

## ADDITIONAL MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

### Marine debris

6.1 The Secretariat provided a review of surveys of marine debris and its impact on marine mammals and seabirds conducted by Members in the Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/9). In March 2006, the Secretariat contacted all Members requesting current data on marine debris surveys to be submitted for inclusion in the CCAMLR database. Data were received from the UK (data reported from Bird Island, South Georgia, and Signy Island, South Orkney Islands) and Uruguay (data reported from King George Island, South Shetland Islands).

6.2 The CCAMLR marine debris database contains data from 12 sites, predominantly within Area 48. Of these 12 sites, four contain data for at least three years that have been collected according to CCAMLR standard methods. Marine debris data submitted to CCAMLR are as follows:

- (i) beached marine debris: Chile (Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands, 1993 to 1997), UK (Bird Island, South Georgia, 1989 to present; Signy Island, South Orkney Islands, 1991 to present), Uruguay (King George Island, South Shetland Islands, 2001 to present) and South Africa (Marion Island, 2004);
- (ii) debris associated with seabird colonies: UK (Bird Island, 1993 to present);
- (iii) marine mammal entanglement: UK (Bird Island, 1991 to present; Signy Island, 1997 to present);
- (iv) hydrocarbon soiling of seabirds: UK (Bird Island, 1993 to present).

6.3 A summary of the trends in these data (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/9) indicated that:

- (i) marine debris, principally packaging items and fishing gear, reached a peak in the period from 1994 to 1996 at Bird Island and Signy Island and has declined thereafter;
- (ii) the level of marine debris found in seabird colonies at Bird Island increased between 1998 and 2003 since when there has been a substantial decline, particularly in the relative proportion of fishing gear, such as snoods and hooks;
- (iii) Antarctic fur seal entanglement at Bird Island reached a peak in 1993 and has shown a general decline since that time, with the lowest levels recorded in 2004/05. Plastic packaging bands, synthetic string/longline fragments and fishing net are the most frequent entangling materials;
- (iv) the number of seabirds contaminated with hydrocarbons remains low.

## Reports of surveys of marine debris on beaches

6.4 Standardised surveys of marine debris were reported from Signy Island, South Orkney Islands, in 2005/06 (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/14), and Bird Island, South Georgia, in 2004/05 (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/12). In contrast to last year, when there was an increase in the number of items recovered, there was a decrease in the number of items of debris at both Signy Island (29%) and Bird Island (43%).

6.5 Prof. O. Pin (Uruguay) informed the Scientific Committee that Uruguay remained committed to the continued collection and submission of data on marine debris associated with fishing operations.

6.6 Prof. Moreno informed the Scientific Committee that, owing to the retirement of Prof. D. Torres (Chile) during the intersessional period, it had not been possible to present any data or analysis at this time. Nevertheless, Chile remains committed to the continued collection and reporting of marine debris.

6.7 As in previous years, Dr Naganobu reported that no fishing gear had been lost from Japanese krill trawlers and that there had been no debris sighted at sea during the 2005/06 season.

## Entanglement of marine mammals in marine debris

6.8 Standardised reporting of the entanglement of Antarctic fur seals in marine debris was reported from Signy Island, South Orkney Islands (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/15), where one entangled animal was recorded from Bird Island, South Georgia (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/13), where two entangled seals were recorded during winter, a reduction of 60% compared to the previous year, whereas the eight seals recorded in summer were a 100% increase compared to the number recorded during the previous summer; the overall number recorded between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 (10) is the second lowest number of entanglements recorded since 1991.

## Marine debris associated with seabird colonies

6.9 Marine debris associated with seabirds at Bird Island, South Georgia, from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, was reported in SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/11. There were 44 items of fishing gear (mostly longlining gear) found in seabird colonies, an increase from the previous year but still lower than the values in the period from 2000 to 2003.

6.10 Dr Holt noted that hooks continued to be found in nests of giant petrels in areas far from fishing grounds (paragraph 5.16).

## Seabirds and marine mammals soiled with hydrocarbons

6.11 There were three incubating wandering albatrosses (*Diomedea exulans*) at Bird Island, South Georgia, reported contaminated with oil between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, all of these were reported on the same day (30 December 2005) (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/11). The Scientific Committee noted that five of the six cases of oil contamination of wandering albatrosses from the same location in the previous year also occurred during a two-week period in March 2005 (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 6.12).

## Management advice

6.12 The Scientific Committee noted the reduction in the levels of marine debris in some parts of the Convention Area and encouraged all Members to submit data on marine debris to the Secretariat.