CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

7.1 Information collected by scientific observers for finfish on board longline, trawl and pot vessels and krill trawl cruises was summarised by the Secretariat in SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/2. In accordance with the text of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, paragraph A(f), the Secretariat provided copies of all scientific observer reports to the Receiving Members.

7.2 The Scientific Committee noted that reports were not received from two Korean vessels, and was advised by the Republic of Korea that the deployed government-appointed observers on these vessels were still at sea and that they would submit the reports when they returned.

7.3 The Scientific Committee noted the discussions on the observer program by WG-FSA (Annex 8, paragraphs 10.1 to 10.7), WG-EMM (Annex 6, paragraphs 2.45 to 2.52) and discussed the report of ad hoc TASO (Annex 7).

WG-FSA

7.4 The Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendations of WG-FSA (Annex 8, paragraph 10.4) for improving the quality of observer data through:

- enhanced 'within-trip' error checks and feedback to observers from technical coordinators;
- the option for a database entry of data by observers to allow enhanced data entry checking;
- reviewing data performance metrics that include, inter alia, species identification, measurements, sex and maturity stage determination, and tagging, and provide this feedback to observers to improve their performance.

7.5 The Secretariat agreed to implement these changes in the observer system during 2011.

7.6 The Scientific Committee noted the concerns of WG-FSA in Annex 8, paragraph 10.5, that a lack of clarity in the instructions for observers in new and exploratory fisheries exists because of contradictory instructions on sampling requirements in the *Scientific Observers Manual*, observer logbook and CM 41-01, Annex B. The Secretariat noted that the *Scientific Observers Manual* was in the process of being revised and that sampling instructions would be addressed in the updated version. This would be first done for finfish and then for krill.

WG-EMM

7.7 The Scientific Committee noted advice from WG-EMM (Annex 6, paragraphs 2.45 to 2.52) on observer coverage in the krill fishery (see also paragraphs 3.14 to 3.22).

7.8 The Scientific Committee thanked all observers for their hard work in collecting scientific data during the 2009/10 season.

Ad hoc TASO

7.9 The Co-conveners of ad hoc TASO, Mr Heinecken and Dr Welsford, presented the report from the third meeting held in Hobart, Australia, from 11 to 15 October 2010 (Annex 7).

7.10 The Scientific Committee noted that the agenda of the third meeting of ad hoc TASO covered primarily the development of standards for an accreditation scheme for all participants in the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation in accordance with its recommendations from last year (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 6.8).

7.11 The UK welcomed this first step in a process to standardise the scientific observer program but noted that clarity was required in the mechanisms to deal with the review process, noting in particular that the persons with the experience to review programs were often those already managing programs and that this could lead to a conflict of interest.

7.12 The Scientific Committee agreed that TASO could constitute an appropriate review panel and sought advice from the Commission and SCIC on a dispute-resolution procedure should there be a dispute over the assessment of criteria provided by a Member (Annex 7, paragraph 2.6). The Scientific Committee agreed that the panel should consult with the Secretariat and SCIC over the next year to establish the precise mechanism for undertaking the accreditation assessment.

7.13 The components and assessment criteria matrix for baseline standards for CCAMLR international scientific observer programs (Annex 7, Table 1) were endorsed by the Scientific Committee.

7.14 The Scientific Committee noted that in VME discussions in WG-FSA, Members using Spanish and trotline systems could be encouraged to deploy benthic impact camera systems (BICS) and noted that they were already used in national observer programs to gather data on the impacts of these fishing gears on the benthos. The Scientific Committee agreed that initiatives towards utilising electronic monitoring methods by all vessels in the Convention Area could improve data gathering capabilities that would benefit the work of the Scientific Committee.

7.15 The Scientific Committee noted that observers need to be able to do their work in optimum conditions and in a safe environment, and requested the Commission to consider how to set these standards amongst Members.

7.16 It was noted that in CM 10-02, paragraph (2)(vi), Members are required to ensure that their vessels comply with the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (International Safety Management Code) from 1 December 2009, and requested that SCIC consider registration for an IMO number mandatory to ensure that the safety standards on board all vessels operating in the Convention Area where observers are deployed are met.