

MANAGEMENT UNDER CONDITIONS OF UNCERTAINTY

8.1 The Scientific Committee discussed information pertaining to fishing on *Dissostichus* spp. inside and outside the Convention Area. A summary of catch and effort data inside the Convention Area is contained in Annex 5, paragraphs 3.7 to 3.14 and Table 4. Catches of *Dissostichus* spp. outside the Convention Area originated mostly from Areas 41 and 87 (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.16 to 3.20 and Table 4).

8.2 Dr Barrera-Oro provided further information on the fishery for *D. eleginoides* inside the Patagonian sector of the Argentine EEZ (Area 41): the annual catch limit is 2 500 tonnes. Catches in 2006/07 were similar to the previous fishing season. In order to maintain a long-term sustainability of the fishery, conservation measures were introduced in 2002. It has been mandatory since 2006/07 to tag two fish per tonne of green weight caught. In 2006/07, 1 500 fish were tagged.

8.3 The Scientific Committee reiterated the serious concerns raised by WG-FSA on the increasing level of IUU catches in recent years and the shifting of the IUU fishery from 'traditional' grounds in Area 58, such as Division 58.5.1, to high-seas areas and oceanic banks, such as BANZARE Bank (Division 58.4.3b) closer to the continent.

8.4 The Scientific Committee drew the attention of the Commission to Annex 5, paragraphs 8.4 to 8.8 and Table 3, which provided a brief outline of the history of IUU fishing in the Convention Area. The level of IUU fishing in Division 58.4.3b and other CCAMLR subareas and divisions is undermining any CCAMLR attempt to provide the basis for fishing to be sustainable. Current levels of IUU fishing exceeded levels of sustainable catch several times in the last three years.

8.5 The Scientific Committee noted that longlines are currently likely to be replaced by gillnets in the IUU fishery. Gillnets require no bait, can be deployed at any time and are more powerful than longlines in their ability to catch fish. No information is currently available on the incidental mortality of birds, mammals and other marine biota in gillnets deployed by IUU fishing vessels in the Convention Area.

8.6 The Scientific Committee noted that gillnets have the potential to become lost and drift through the water column for an unknown amount of time while still fishing to a large extent (ghost nets).

8.7 Dr Welsford stated that *D. eleginoides* caught on BANZARE Bank are large adult fish while juvenile fish have never been taken. The relationship of these fish to fish in other areas is still unknown. BANZARE Bank might represent a spawning area for fish which live as juveniles in other adjacent areas. The excessive exploitation of these fish in recent years by IUU fishing vessels may have already caused substantial damage to the stock which is likely to be reversible in decades only.