of information, including knowledge on abundance, trends in populations and parameters, required for ecosystem models being developed to provide management advice on krill predators in the Antarctic marine ecosystem;
- (iii) summarising the types of information, including knowledge on abundance, trends in populations and parameters, used to model the Antarctic marine ecosystem for providing management advice, where such information might include, *inter alia*:
 - (a) the key physical and biological elements of the models defined at appropriate spatial and temporal scales;
 - (b) production and life history characteristics of the key taxa;
 - (c) functions dealing with movement and space;
 - (d) trophic relationships, including predator–prey relationships and competition;
 - (e) initialising biomasses (current or historical);
- (iv) reviewing the relative state of existing information (in terms of extent and quality), with emphasis on the guild of krill predators in the Antarctic food web, including fish, squid, penguins, flighted seabirds, seals and whales, including:
 - (a) abundance, trends and temporal and spatial structure of populations;
 - (b) parameters used in capturing relationships between the distribution and behaviour of predators with sea-ice, bathymetry and oceanography;

- (v) reviewing the parameters needed to model top-down or bottom-up influences on krill biomass;
- (vi) identifying key knowledge gaps;
- (vii) the relative importance of the information required to appropriately explore the role of krill predators in the Antarctic marine ecosystem.

13.51 The Scientific Committee recommended that the SC-IWC be invited to join SC-CAMLR in organising this workshop and requested:

- (i) the Secretariat correspond with the IWC Secretariat to inform them of this invitation;
- (ii) the CCAMLR observer to the IWC, Dr Kock, work with the Steering Committee to correspond with the Chairs of the IWC and the SC-IWC to initiate communication between the two Scientific Committees, with the view to having this invitation considered at the next meeting of the SC-IWC.

13.52 The Scientific Committee requested that the Steering Committee develop a work plan and initiate subgroups to begin preparations of materials for the workshop in 2008 over the intersessional period and provide next year a consolidated proposal for the workshop, including details of a work plan over 2007–2008, a venue and budget. It was agreed that the new CCAMLR Headquarters would be an appropriate workshop venue pending consideration of timing, budget and the availability of the Secretariat.

13.53 The Scientific Committee agreed for the Steering Committee to initially comprise Drs A. Constable (Convener), M. Goebel, K. Kovacs, J. Pierre, P. Trathan and C. Southwell. The Scientific Committee requested that Members participate in the development of the work program and asked that the Steering Committee update, and obtain feedback from, Members during this work.

Invitation of observers to the next meeting

13.54 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2005 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXV.

13.55 The Scientific Committee recognised the significant contributions which observers have made to its work (e.g. see SC-CAMLR-XXIV/7), and examined ways to enhance expert contributions at future meetings of working groups.

13.56 The Scientific Committee agreed that invitations to observers at the meetings of SC-CAMLR could be extended, according to the Rules of Procedure, to intersessional meetings of the working group, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) all observers participate at meetings in accordance with the Scientific Committee's rules of procedures;

- (ii) observers with expert contributions submit meeting documents in accordance with the guidelines for the submission of meeting documents at working groups (paragraphs 12.13 to 12.16);
- (iii) the meeting convener and the Chair of the Scientific Committee would review each meeting document submitted by observers and determine the scientific merit of the contribution and its relevance to the objectives of the meeting;
- (iv) subject to approval by the meeting convener and the Chair of the Scientific Committee, observers who provided a significant scientific contribution (by way of a meeting document) would be invited to participate in the intersessional meeting.

13.57 The Scientific Committee agreed it would be useful to harmonise the Rules of Procedure with the intention in paragraph 13.56 at its next meeting.

13.58 During the meeting the Scientific Committee was advised by the Commission of a small proposed change to the Rules of Procedure regarding participation of observers.

13.59 The change was proposed to clarify the notification requirement applicable to observers at meetings.

13.60 The Scientific Committee did not feel able to agree to a change in its Rules of Procedure until any changes made by the Commission were adopted. Accordingly, it recommended that this matter should be addressed at the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. In the intervening period, in the event that problems arise, it requested the Secretariat to take decisions on observer attendance guided by the Commission's rules.

Invitation of experts to the meetings of working groups

13.61 The Scientific Committee agreed to invite external experts to the 2006 meetings of WG-FSA-SAM and SG-ASAM (sections 10 and 13).

Next Meeting

13.62 The next meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2006.