

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups

15.1 The Scientific Committee identified the three priority areas for its work over the next two to three years as feedback management of the krill fishery, assessment of toothfish fisheries (especially in exploratory fisheries) and MPAs. A schedule to address issues related to these priority items (including those identified in the PRP report), and the allocation of tasks to particular working groups, were agreed (Table 7).

15.2 The Scientific Committee agreed that, as the role of ad hoc TASO developed into the review panel for the accreditation process, there would no longer be a requirement for this group to meet on a regular basis. However, the Scientific Committee noted that there was still work to be completed on developing the terms of reference of this review panel and a need to develop guidance on the application of the accreditation process, and noted that this would involve consultation with the Chairs of the Scientific Committee and SCIC. It also noted that it would keep the work of TASO under review and may ask TASO to meet when required.

15.3 In considering Table 7, the Scientific Committee provided the following clarifications:

- (i) there may be a need for a meeting of SG-ASAM in 2012 to provide advice on the processing of acoustic data from surveys conducted on commercial krill fishing vessels;
- (ii) catch monitoring in the krill fishery would need to include consideration of escape mortality and estimation of green weight.

15.4 The Scientific Committee noted that the additional work on VMEs identified in Annex 8, paragraph 9.37, would be addressed in 2012.

Capacity building and burden sharing

15.5 The Chair of the Scientific Committee provided an update of the work of the *ad hoc correspondence group to develop options to build SC-CAMLR capacity in science to support CCAMLR* (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/5) and thanked all of the Members that had participated in the work of the group through correspondence, teleconference and meetings.

15.6 The Scientific Committee agreed that substantial progress had been made in the consideration of capacity building (see paragraphs 15.9 to 15.12) and that the ad hoc group should continue to focus during 2011 on its second term of reference (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 10.23) resourcing and delivering scientific activities, including field programs, needed for providing advice to the Commission. To facilitate these discussions, the Secretariat was requested to produce a discussion paper on the process for collection, selection and ageing of toothfish otoliths from exploratory fisheries. The Scientific Committee also requested WG-EMM to consider the likely requirements to allow routine processing and analysis of acoustic data from krill fishing vessel surveys, noting that the advice and experience from Norway would be an important part of this discussion.

15.7 Dr Barrera-Oro recalled previous consideration by the Scientific Committee of long-term monitoring of fish populations in Subarea 48.1 that had recently indicated signs of recovery of *Notothenia rossii*, which had been severely overfished in the region in the late 1970s (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraphs 4.134 and 4.135). In light of these results and in recognition of the local scale of the current research program, Argentina proposed the development of a regional monitoring program to monitor trends in inshore fish populations in Subarea 48.1. Such a program could involve a number of Members with research programs in this region as the research required relatively simple sampling equipment (inshore gill/trammel nets). Furthermore, such research has been shown to complement the results of offshore fish sampling along the South Shetland Islands because of the inshore/offshore life-cycle phases of the commercially exploited species involved.

15.8 The Scientific Committee welcomed Argentina's offer to coordinate the production of standard sampling and reporting protocols for inshore trammel net surveys in Subarea 48.1. Members with the potential to contribute to this program were encouraged to contact Dr Barrera-Oro.

15.9 The Chair of the Scientific Committee noted the excellent progress in burden sharing, including:

- (i) krill surveys and escape mortality experiments undertaken by Norway (paragraph 3.23);
- (ii) German and Argentine support for krill surveys in Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 (paragraphs 3.25 and 3.26);
- (iii) Argentine gill/trammel net survey in Subarea 48.1 (paragraph 15.7);
- (iv) New Zealand's offer of training courses in the use of CASAL (SC-CAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 10.20(i)).

CCAMLR Scientific Scholarship Scheme

15.10 The Chair of Scientific Committee introduced SC-CAMLR-XXIX/9 which outlined the result of the intersessional discussion of the *ad hoc correspondence group to develop options to build SC-CAMLR capacity in science to support CCAMLR* in respect of the development of the CCAMLR Scientific Scholarship Scheme.

