

ADVICE TO SCIC AND SCAF

11.1 The Chair presented the Scientific Committee's advice to SCIC and SCAF during the meeting. The advice to SCAF is summarised in Section 10. The advice to SCIC is summarised below, and the primary advice is provided elsewhere in this report.

IUU Fishing

11.2 The Scientific Committee agreed that the new methodology proposed by JAG be further developed (Annex 5, paragraphs 8.14 and 8.15), and recommended that SCIC:

- (i) consider whether the weightings of individual categories were appropriate, whether the number of levels in each category was correct and whether there were other useful categories that might be used without overly complicating the analysis;
- (ii) determine the vulnerability of different areas to IUU fishing, for instance using the template provided by SCIC-06/9.

11.3 In addition, the Scientific Committee agreed that WG-FSA would develop distributions of likely catch rates of IUU vessels fishing by area using data from licensed vessels.

11.4 The Scientific Committee advised SCIC that data are currently most limiting in the areas which have highest levels of IUU fishing. These matters were discussed under Agenda Item 7.

New and exploratory fisheries

11.5 The Scientific Committee, WG-FSA and ad hoc WG-IMAF considered the scientific aspects of the notifications for exploratory fisheries in 2006/07 (summarised in Annex 5, Table 5). This matter was considered under Agenda Item 4.

11.6 The Scientific Committee noted that WG-FSA had not attempted to determine whether the notifications for exploratory fisheries satisfied the requirements of the notification procedure (Conservation Measure 21-02) (Annex 5, paragraph 5.3). The Scientific Committee agreed that this was a task for SCIC.

Tagging program

11.7 The Scientific Committee reviewed the tagging requirements in exploratory fisheries, and endorsed the amendment to Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex C, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the vessel and observers in relation to the tagging program (Annex 5, paragraph 3.53). The Scientific Committee also agreed that the tagging requirements for *Dissostichus* spp. must be applied in proportion to the species and sizes of *Dissostichus* spp. present in the catches.

11.8 The Scientific Committee also agreed that the tagging rate for *Dissostichus* spp. in exploratory fisheries be increased to (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.56 and 5.49):

- a minimum of three fish per tonne and a target of 10 fish per tonne in those SSRUs in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 which are closed but carry a 10-tonne research exemption for a single vessel in a single season;
- a minimum of three fish per tonne in exploratory fisheries in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2.

11.9 The Scientific Committee noted that there are significant differences in the tagging rates achieved by different Members in some exploratory fisheries, and not in others. In 2005/06, all but five vessels achieved a tagging rate of more than one toothfish per tonne of toothfish landed (Annex 5, paragraph 5.60).

11.10 The Scientific Committee noted that the use of tagging data in the assessment of exploratory fisheries would need to take account of the uncertainty in the fishing patterns and fishing selectivities of IUU fishing. The use of gillnets in IUU fishing would introduce further uncertainty in the assessments.

11.11 The Scientific Committee endorsed WG-FSA's proposal that the Secretariat coordinate the tagging programs in new and exploratory fisheries starting from the 2007/08 season. All tags used by Members in exploratory fisheries should be purchased from the Secretariat for use in the 2007/08 season onwards (Annex 5, paragraph 3.57). These matters were further discussed in paragraphs 4.39 to 4.41.

Use of VMS data for validation of positions in fishery and observer data

11.12 The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission authorise the Secretariat to routinely use VMS data to validate positions reported in observer data including tagging and fine-scale data (paragraphs 4.23 to 4.25 and Annex 5, paragraph 3.6; see also paragraph 10.8).

Scientific observers on krill vessels

11.13 The Scientific Committee reiterated the need to collect standard scientific observations on krill fishing vessels (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 11.6 to 11.8). The requirements for scientific observers had also been reviewed by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 3.43) and WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 7.8 and 11.2). Systematic scientific observer coverage of the krill fishery is required across all fishing methods so as to allow the Scientific Committee to develop advice on the fishery, including evaluation of by-catch and the efficacy of mitigation measures.

11.14 The Scientific Committee noted that most Members will be deploying scientific observers on their vessels in 2006/07 (paragraph 4.5 and Table 4). The Scientific Committee urged all Members to implement scientific observations, in accordance with the CCAMLR

Scheme of International Scientific Observation, on vessels fishing for krill in the Convention Area. The priorities for scientific observers were to collect data to:

- compare fishing methods
- determine the level of by-catch of larval finfish
- better understand the occurrence of warp strike by seabirds.

11.15 This matter was further discussed under Agenda Item 4, and referred to SCIC for further consideration.

General conservation measure on environmental protection during fishing

11.16 The Scientific Committee briefly discussed the proposed implementation of a general conservation measure on environmental protection during fishing (CCAMLR-XXV/10).

11.17 The Scientific Committee supported this proposal and agreed generally that the implementation of this measure will consolidate the Commission's advice while preserving the various environmental protection provisions currently in force. The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission introduce this new measure and associated changes.

Advice on sharks

11.18 The Scientific Committee recalled that JAG had requested that WG-FSA review information available on shark stocks in the Convention Area (CCAMLR-XXV, Annex 6, paragraphs 5.12 to 5.15).

11.19 WG-FSA reported that five shark species are known to occur around South Georgia, Crozet Islands and Kerguelen Islands. The identification of a sixth species from observer reports at South Georgia has yet to be confirmed. No sharks have been reported from Division 58.4.3 (Annex 5, paragraph 9.19). Data were insufficient to allow the Working Group to assess the potential for the commercial harvest of sharks in the Convention Area.

Use of gillnets

11.20 The Scientific Committee agreed that gillnets are non-selective fishing devices, and if not utilised correctly, could take mobile species indiscriminately. In addition, gillnets may have adverse impacts if dragged along the bottom and have the potential to 'ghost' fish over long time periods when lost or discarded (Annex 5, paragraph 5.71). The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission establish an interim prohibition of deep-sea gillnetting in the Convention Area until the Scientific Committee has investigated and reported on the potential impacts of this gear in the Convention Area and the information has been reviewed by the Commission.

11.21 The Scientific Committee also recommended that the interim prohibition would apply only to commercial vessels and not for research purposes. At present, some Members utilise

gillnets/trammel nets in inshore areas to sample fish populations. These programs have been conducted using approved methods for a number of years. If Members wished to initiate new research programs using these fishing gears, the Scientific Committee should be notified in order that the proposals be reviewed and approved before being undertaken. Action with respect to regulating the use of gillnets in the Convention Area should not jeopardise existing research programs in coastal waters.

Use of bottom trawls

11.22 The Scientific Committee held preliminary discussions regarding the proposal to limit the expansion of bottom trawling in high-seas areas (CCAMLR-XXV/BG/33) (paragraphs 4.214 to 4.216). The Scientific Committee noted the key points of this proposal, and developments outside the Convention Area, and referred the matter to the Commission for further consideration.