

## CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

6.1 In accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, scientific observers were deployed on all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area.

6.2 Information collected by scientific observers on board longline, finfish trawl, pot and krill trawl cruises were summarised by the Secretariat in SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/BG/2.

6.3 The Scientific Committee also noted the discussions on the observer program by WG-IMAF (Annex 7, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.18), WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 11.1 to 11.7), WG-SAM (Annex 6, paragraphs 5.1 to 5.5), WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.45 to 3.61) and WS-VME (Annex 10, paragraphs 5.5, 5.8 to 5.12, 6.4, 6.5 and 6.11).

### Ad hoc TASO

6.4 The Co-conveners of ad hoc TASO, Mr Heineken and Dr Welsford, presented the report from the second meeting, held in conjunction with WG-EMM and WG-SAM in Bergen, Norway, on 4 and 5 July 2009 (Annex 9).

6.5 The agenda of the second meeting of ad hoc TASO covered the design and operation of gear types used in fisheries in the Convention Area, observer priorities in the trawl, longline and pot fisheries, observer recruitment and training, and the future work plan and terms of reference of the ad hoc group.

6.6 The Scientific Committee considered and approved recommendations from ad hoc TASO concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 9, paragraphs 2.7 to 2.8, 2.17 to 2.19, 2.22, 2.24 to 2.26, 3.5 to 3.7, 3.16 to 3.21, 4.5 and 4.10 to 4.13).

6.7 The Scientific Committee noted that with respect to the training of observers, experience in domestic fisheries and initial supervision by more experienced observers (Annex 9, paragraph 4.5(x)), although highly desirable, was not always possible. The Scientific Committee urged that such training of observers occur wherever possible.

6.8 The Scientific Committee recommended that the development of standards for all participants in the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation via an accreditation scheme should be pursued as a core component of the work plan of ad hoc TASO (Annex 9, paragraph 5.2).

6.9 The Scientific Committee thanked the Co-conveners of ad hoc TASO for preparing SC-CAMLR-XXVIII/BG/9 on the development and implementation of an accreditation framework for participation in the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.

6.10 The Scientific Committee noted that the further development of an accreditation framework for participation in the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation should consider:

- (i) the timing of the submission of documents in support of accreditation so as to ensure Members are able to maintain flexibility in rapid training and deployment of observers;
- (ii) an initial focus on accreditation of programs rather than individuals;
- (iii) an initial focus on the development of baseline requirements to accredit programs.

6.11 The Scientific Committee recommended that the development of baseline requirements to accredit observer programs be undertaken by ad hoc TASO and reported back to the Scientific Committee in 2010. On this basis, and subject to the adoption of the baseline requirements to accredit programs in 2010, ad hoc TASO would be tasked with reviewing observer programs against the baseline requirements in 2011, with a view to the Scientific Committee providing detailed advice on this matter to the Commission in 2011.

6.12 The Scientific Committee urged all Members to ensure that their technical coordinators provide the Secretariat with the detailed information required to achieve the work identified in paragraph 6.11 by May 2010 at the latest.

6.13 The Scientific Committee endorsed the work plan of ad hoc TASO as described in paragraphs 6.10 to 6.12 and Annex 9, paragraph 5.7.

6.14 The Scientific Committee considered plans for the next meeting of ad hoc TASO. The Scientific Committee noted that, given the tasks it wished ad hoc TASO to complete in 2010, in particular the development of baseline requirements to accredit observer programs (paragraph 6.11), ad hoc TASO would require a five-day meeting. The Scientific Committee further noted that although the meeting could be held separately to other working group meetings in the future, to assist with the development of capacity building in Members' observer programs and fleets, it agreed that the meeting in 2010 be held in conjunction with WG-FSA (paragraph 14.8).

#### Advice from WG-FSA

6.15 The Scientific Committee considered and approved recommendations from WG-FSA concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 5, paragraphs 11.3 to 11.6.

#### Advice from WG-IMAF

6.16 The Scientific Committee considered and approved recommendations from WG-IMAF concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 7, paragraphs 7.2, 7.7, 7.8, 7.10 and 7.12.

## Advice from WS-VME

6.17 The Scientific Committee considered and approved recommendations from WS-VME concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 10, paragraphs 5.12(iv) to 5.12(vi), 6.4 and 6.5.

## Advice from WG-EMM

6.18 The Scientific Committee noted discussions concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 4, paragraphs 3.45 to 3.61, in relation to the krill fishery.