15.11 The Scientific Committee endorsed the terms of the Scholarship Scheme in Annex 9, noting that the objective of the scheme is to contribute to capacity building within the CCAMLR scientific community and to contribute to consistent and high attendance and participation by scientists from all Members and consistent and high-quality scientific advice being provided by the Scientific Committee.

15.12 The Scientific Committee agreed that a review after five years would be appropriate to assess the performance of the scheme and, that while the scheme should be funded from the General Science Capacity Special Fund, the long-term nature of the scheme was dependent on additional funding from the Commission and Members.

15.13 The Scientific Committee expressed its gratitude to the Chair of the Scientific Committee for his leadership in the ad hoc group and the clear presentation of a clear document describing the scheme.

Intersessional activities during 2010/11

15.14 The Scientific Committee agreed to the following meetings in the 2010/11 intersessional period:

- WG-SAM (Busan, Republic of Korea, 11 to 15 July 2011) (Co-conveners Drs Constable and Jones);
- WG-EMM (Busan, Republic of Korea, 11 to 22 July 2011) (Convener, Dr Watters);
- Workshop on Marine Protected Areas (Brest, France, 29 August to 2 September 2011) (Co-conveners, Dr Penhale and Prof. Koubbi);
- WG-IMAF at CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia, from 10 to 14 October 2011 (Convener, Ms K. Rivera (USA));
- WG-FSA at CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia, from 10 to 21 October 2011 (Convener, Dr Jones).

15.15 The Scientific Committee endorsed the schedule outlined in paragraph 15.14 and expressed its thanks to both the Republic of Korea and France for their offers to host intersessional meetings.

Invitation of observers to the next meeting

15.16 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to the 2010 meeting would be invited to participate in SC-CAMLR-XXX.

15.17 In response to a request from the Secretariat, the Scientific Committee agreed to amend Rule 21 of its Rules of Procedure in order to clarify the period of time Members have to respond to a recommendation from the Chair of the Scientific Committee regarding the participation of an observer not considered at the last meeting of the Scientific Committee under Rule 21(a). The amendments are indicated in bold:

RULE 21

- (a) The Chairman may, when preparing with the Executive Secretary the preliminary agenda for the meeting of the Scientific Committee, draw to the attention of Members of the Scientific Committee his view that the work of the Scientific Committee would be facilitated by the attendance at its next meeting of an observer referred to in Rule 19, an invitation to which was not considered

at the previous meeting. The Executive Secretary shall so inform Members of the Scientific Committee when transmitting to them the Preliminary Agenda under Rule 5;

- (b) Unless a Member of the Committee objects to the participation of an observer no later than 65 days before the beginning of the next meeting, the Executive Secretary shall issue to that observer an invitation to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. **The Executive Secretary will so inform Members of the Scientific Committee when transmitting to them the Provisional Agenda under Rule 7.** An objection by a Member of the Committee in accordance with this rule shall be considered at an early point during the next meeting of the Committee.

Invitation of observers to working group meetings

15.18 Following a proposal from the USA, the Scientific Committee considered the potential for inviting observers to participate in meetings of its subsidiary working groups. The Scientific Committee agreed that, while this could provide access to additional expertise to the working groups, there would need to be a clear mechanism developed to allow such participation of observers.

15.19 The Convener of WG-EMM offered to lead an intersessional discussion on a potential mechanism to facilitate observer involvement in the working groups and undertook to bring a proposal for evaluation by the Scientific Committee in 2011. The Scientific Committee noted that the issues to be considered would need to include, inter alia:

- the provision for observers not attending some parts of the meeting
- data confidentiality
- the development of management advice to the Scientific Committee.

Invitation of experts to the meetings of working groups

15.20 The Scientific Committee agreed that, where appropriate experts were identified, that these could be invited to participate in working groups and subgroups through consultation with the conveners of those meetings and the Secretariat in respect of budgetary matters.