

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Coordination of work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

14.1 The Scientific Committee recognised that, as in previous years, there had not been time at the meeting for the working group conveners and the Chair of the Scientific Committee to consider the prioritisation of tasks for the future work of the Committee and its working groups. Therefore, the Scientific Committee recognised that there was a need to find a mechanism to progress the work of identifying those scientific priorities. The Chair of the Scientific Committee was tasked with identifying and implementing such a process.

14.2 The Scientific Committee noted that there was considerable overlap between the requirement to identify long-term scientific priorities and the tasks identified in paragraph 10.11 arising from the recommendations of the PRP and that a common approach should be adopted where possible.

Intersessional activities during 2008/09

14.3 The Scientific Committee accepted with great pleasure Norway's invitation to host the 2009 meetings of WG-SAM and WG-EMM, and the second meeting of ad hoc TASO, from 29 June to 17 July 2009 in Norway (exact venue to be confirmed).

14.4 The Scientific Committee agreed to the following meetings in the 2008/09 intersessional period:

- Joint SC-CAMLR-CEP Workshop, Baltimore, USA, 3 and 4 April 2009;
- SG-ASAM in Ancona, Italy, 25 to 29 May 2009 (Co-conveners Drs Watkins and O'Driscoll);
- WG-SAM in Norway, 29 June to 3 July 2009 (Convener Dr Constable);
- ad hoc TASO, Norway, 4 and 5 July 2009 (Co-conveners Dr Welsford and Mr Heinecken);
- WG-EMM, Norway, 6 July to 17 July 2009 (Convener Dr Watters). The FEMA2 Workshop will be held as a Focus Topic during the first week of WG-EMM and will be co-convened by the Conveners of WG-EMM and WG-FSA;
- Workshop on VMEs, Washington DC, USA (Co-conveners Drs Martin-Smith and Jones, venue and timing of meeting to be announced by December 2008);
- WG-FSA at CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia, 12 to 23 October 2009 (Convener Dr Jones);
- WG-IMAF at CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia, 12 to 16 October 2009 (Co-conveners Ms Rivera and Mr Walker).

14.5 The Scientific Committee endorsed the approach outlined in paragraph 10.9 for the Working Group meetings in the coming year, noting that it would be useful to involve scientists interested in the work of CCAMLR not only from non-Members but also from institutions not normally associated with SC-CAMLR.

CCAMLR-IPY projects

14.6 The Scientific Committee noted the participation of Members in a range of IPY surveys during the intersessional period. The Scientific Committee, *inter alia*:

- strongly endorsed initiatives undertaken as part of the IPY-CAML and noted that these initiatives were a great example of the successful cooperation and coordination that could take place between countries within the Antarctic Treaty System;
- noted IPY-CAML provided opportunity for scientists from Member countries to collaborate in the planning and undertaking of shared research and in the shaping of a new era in polar science;
- noted that the analyses from the Australian, French, German, Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian and Russian IPY surveys and the 18 countries participating in the CAML surveys were well under way, the results of which would assist CCAMLR with its conservation of the unique Antarctic marine environment. The census would also strengthen understanding of the impact of significant global changes such as climate change.

14.7 Dr Constable, on behalf of Australia, thanked the many countries that have participated in CCAMLR projects on 18 major research vessels. These projects have contributed to nearly 1 million georeferenced records across 8 500 validated species in the SCAR-MarBIN data portal. Australia encouraged all Members to support ongoing data analysis and synthesis activities in support of CAML, and to contact the Census Coordinator at the Australian Antarctic Division for any further information.

Invitation of observers to the next meeting

14.8 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2008 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXVIII.

Invitation of experts to the meetings of working groups

14.9 The Scientific Committee agreed that up to two experts may be invited to the meeting of SG-ASAM and that three invited expert would be invited to the Workshop on VMEs.

Next meeting

14.10 The next meeting of the Scientific Committee is scheduled at CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 26 to 30 October 2009.