6.19 The Scientific Committee considered and approved recommendations from WG-EMM concerning the aspects of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation discussed in Annex 4, paragraph 3.45.

6.20 The Scientific Committee noted that although some additional observer data have been collected in krill fisheries, those data were not yet available to the Scientific Committee and its working groups (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.51 to 3.53). The Scientific Committee urged the submission of these data as soon as possible, and in advance of the WG-SAM and WG-EMM meetings in 2010 to ensure they were available to further inform the design of systematic observer coverage of the krill fishery (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.54 to 3.58), and for the work of WG-FSA in 2010 on larval by-catch (Annex 5, paragraph 10.58).

6.21 Ukraine introduced CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/26 on the scientific observation and the management of Antarctic krill fisheries in Statistical Area 48 noting that in 2006, 2007 and 2008 they had proposed mandatory international or national scientific observers on board krill fishing vessels. In 2008, Ukraine highlighted the magnitude of the scientific uncertainties and data gaps affecting the subdivision of precautionary catch limits among SSMUs in Area 48 (CCAMLR-XXVII/43).

6.22 Ukraine suggested that a research and monitoring plan was necessary for CCAMLR to fill these information gaps, together with developing in the future a funding mechanism to support the data collection process. Because CCAMLR's Scheme of International Scientific Observation is the basic source of data that covers these uncertainties, Ukraine encouraged those delegations which reserved their position at CCAMLR-XXVII to design and to support at this meeting, the adoption of a conservation measure that provides systematic coverage by international/national scientific observers for the krill fishery in accordance with the CCAMLR scheme.

6.23 Prof. B. Fernholm (Sweden) noted that CCAMLR-XXVIII/47 included a proposal for a conservation measure that would ensure systematic krill observer coverage at a high level consistent with the Scientific Committee advice, including 100% coverage where necessary, and in addition would require vessels to report biological data from the fishery.

6.24 Dr Agnew drew attention to the analysis of data from Subarea 48.3 discussed at WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 3.55) which supported the value of a high level of systematic observer coverage in the krill fishery.

6.25 Argentina noted its support for the proposals of Ukraine, and its views that:

- (i) Members who have collected data from observation in the krill fishery need to submit these data to CCAMLR;
- (ii) Members participating in the krill fishery need to send experts to the relevant working groups and in particular WG-EMM;
- (iii) international scientific observers are required in the krill fishery;
- (iv) the ASOC paper CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/27 provides a good summary of the issues associated with observation in the krill fishery.

6.26 ASOC noted that, as it has previously identified, it continues to consider systematic observer coverage a minimum standard for the krill fishery. ASOC greatly appreciated the efforts undertaken by several CCAMLR Members to make progress on this issue. ASOC urged all fishing nations to participate actively in the work to be undertaken in the context of WG-SAM and WG-EMM, especially in the design of a scientific observer program for krill. ASOC thought that it is imperative that Members not only participate in the meetings, but also that they contribute actively to the discussions. For that reason, it is essential that representatives from all Members with the adequate expertise are present at those meetings. Finally, having been part of the process to design the observer program for krill, ASOC hopes that Members will be able to endorse the recommendations resulting from the next WG-EMM meeting with regard to observers, when the Scientific Committee meets next year, which would allow the Commission to finally adopt a conservation measure on this matter at CCAMLR-XXIX.

6.27 Dr Kiyota noted that Japan was currently working through issues associated with the submission of observer data collected by national observers on board Japanese krill vessels.

6.28 Recalling its advice from SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraphs 6.22 to 6.34, the Scientific Committee agreed the need for, and importance of, systematic coverage of all Members' vessels participating in the krill fishery. The Scientific Committee agreed that such observer coverage is a high priority. The Scientific Committee recommended that, following consideration at WG-SAM and WG-EMM of technical issues in 2010, a well-designed program for systematic observer coverage in the krill fishery be adopted at SC-CAMLR-XXIX.

6.29 The Scientific Committee noted that irrespective of plans for the future systematic collection of data by scientific observers in the krill fishery, a number of priority working group tasks in 2010 would rely on scientific observer data from the 2009/10 krill fishery and strongly urged participants in the fishery to deploy scientific observers on all vessels possible.

6.30 The Scientific Committee noted that its ability to conduct its work was contingent on the efforts of scientific observers in collecting data, and requested that Members ensure that this gratitude be conveyed to all scientific observers after the meeting.