

SECRETARIAT SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Data Management

12.1 The Scientific Committee noted the Data Manager's report which outlined the work undertaken by the Data Management Team in 2005/06, and measures taken to maintain the integrity of CCAMLR data. This work had included the development of databases and analytical routines, preparation of Volume 18 of the *Statistical Bulletin*, monitoring of CCAMLR fisheries and updating the Fishery Plans (SC-CAMLR-XXV/BG/3; Table 7).

12.2 The Data Management Team also monitored 144 catch limits for species in SSRUs, SSRU groups, management areas, divisions, subareas and areas in 2005/06. The majority of these limits were monitored at five-day intervals between December 2005 and August 2006. The CCAMLR model for forecasting fishery closures was used routinely once the reported catch of a species exceeded 50% of its catch limit. This resulted in the closure of 15 fishing areas (CCAMLR-XXV/BG/3).

12.3 The Scientific Committee noted this work and thanked the Data Management Team for its contribution to the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups in 2005/06.

Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data

12.4 The Scientific Committee considered Australia's proposal to amend the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data (CCAMLR-XXV/42). The purpose of the proposed amendments was to more readily identify the originator and purpose of data requests, ensure that commercially sensitive data were not released inappropriately and ensure that data owners were adequately consulted before their data are released.

12.5 The Scientific Committee noted that Australia's concerns may be addressed under the current rules, without the need to revise the rules. In particular it was noted that:

- (i) data requests are submitted through a Member's representative to the Scientific Committee or Commission, and that representative is responsible for reviewing the request, forwarding the request to the Secretariat and informing the data requester of CCAMLR's rules;
- (ii) each request is assessed by the Secretariat and, if need be, the Secretariat will consult with the representative to ascertain further details about the request, including its relevance to the work of CCAMLR and the type of data required.

12.6 The Scientific Committee also noted that paragraph 6 of the rules provides originators/owners of data with the right to: (i) be consulted (including assignation of authorship) on the preparation, if necessary including publication, of documents describing analyses and interpretation of their data; (ii) approve the level of detail revealed in documents using their data; (iii) stipulate terms and/or levels of data security if necessary.

12.7 The Scientific Committee also noted that the timeliness of data dispatch, when the data request meets the condition in paragraph 2(a) of the rules, is an important aspect of the rules

and allows scientists to undertake essential work in time for the meetings of working groups. The Scientific Committee agreed that the proposed 14-day period for approval (CCAMLR-XXV/42) added a significant delay to the dispatch of data under paragraph 2(a) of the rules, and an additional administrative layer for the Secretariat.

12.8 On the basis of these points, the Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission retain the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data, as adopted at CCAMLR-XXII (CCAMLR-XXII, paragraphs 12.1 to 12.6).

12.9 At the time of report adoption, Dr Constable noted that the Commission may need to consider whether the rules adequately describe the process that will give effect to the data owner's rights in paragraph 6 of the rules, and whether the process provides sufficient reporting of the use of data, thereby satisfactorily closing the process.

Policy of the publication of aggregated fine-scale data

12.10 The Scientific Committee considered a draft policy governing the presentation and publication of aggregated fine-scale data in the *Statistical Bulletin* (CCAMLR-XXV/31). The draft had been prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the Commission's request (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.62), and had been distributed to Members in April 2006 (COMM CIRC 06/36 and SC CIRC 06/9).

12.11 The draft policy allows all fine-scale catch and effort data to be aggregated and published in the *Statistical Bulletin* as follows:

- (i) where fishing occurs frequently (three or more vessels per aggregated record), the data would be aggregated and published by fine-scale rectangle (0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude);
- (ii) where fishing is sparse (fewer than three vessels per aggregated record), the data would be aggregated and published by large rectangle (2.5° latitude by 5.0° longitude);
- (iii) where the number of vessels is not reported (e.g. some historical data), the data would be aggregated and published by fine-scale rectangle.

12.12 This draft policy would require some small changes to the presentation of the catch distribution maps in the *Statistical Bulletin*, and some maps would include distributional information by fine-scale rectangle and large rectangle.

12.13 The Scientific Committee thanked the Secretariat for drafting a policy which was in the spirit of the Commission's work, provided transparency in published information, and provided a method for summarising data at appropriate scales when limited numbers of vessels are involved in taking the catch.

12.14 Dr Constable noted that these maps are useful for deliberations of the working groups, Scientific Committee and Commission. However, the appropriateness of publishing these maps in the proposed form in the public domain is a matter for the Commission.

12.15 Dr Naganobu suggested that fine-scale data for *Dissostichus* spp. should be aggregated and published by large rectangle, while fine-scale data for *E. superba* should be aggregated and published by fine-scale rectangle. The Scientific Committee noted that this matter is for the Commission to determine.

12.16 The Scientific Committee recalled the Commission's decision that the policy should be uniformly applied to all fisheries in the Convention Area (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.62).

12.17 The Scientific Committee advised the Commission that the draft policy was suitable for the purpose of the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups. It recommended that the catch distribution maps for each area should be plotted at the same scale, where feasible.

Publications

12.18 The Scientific Committee noted that the following documents had been published in 2006 in support of its work:

- (i) Report of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- (ii) *CCAMLR Science*, Volume 13
- (iii) *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts 2005*, available on the CCAMLR website
- (iv) *Statistical Bulletin*, Volume 18
- (v) Revisions to the *Scientific Observers Manual*.

12.19 The Scientific Committee agreed that language support for *CCAMLR Science* would be required in 2007, and sought level funding from the Commission's budget (see paragraph 10.7).

12.20 The Scientific Committee also agreed to the electronic dissemination of *CCAMLR Science* via the CCAMLR website, and sought funding from the Commission's budget in 2007 to implement web-based publication including back-issues of the journal (see paragraph 10.8). The Scientific Committee agreed that the web-based publication should reside in the public domain section of the CCAMLR website (under the 'Publications' menu) and recommended that a searchable index of *CCAMLR Science* papers be included.

12.21 The Scientific Committee agreed that the following paragraph should be inserted after the second introductory paragraph in the preface of the *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts*: 'Publication of an abstract does not imply in any way that the paper was reviewed by the Scientific Committee or its working groups, or was used in the work of CCAMLR'.