

OTHER BUSINESS

CCAMLR website password rationalisation

16.1 The Scientific Committee considered the Secretariat's proposal to rationalise the password system on the CCAMLR website (CCAMLR-XXVII/27). The main elements of this proposal were to use:

- (i) a single username and password combination to allow access for Members to all restricted sections of the Commission;
- (ii) a single username and password combination to allow access for Members to all restricted sections of the Scientific Committee;
- (iii) a single username and password combination to allow attendees (NGOs and observers) access limited to Commission and Scientific Committee meeting information, but only for the current meeting;
- (iv) a single username and password combination to allow access for invited experts to the relevant meeting information, but only for the current meeting.

16.2 Further, the Scientific Committee noted that this proposal would minimise Secretariat staff time and effort in administering usernames and passwords and would provide more user-friendly access to the restricted sections of the website for Members. The administrative effort required on the part of the official Member contacts to disseminate this information should also be reduced accordingly.

16.3 The Scientific Committee also noted that the current arrangement for CDS and Acceding States would remain unchanged.

16.4 The Scientific Committee noted that this change would facilitate greater integration across working groups and would not decrease the overall level of security compared to the current system. It congratulated the Secretariat on this proposal, and endorsed this rationalisation.

Capacity building

16.5 The Scientific Committee noted with concern that the workload of WG-FSA, and that of other working groups, has increased in recent years, while the number of participants and Members represented had decreased over the same period. As a result, the growing workload was shared by fewer participants, and WG-FSA was no longer able to address all of its tasks to the level of detail expected by the Scientific Committee. In this context, it noted the advice of WG-FSA that the move to a biennial assessment for three stocks had been extremely successful in releasing time during the intersessional period and at the meetings of WG-SAM and WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 12.6).

16.6 The Scientific Committee agreed that development of a medium- to long-term Science Plan is urgently needed in order to address the competing demands of the Commission, facilitate coordination among working groups and assign research priorities. In the absence of a Science Plan, the Scientific Committee noted that WG-FSA would continue to address

topics which it thought were of a high priority to the Scientific Committee. Such work would be limited by the time available at meetings, and by the number of participants and their areas of expertise.

16.7 The Scientific Committee reiterated its concern of the declining involvement of Members in the working groups. Those Members unable to attend can often have difficulty in understanding the outcomes and advice of the working groups. Under some circumstances, those Members may not be able to fully participate in discussions at the Scientific Committee and, in some instances, decisions have had to be delayed to subsequent years. Most Members agreed that this situation can delay timely advice on matters of importance to the Commission, particularly advice needed for achieving the objectives in Article II.

16.8 The Scientific Committee urged Members to consider ways of capacity building, including augmenting participation in the work of WG-FSA and other working groups.

Year-of-the-Grenadier

16.9 The Scientific Committee recalled a proposal to conduct the Year-of-the-Grenadier in 2010 (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, Annex 5, paragraph 6.39). However, the Scientific Committee agreed with WG-FSA to defer this activity provisionally until 2011 as the procedures established for the Year-of-the-Skate, and the ensuing results, can then be evaluated.

Year-of-the-VMEs

16.10 The Scientific Committee endorsed the proposal of WG-FSA to designate 2010 as the Year-of-the-VMEs in order to focus further research activities aimed at developing approaches to avoid and mitigate significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing on VMEs.

Reports of Members' Activities

16.11 The Scientific Committee reiterated its advice to the Commission that the Reports of Members' Activities are not required in its work, or that of its working groups (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 15.1 to 15.5).