

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

15.1 The Scientific Committee sought nominations for a new Chair. Two candidates were nominated by Dr Bizikov (Vice-Chair) and the Scientific Committee unanimously elected Dr Agnew to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2010 and 2011). A very warm welcome was extended to the incoming Chair.

15.2 Mr Iversen's term as Vice-Chair in 2008 and Chair in 2009 (paragraph 1.4) ended with this meeting and the Scientific Committee sought nominations for a new Vice-Chair. Dr Bizikov nominated Dr Jones. This nomination was seconded by Dr Agnew and the Scientific Committee unanimously elected Dr Jones to the position for a term of two regular meetings (2010 and 2011). A very warm welcome was extended to the incoming Vice-Chair.

15.3 The Scientific Committee thanked Mr Iversen for his significant contribution to its work (see also paragraph 18.7).

OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 The Scientific Committee recalled paragraph 16.10 of SC-CAMLR-XXVII and noted that VMEs would be the subject of a focus topic at the next meeting of WG-FSA and would remain a priority area of work but would not be labelled the Year-of-the-VME consistent with the recommendations in paragraph 4.235.

Advance the understanding of reports of working groups by those participants who do not have English as their first language

16.2 The Scientific Committee agreed that during working group meetings from 2010 onwards:

- (i) reports should start to be developed in report language comparatively early in order to facilitate understanding of the final outcome from the meetings by those who do not have English as their first language;
- (ii) discussions on matters of substance in the different working groups should be finalised early to provide members of the working groups who do not have English as their first language with additional time before adoption of the report to study pre-final versions of the report.

16.3 Noting that the Commission was examining ways to address its substantial translation burden, SCAF had requested the Scientific Committee and its working groups to consider what components of their reports were required to be translated. Following the discussion of the need to develop capacity and understanding of the work of the Scientific Committee, there was agreement that continued efforts should be made to reduce the size of reports but that there was a continued need for those reports to be translated.

16.4 The Scientific Committee recognised that substantially reducing the length of reports of its working groups was limited by the need for those reports to be understood as a single

document, however, it was noted that the updating of background material on *Understanding CCAMLR's Approach to Management*, available on the CCAMLR website, as well as the training and development of rapporteurs, could contribute to the delivery of more concise reports.

Additional resources to address priority science areas of the Scientific Committee

16.5 The Scientific Committee considered the proposal from WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 15.1 to 15.8) that an assessment scientist should be recruited to join the Secretariat staff in order to address, *inter alia*, the questions set out in Annex 5, paragraph 5.114, regarding the assessments of exploratory fisheries in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2.

16.6 The Scientific Committee recognised that it was important to determine the priority requirements from all of its working groups in order to establish what work needs to be done so that the Scientific Committee can undertake its work. Once the priority work items have been determined, then a mechanism could be identified to have this work completed, noting that there are several options available to acquire additional resources, including those linked to issues of capacity building.

Best available science

16.7 In noting CCAMLR-XXVIII/39, which contained a draft resolution on the use of the best available science in CCAMLR, the Scientific Committee reaffirmed that it was committed to Article IX of the Convention and to the precautionary approach and recognised that the consistent use of the best available science was fundamental to achieving this.