

SECRETARIAT SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

Data Management

13.1 The Secretariat's Data Management Team performs three main functions:

- management of CCAMLR data;
- data and scientific analyses and reporting in support of the work of the Commission, Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies;
- monitoring of CCAMLR fisheries.

13.2 Functional control of Data Management rests with the Data Manager, except when this relates to specific activities associated with other Secretariat functions (e.g. management of scientific observer data within the context of compliance and enforcement as well as management of CDS and VMS data by that entity).

13.3 The Scientific Committee noted the Data Manager's report which outlined the work undertaken by the Data Management Team in 2006/07, and measures taken to maintain the integrity of CCAMLR data (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/13). The Scientific Committee noted that the volume and complexity of this work continued to increase (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/13, Figure 1), and had involved:

- (i) database administration and maintenance, processing and validation of data submitted in 2006/07, revision of data forms in accordance with the decisions of the Commission and Scientific Committee, and the further development of database structures and routines;
- (ii) data and scientific support of the Scientific Committee and working groups and SG-ASAM, initial validation of assessments involving CASAL, estimation of γ for krill in Division 58.4.2, and routine analysis and reporting;
- (iii) monitoring of 152 catch limits in CCAMLR fisheries and forecasting of fishery closures, reporting of catches, updating of Fishery Reports, preparation of the *Statistical Bulletin*, and support in the submission and administration of fishery notifications (new and exploratory fisheries and krill fisheries);
- (iv) support of international collaborations, including contributions to the work of CWP, FIRMS and SCAR-MarBIN.

13.4 The Scientific Committee noted the great importance of this support in its work, and thanked the Data Management Team for its high level of professionalism.

STATLANT Data

13.5 The Scientific Committee recalled that STATLANT catch and effort data are designed to capture Members' official monthly catch and effort statistics. These data provide important information, and are routinely used by working groups to weight (i.e. scale or adjust pro-rata)

the haul-by-haul catch data to the Members' official catch statistics. In addition, international organisations such as FAO and Eurostat use CCAMLR's STATLANT data to compile regional and global fishery statistics.

13.6 In his report (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/13), the Data Manager noted that in recent years, Members' approaches to submitting STATLANT data have diverged to some degree, and three main approaches have become common practice:

- (i) some Members submit STATLANT data directly to the Secretariat;
- (ii) some Members request that the Secretariat generates STATLANT data from other available catch data. Generated STATLANT data are usually derived from data submitted in five-day, 10-day or monthly catch and effort reports (TAC data) and occasionally fine-scale data. The generated STATLANT data are forwarded to Members to check, amend and re-submit as required;
- (iii) some Members may not submit STATLANT data in some years. If correspondence from the Secretariat fails to obtain STATLANT data, then the Secretariat generates the missing STATLANT data from TAC data or fine-scale data.

13.7 In addition, the Data Manager noted that the quality of the STATLANT data is variable, and some datasets are incomplete with respect to species caught (notably by-catch species), areas fished or fishing effort.

13.8 The Scientific Committee noted that the diversity of the methods of submitting STATLANT data to CCAMLR, and the variability in the quality of these data, may compromise the estimations of total removals, with consequential impact on assessments and the formulation of management advice.

13.9 In order to improve the quality of STATLANT data, the Data Manager indicated (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/13) that the Scientific Committee may wish to consider revising the way in which STATLANT data are submitted to CCAMLR, and consider implementing a three-step approach to the submission of these data. The timing of this approach would need to be linked with the use of STATLANT data in the preparation of CCAMLR's *Statistical Bulletin*. The *Statistical Bulletin* is published in March–April each year, and the proposed three-step approach was as follows:

- Step 1 (completed in December each year) – the Secretariat generates preliminary STATLANT data based on the TAC data submitted by Members fishing in the Convention Area. These preliminary data would cover all species caught, and areas fished, as reported in the catch and effort reporting system.
- Step 2 (completed by January) – the preliminary STATLANT data are sent to Members for validation, and for adjustments which may take account of additional information on verified landed weights and other statistics, and corrections to data collected at sea.
- Step 3 (some Members only, completed by January) – fisheries in the French and South African EEZs in the Convention Area are not subject to the catch and effort reporting system. In the case of France, TAC data are not available and

it would be necessary for France to continue submitting original STATLANT data by the January deadline (*status quo*). In the case of South Africa, TAC data are submitted regularly and it would be possible to complete Steps 1 and 2 above.

