

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH
MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
(Hobart, Australia, 22 to 26 October 2007)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources met from 22 to 26 October 2007 at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. The meeting was chaired by Dr E. Fanta (Brazil).

1.2 The Chair welcomed to the meeting representatives from the following Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay. The Scientific Committee welcomed China to its Membership.

1.3 The Chair also welcomed to the meeting observers from the Cook Islands and Netherlands (Acceding States), Cambodia and Mozambique (non-Contracting Parties), along with observers from ACAP, ASOC, CEP, COLTO, FFA, IUCN, IWC, SCAR and SEAFO, and encouraged them to participate in the meeting to the extent possible.

1.4 The List of Participants is given in Annex 1. The List of Documents considered during the meeting is given in Annex 2.

1.5 The following rapporteurs were appointed to prepare the report of the Scientific Committee:

- Drs A. Constable (Australia) and C. Jones (USA) – Advances in statistics, assessments, modelling and survey methods (Advice from WG-SAM);
- Dr M. Collins (UK) – Advances in statistics, assessments, modelling and survey methods (Advice from SG-ASAM);
- Dr S. Nicol (Australia) – Ecosystem monitoring and management (Advice from WG-EMM) and Krill resources;
- Dr S. Grant (UK) – Ecosystem monitoring and management (Management of protected areas and bioregionalisation);
- Dr R. Holt (USA) – Interactions between WG-FSA and WG-EMM;
- Dr G. Parkes (UK) – Fish resources (except by-catch), Crab resources and Squid resources;
- Prof. G. Duhamel (France) – Fish and invertebrate by-catch;

- Dr D. Agnew (UK) – New and exploratory fisheries;
- Dr A. Constable (Australia) – Bottom fishing in CCAMLR high-seas areas;
- Ms K. Rivera (USA) – Incidental mortality;
- Ms N. LeBoeuf (USA) – Additional monitoring and management issues (marine debris);
- Dr P. Trathan (UK) – Additional monitoring and management issues (marine mammal and bird populations);
- Prof. C. Moreno (Chile) and Dr D. Welsford (Australia) – CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation;
- Dr K.-H. Kock (Germany) – Management under conditions of uncertainty about stock size and sustainable yield;
- Dr K. Sullivan (New Zealand) – Scientific research exemption;
- Prof. B. Fernholm (Sweden) – Cooperation with other organisations;
- Dr D. Ramm (Data Manager) – all other matters.

Adoption of Agenda

1.6 The Provisional Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/1). The Scientific Committee agreed to include a subitem on bottom fishing in CCAMLR high-seas areas (new Item 4(iv)). With this change, the Agenda was adopted (Annex 3).

Report of the Chair

Intersessional meetings of working groups and other groups of the Scientific Committee

1.7 The following meetings took place in 2007:

- (i) The third meeting of SG-ASAM was held in Cambridge, UK, from 30 April to 2 May 2007, to consider models of krill target strength and classification of volume backscattering strength. Drs R. O’Driscoll (New Zealand) and Collins co-convened the meeting which was attended by 12 participants representing six Members. Two invited experts attended – Dr R. Korneliussen (Norway) and Dr G. Macaulay (New Zealand).
- (ii) The CCAMLR-IPY Steering Committee held a planning meeting in Cambridge, UK, from 2 to 4 May 2007. The meeting was convened by Mr S. Iversen (Norway), and was held in association with the meeting of SG-ASAM, with a

joint session on 2 May to discuss acoustic sampling protocols. The meeting was attended by 12 participants representing six Members, including Drs S. Hedley (IWC Observer) and G. Hosie (SCAR and CCAMLR Liaison).

- (iii) Three meetings took place in Christchurch, New Zealand, in July 2007:
- The first meeting of the new WG-SAM took place from 9 to 13 July. It was co-convened by Drs Jones and Constable. Twenty-two participants from six Member countries attended.
 - A Workshop on Fisheries and Ecosystem Models in the Antarctic (FEMA) was held on 16 July. It was co-convened by Drs K. Reid (UK, WG-EMM Convener) and S. Hanchet (New Zealand, WG-FSA Convener) and attended by 34 participants representing 10 Member countries.
 - The thirteenth meeting of WG-EMM was held from 17 to 26 July. It was convened by Dr Reid and attended by 27 participants representing 10 Members. The Workshop to Review Estimates of B_0 and Precautionary Catch Limits for Krill was conducted during the course of the WG-EMM meeting. The workshop was convened by Dr Nicol.
- (iv) The Workshop on Bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 13 to 17 August 2007. The workshop was co-convened by Drs Grant and P. Penhale (USA), and was attended by 30 participants representing 12 Members. Four invited experts also attended – Dr B. Danis (SCAR-MarBIN, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences), Dr Hosie (SCAR and Australian Government Antarctic Division), Dr M. Kahru (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA) and Dr M. Vierros (United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies, Japan). Dr B. Raymond (Australia) assisted the workshop by undertaking analysis remotely in Hobart.
- (v) The meeting of WG-FSA was held from 8 to 19 October 2007 in Hobart prior to the Scientific Committee meeting. It was convened by Dr Hanchet.
- (vi) Ad hoc WG-IMAF conducted its meeting as part of WG-FSA-07. It was co-convened by Ms Rivera and Mr N. Smith (New Zealand).

1.8 The Chair urged Members to support the intersessional activities of the Scientific Committee by facilitating the participation of their specialists at these meetings.

CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation

1.9 Scientific observers appointed under the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation were deployed on all vessels targeting finfish in the Convention Area, and some vessels targeting krill. Scientific observers have participated in 56 cruises so far in 2006/07: 50 cruises on vessels targeting Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), Antarctic toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*) or mackerel icefish (*Champsocephalus gunnari*) (40 cruises on longliners; 9 cruises on trawlers and 1 cruise on a vessel using pots); and 6 cruises on vessels fishing for krill (*Euphausia superba*).

Fisheries

1.10 CCAMLR Member countries participated in 13 fisheries under conservation measures in force during the 2006/07 season (1 December 2006 to 30 November 2007). In addition, three other managed fisheries were conducted in national EEZs within the Convention Area in 2006/07.

1.11 Fifteen Members fished: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, UK and Uruguay.

1.12 As of 5 October 2007, and subject to various conservation measures in force for 2006/07, Members had reported a total of 104 364 tonnes of krill, 14 023 tonnes of toothfish and 3 941 tonnes of icefish from the Convention Area. A number of other species were taken as by-catch, including rajids which were released alive where possible.

1.13 Fisheries and reported catches are detailed in SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/1, CCAMLR-XXVI/BG/17 and the 2007 report of WG-FSA (Annex 5).

Representation at meetings of other international organisations

1.14 The Scientific Committee was represented at a number of meetings of other international organisations during the intersessional period. Observers' reports from these meetings were considered under Agenda Item 10.