

INCIDENTAL MORTALITY ARISING FROM FISHING OPERATIONS

Marine debris

4.1 At SC-CAMLR-XXVIII it was agreed that WG-IMAF would meet every two years, and hence did not meet in 2010.

4.2 Dr Trathan presented SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/10, a report on beached debris, marine predator entanglement and hydrocarbon soiling at study sites on South Georgia and at the South Orkney Islands during the 2009/10 fishing season. Reported beached debris remained low, as did reports of entanglement of fur seals. Marine debris associated with albatrosses appears to be above the long-term mean, with debris that could not be directly attributed to fisheries making a significant contribution. In the case of wandering albatross, debris with a fisheries origin remains at a high level.

4.3 Prof. Pin indicated that Uruguay has been monitoring marine debris, and evaluating its potential effect on seal and seabird colonies at Fildes Peninsula, King George Island, from 2001 to date. This information is presented on a regular basis to CCAMLR, and incorporated into the Secretariat's database. During the 2009/10 fishing season, no seals were found entangled in remnants of fishing gear.

4.4 The Scientific Committee welcomed this information and urged Members to report on their monitoring programs and to present their data to the Secretariat.

Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals associated with fisheries

4.5 Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in fisheries was discussed by WG-FSA. Tables 2 and 3 of the WG-FSA report (Annex 8) provide information on seabird and marine mammal by-catch, and also indicate that no cases of marine mammal mortalities in CCAMLR fisheries were observed.

4.6 The Scientific Committee asked whether it was pertinent to review information on seabird incidental mortality in the year when no advice from WG-IMAF is available. The Scientific Committee considered that it was important to ask WG-FSA to review this type of information in the years when WG-IMAF does not meet, in order to identify any possible anomalous situations and, if appropriate, take the necessary measures.

4.7 Prof. Duhamel presented a report on the French plan of action to minimise seabird incidental mortality at Crozet and Kerguelen Islands, initiated in 2006 (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/14). It was reported that, through the use of methodologies that included streamer lines, fishery closures and daily monitoring of situations that could lead to seabird incidental mortality, the latter was reduced by 84% from 2006/07 to 2009/10, and during the last two fishing seasons this reduction has continued (50%).

4.8 The Scientific Committee thanked France for this information and for reducing seabird incidental mortality in the French EEZ, and asked WG-IMAF to examine the data and to provide advice with respect to the significance of the reduction.