13.10 The Scientific Committee noted that discrepancies do arise between TAC data, haul-by-haul data and STATLANT data, and noted that most of these discrepancies may be attributed to the varying levels of detail and type of data recorded. It was recognised that the STATLANT data generated using TAC data may contain discrepancies, and that Step 2 above provided an opportunity for Members to check and revise their catch statistics.

13.11 The Scientific Committee endorsed this new, three-step approach to the submission of STATLANT data, and referred this matter to the Commission.

Catch and effort data

13.12 The Scientific Committee endorsed WG-FSA's recommendation to modify the longline haul-by-haul catch and effort data form (C2 data) to allow the recording of:

- number of hooks that are lost attached to sections of longline during fishing (Annex 5, paragraph 7.5);
- gear types other than Spanish and autoline systems (Annex 5, paragraph 6.56);
- exclusion devices used on board longliners (Annex 5, paragraph 10.6).

13.13 The Scientific Committee recalled that fishing vessels are now required to record a unique haul identifier in their C2 data, and scientific observers are required to record this identifier in their data (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, Annex 5, paragraph 5.35). This procedure was introduced in 2005/06 and allows C2 data to be matched with observer data. However, the Scientific Committee noted that C2 and observer data cannot be matched for fishing prior to 2005/06, due to the complexity and size of the datasets.

13.14 In 2006, the Secretariat and Commission requested that the Secretariat conduct a feasibility study on the administration and resources required for the use of VMS data to validate positions reported in observer data, including tagging data and fine-scale data (CCAMLR-XXV, paragraphs 4.72 and 4.73).

13.15 In the interim, the Secretariat had developed a routine to check the vessel positions reported in haul-by-haul catch and effort and observer biological and tagging data (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.1 and 3.5). The Scientific Committee re-emphasised the importance of position checking in these data, and sought advice from the Commission on the outcome of the feasibility study and the further development of the position-checking routine.

Metadata

13.16 The Scientific Committee noted that SCAR-MarBIN had requested that CCAMLR consider contributing metadata records to the SCAR-MarBIN database (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/12). The Scientific Committee also noted the growing interest among other data users for the development of CCAMLR metadata.

13.17 The Scientific Committee noted that metadata are used to describe how and when and by whom a particular set of data was collected, and how the data are formatted (i.e. data about data). Metadata are essential for understanding information stored in large databases and have become increasingly important in web-based applications and the dissemination of information.

13.18 The Scientific Committee endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to develop metadata records for fishery and scientific datasets held in the CCAMLR database, noting that these metadata may be made publicly available, and that relevant metadata would be submitted to SCAR-MarBIN and, where appropriate, other international collaborators (e.g. FIRMS).

13.19 The Scientific Committee sought the advice of the Commission on this matter.

Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data

13.20 The Scientific Committee did not provided any new advice on this matter.

Publications

13.21 The Scientific Committee noted that the following documents had been published in 2007 in support of its work:

- (i) Report of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee
- (ii) *CCAMLR Science*, Volume 14
- (iii) *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts 2006*, available on the CCAMLR website
- (iv) *Statistical Bulletin*, Volume 19
- (v) Revisions to the *Scientific Observers Manual*.

CCAMLR Science

13.22 The Scientific Committee agreed to the electronic dissemination of *CCAMLR Science* via the CCAMLR website, and language support for *CCAMLR Science* in 2008, and sought level funding from the Commission's budget (see paragraph 11.5).

13.23 The Scientific Committee also agreed to consider at its next meeting proposals for special issues of *CCAMLR Science*, including the publication of the results of the CCAMLR-IWC Workshop and the CCAMLR Species Profiles (see also paragraph 11.6).

13.24 During the course of recent meetings of the Editorial Board of *CCAMLR Science*, the Board had identified various options for improving and developing the procedure for selecting papers for consideration by the journal (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/37). The Board's consideration of these matters had focused on:

- improving the procedure for selecting papers, including consideration of short notes and review papers;
- assessing the relevance of papers to the work of the Scientific Committee and the contribution to CCAMLR-related science;
- developing special issues of the journal focusing on topics of relevance to CCAMLR-related science;
- creating an electronic reference library to deposit material which is of interest to the work of the Scientific Committee but was not published in the journal.

13.25 The Scientific Committee tasked the Scientific Editor, in consultation with the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the conveners of working groups, to prepare a revision of the journal's publication policy, including the procedure for selecting papers. The revision would be considered by the Scientific Committee at its next meeting.