

PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

87. The Scientific Committee had two proposals before it for the setting up of subsidiary bodies. They are contained in SC-CAMLR-II/5/REV.1 submitted by the USSR and SC-CAMLR-II/7 submitted by Australia.

88. It was felt by some members that the proposed permanent sub-committee for the analysis of the state of the Antarctic ecosystems duplicated the responsibilities of the Scientific Committee and might therefore be unnecessary. In addition, some members felt that the proposed permanent executive sub-committee might duplicate the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and the Executive Secretary.

89. The overall view of the Scientific Committee was that at this stage it would be premature to set up subsidiary bodies of a permanent nature. The Committee recognised that in the future almost certainly some sub-committees would be necessary, but that it would be better to operate for some time in an *ad hoc* way and to allow its needs to become clear before deciding which bodies to set up permanently.

90. All members were agreed, however, that the problem of documentation and publications required some immediate action. It was recognised that formally, under the Convention, publication of the Scientific Committee report and statistical and other data lay within the domain of responsibility of the Commission. Nevertheless, the Scientific Committee believed that it would be necessary for a number of decisions to be made on a policy for scientific papers, which would need to be communicated to the Commission for its consideration. It was agreed to set up an informal working group, to discuss such matters. The group convened by Dr G. Stander (South Africa) met during the meeting on an opportunistic basis and will continue by correspondence in the intersessional period. It was agreed that this subject should be an item on next year's agenda. The group would consider *inter alia* the following:

- (i) Classes or categories of papers (e.g. working papers, information papers) to be submitted for consideration by the Scientific Committee.
- (ii) Arrangements for duplication and distribution of working papers for the Scientific Committee, including translation of abstracts.
- (iii) Contents and format for possible statistical bulletins, data records, etc.

- (iv) Arrangements for publication of the Committee's report and the possible inclusion of some or all of the papers.
- (v) The possibilities of other publications that might arise from the Committee's work.
- (vi) All other matters relating to documentation and Scientific Committee publications.

91. The Group reported on its preliminary discussions and a paper describing the discussions to date (SC-CAMLR-II/INF.11/REV.1) was circulated to all the members of the Scientific Committee.