

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

14.1 Dr Barrera-Oro's term as Vice-Chair ended with this meeting and the Scientific Committee sought nominations for a new Vice-Chair. Dr Barrera-Oro nominated Mr Pshenichnov and this nomination was seconded by Dr Shin. Mr Pshenichnov was unanimously elected to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2006 and 2007). A very warm welcome was extended to the incoming Vice-Chair.

14.2 The Scientific Committee thanked Dr Barrera-Oro for his significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reports of Members' Activities

15.1 The Scientific Committee noted that the Commission had requested the Secretariat to prepare a document outlining options for improving the Reports of Members' Activities (CCAMLR-XXII, paragraph 3.7). Following consultation with Members in 2004, the Secretariat had tabled a proposal to improve the contents of these reports (CCAMLR-XXIII/7).

15.2 The Commission subsequently agreed that the Reports of Members' Activities should be retained (CCAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 3.8). To improve the content of this publication, the Secretariat was directed to liaise with the Scientific Committee to formulate a proposal addressing the Reports' contents as well as associated requirements for releasing some of their contents into the public domain. Both these issues had been addressed in the Secretariat paper (CCAMLR-XXIII/7, paragraphs 13 to 19).

15.3 In 2005, the Secretariat distributed a circular (SC CIRC 05/28) calling for comments from the Scientific Committee in order to execute the Commission's instruction outlined above. No responses were received and the Secretariat was unable to progress the matter any further. A progress report was submitted to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIV/6).

15.4 The Scientific Committee considered the options presented in SC-CAMLR-XXIV/6. The Scientific Committee agreed that the Reports of Members' Activities are no longer used in its work.

15.5 The Scientific Committee advised the Commission that the Reports of Members' Activities are no longer required in its work, or that of its working groups.

Submission of meeting documents by international organisations

15.6 The Scientific Committee noted SC-CAMLR-XXIV/BG/19 Rev. 1 and recalled that it had, from time to time, approached international organisations for specific advice or data in support of its work. Consequently, meeting documents had been received and distributed by

the Secretariat as papers submitted by international organisations, e.g. papers on the assessment of status and trends in populations of marine mammals and birds submitted by SCAR.

15.7 The Scientific Committee noted that the Secretariat had applied this approach when processing papers with specific advice requested by the Scientific Committee on behalf of ad hoc WG-IMAF and received from BirdLife International for the 2005 meeting of the Working Group.

15.8 The Scientific Committee recognised that requested papers from international organisations often provided information fundamental to the Scientific Committee's work and/or that of its working groups. The Scientific Committee agreed that the above approach was appropriate and that the Secretariat should continue to follow this practice.

Meeting documents in electronic format

15.9 The Scientific Committee noted that both WG-EMM and WG-FSA have established a routine procedure whereby meeting participants may connect their laptops to a server and download meeting documents in electronic format. Further, the document folder on the server is maintained by the Secretariat and contains all meeting documents, including revisions.

15.10 The Scientific Committee agreed that this procedure, if available at its meetings, would also allow delegates with laptops to access documents electronically. Users who chose to use this option may not require the hardcopy bundle of documents. This option may result in substantial savings in the amount of paper used during the meetings.

15.11 The Scientific Committee noted the Secretariat's proposal to establish a wireless network (CCAMLR-XXIV/BG/37), and agreed that such a facility would be of great benefit to meeting participants.

15.12 The Scientific Committee urged the Secretariat to implement a trial at SC-CAMLR-XXV whereby:

- (i) delegates would be asked in advance of the meeting whether they wished to participate in the trial;
- (ii) delegates participating in the trial would be issued at registration with a CD-ROM containing the meeting documents, and would be able to update their electronic document folder during the meeting using either a wireless network (if possible) or a limited number of network hubs (i.e. cable connection);
- (iii) delegates participating in the trial would also retain the option to request a hardcopy bundle should they find the trial difficult to implement.

15.13 For the purpose of this trial, the Secretariat was encouraged to establish a small wireless network for limited use in the Convention Room.