

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Coordination of work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

14.1 The Scientific Committee agreed that the current pace and demands of work within the working groups is not sustainable. To address this issue, and as capacity is built, it was agreed that work on important topics within WG-EMM and WG-SAM should be conducted sequentially rather than in parallel (as is the current practice). Conducting work sequentially will cause advice to the Commission to be delayed, and, therefore, the Scientific Committee advised that additional precaution in the approach to managing the living marine resources typically addressed by these working groups (e.g. krill, icefish, toothfish, VMEs and by-catch) would be needed.

14.2 To begin the process of prioritising topics in the work of WG-EMM and WG-SAM, the Scientific Committee agreed the following proposed agenda for WG-EMM next year. It also indicated that this agenda should form the basis of a three-year work plan for WG-EMM:

Focus Topic – to be postponed until the Scientific Committee agrees that capacity is sufficiently well built for such discussions to be added back into WG-EMM's agenda.

Ecosystem Effects of Fishing for Krill –

- (i) Conduct reviews and evaluations related to:
 - (a) krill fishery notifications
 - (b) trends in the krill fishery
 - (c) results from the exploratory krill fishery in Subarea 48.6
 - (d) revising estimation of B_0 and precautionary catch limits.
- (ii) Postpone review and evaluation of:
 - (a) data collected by CEMP, review of CEMP, and work conducted by WG-EMM-STAPP;
 - (b) information related to climate change;
 - (c) development of feedback management strategies;
 - (d) questions posed to WG-EMM as a result of the Performance Review (section 10).

Ecosystem Effects of Fishing for Finfish – postpone all work under this agenda item.

Spatial Management to Facilitate the Conservation of Marine Biodiversity –

- (i) Conduct reviews and evaluations related to:
 - (a) VMEs;

- (b) protected areas, with particular emphasis on work needed to achieve the first milestone in the agreed plan to work towards a network of MPAs in 2012 (paragraph 3.15). (Issues related to harmonisation of spatial management approaches across the ATS will naturally be addressed as part of this work.)

14.3 Noting that the agenda of WG-SAM is intended to be responsive to the requests from other working groups, the Scientific Committee identified the following as key issues for consideration by WG-SAM in 2010:

- systematic observer coverage for krill fisheries (high priority);
- ecosystem models for developing feedback management in krill fisheries (postponed);
- VME assessment and/or evaluation methodologies (high priority)
 - footprint calculations
 - simulations and assessment methods;
- MPA assessment and/or evaluation methodologies (other work program);
- Subarea 58.4 exploratory fisheries and recovery plans for closed fisheries (high priority)
 - research designs for data-poor toothfish fisheries
 - review of TSVPA assessment for Division 58.4.1;
- otolith subsampling (postponed);
- optimal observer sampling (postponed);
- skate assessments (postponed);
- data requirements for assessments (cut-off dates for data) (postponed).

14.4 The Scientific Committee considered a proposal to set aside two days of its meeting next year to hold a symposium on its future work priorities. It agreed that this matter should be considered by the ad hoc correspondence group (paragraph 10.23).

Intersessional activities during 2009/10

14.5 The Scientific Committee noted that it had not received any offer from Members to host the 2010 meetings of WG-SAM and WG-EMM. China informed the meeting that it was undertaking internal discussions to consider the possibility of hosting future meetings of the working groups. The Scientific Committee warmly welcomed this offer from China.

14.6 The Scientific Committee noted that Dr Watkins would be available to continue as Convener for the SG-ASAM meeting in 2010 but that Dr O'Driscoll was not able to continue as a Co-convener.

14.7 The Scientific Committee also noted that the meeting of ICES WGFAST will be held from 27 to 30 April 2010 in San Diego, California, USA and that the USA had offered to host SG-ASAM in association with this meeting. However, some Members indicated that, due to budgetary constraints, the timing and venue of the subgroup meeting might limit attendance. In response to the concerns of those Members, and in an attempt to facilitate greater participation of those Members in the subgroup, the UK offered to host the meeting.

14.8 The Scientific Committee agreed to the following meetings in the 2009/10 intersessional period:

- SG-ASAM, Cambridge, UK (date to be advised) (Convener, Dr Watkins)
- WG-SAM (date and location to be advised) (Convener, Dr Constable)
- WG-EMM (date and location to be advised) (Convener, Dr Watters)
- ad hoc TASO, Hobart, Australia, 11 to 16 October 2010 (Co-conveners Dr Welsford and Mr Heinecken)
- WG-FSA at CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia, from 11 to 22 October 2010 (Convener, Dr Jones).

14.9 The Scientific Committee expressed concern that holding ad hoc TASO and WG-FSA concurrently could likely result in a capacity reduction at WG-FSA, and strongly encouraged Members to send appropriate scientists, technical coordinators and other experts to participate in next year's meetings.

14.10 The Scientific Committee endorsed the schedule outlined in paragraph 14.8 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

14.11 The Scientific Committee noted its previous consideration of the results of Members' participation in a range of IPY surveys and activities (SC-CAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 14.6). It agreed that the results from this work would provide an appropriate legacy of the CCAMLR involvement in IPY. The Scientific Committee also encouraged Members to participate in the IPY OSC in Oslo, Norway, from 8 to 12 June 2010.

Invitation of observers to the next meeting

14.12 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2009 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXIX.

Invitation of experts to the meetings of working groups

14.13 The Scientific Committee agreed that appropriate experts should be invited to working groups and subgroups through consultation with the conveners of those meetings and the Secretariat in respect of budgetary matters.

Next meeting

14.14 The next meeting of the Scientific Committee is scheduled at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 25 to 29 October 2010.