

DATA COLLECTION AND HANDLING

DATA BEING COLLECTED

Inventory of commercial fishery data

8.1 The Committee agreed that the summary data given in SC-CAMLR-IV/BG/8 should be updated annually and provided to the Secretariat. While member nations should supply this summary information each year, the original data should be held in each national data base.

Guidelines on collection of fishery data

8.2. Basic data on fishery operations should continue to be recorded, following the guidelines as set out in Appendix 6 of the Report of the Third Meeting of Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-III). The committee noted that in the Kerguelen fishery, data were recorded at the level of the position of each individual trawl. However, the USSR representative advised that although attempts have been made to follow the guidelines set out in Appendix 6 since 1982, data could not readily be processed at the level of detail of 1° squares. It was explained that serious attempts were being made to improve this situation currently. As explained to the Secretariat during the recent visit to the USSR (SC-CAMLR-IV/5), efforts are being made to locate logbooks of commercial operations prior to 1982 in the hope of retrieving fishery data for some earlier years. The Scientific Committee underlined the importance of establishing early baselines of fisheries data which are as complete as possible.

Submission of fishery data

8.3 Referring to the preference recorded in the Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-III, paragraph 6.29) for catch and effort data to be submitted in a spatial scale of 0.5° latitude by 1° longitude, and a temporal scale of ten days, the Committee discussed this further in the light of the Reports of the Fish Stock Assessment Working Group and the Krill CPUE Workshop held immediately prior to the fourth meeting of Scientific Committee. An alternative summary could be done by sectors and depth, which some members felt might be advantageous.

8.4 The catch and effort data collection and reporting system based on logbooks, such as has been in effect around Kerguelen was also discussed. This system has proved to be workable and enable very complete assessments as outlined in the Fish Stock Assessment Working Group Report.

8.5 The Japanese delegation raised a question on the legal aspect of the submission of logbook data (including retrospective data) and attention was drawn to a reference to the same question in the report of last meeting (SC-CAMLR III, paragraphs 6.27 and 6.28). It was stressed that the collection and analysis of data and presentation of the results may be a sufficient procedure to fulfil the obligations of fishing countries rather than the simple submission of detailed data to fisheries organisations.

8.6 Both schemes of collecting and reporting length (and age) composition of the commercial catch as outlined in last year's Scientific Committee Report were considered to be satisfactory. The Scientific Committee considered that it would be particularly useful for this purpose to have experienced data collectors who move from one fishing vessel to another. It was considered necessary where data can be obtained only from one vessel, as from research vessels, to identify the specific data recorded when this vessel was working alongside the rest of the fishing fleet.

8.7 As reported under Agenda Item 4, the reporting of finfish fishery data was in most cases falling far short of requirements. Despite repeated requests, finfish fishery data either were not supplied, arrived too late, or were inadequate for use in the workshop.

8.8 For krill catch and fishing effort data, the spatial and temporal requirements for routine data submission should be clarified following the simulation exercises proposed under Agenda Item 5. For the present, it was agreed that krill fishing operations be recorded in the format as set out in paragraph 5.9.

DATA BEING TRANSMITTED

8.9 As reported (SC-CAMLR-IV/8), the STATLANT data base is still far from complete. The Scientific Committee requests the Commission to press for the full and proper completion of STATLANT reports for each past season.

8.10 As noted in the previous report (1984), some STATLANT 8B forms give combined effort data for finfish and krill fishing operations. The Scientific Committee requests member

nations to review data supplied on STATLANT 8B forms since 1982 to ensure that effort data are recorded separately for krill and finfish fishing.

8.11 The Committee agreed that for future seasons, the STATLANT reports for the preceding season should be lodged at the very latest by September 30 of that year.

PROCESSING OF DATA

8.12 The processing of data as received by the Secretariat, is described in SC-CAMLR-IV/8.

8.13 The Scientific Committee noted that assessments by working groups would be facilitated by a higher degree of pre-processing of data within the Secretariat. (For example, length frequency distributions of catches converted to age distribution.) Part of the problem is that data do not arrive in time for the necessary checking and entry. Close consultation between the Secretariat and Working Group Conveners is required to ensure that all possible pre-processing of the necessary data is carried out before a working group assembles.

8.14 Noting that in the Report of the 1984 Meeting, the Scientific Committee deferred the publication of the Statistical Bulletin until a complete set of historical data was available, the Committee has to report that these historical data are still incomplete. Those data which are available are attached as Annex 8 to this Report.

ADVICE TO THE COMMISSION

8.15 Member nations agreed to forward to the Secretariat 30 days before the meeting each year, an annual update of the inventory of commercial fishery data (as in SC-CAMLR-IV/BG/8).

8.16 The Scientific Committee underlines the importance of having baseline data (i.e. historic data) in Antarctic fisheries in as complete a form as possible.

8.17 Despite repeated requests, finfish fishery data either have not been supplied, arrived too late, or were inadequate for stock assessment. Attention is drawn to this unsatisfactory position and the Commission is requested to press members for the timely and complete submission of data.

- 8.18 The Scientific Committee presses member nations for full and proper completion of STATLANT reports for each past season. In particular, effort data for finfish and krill fishing operations should be recorded separately.
- 8.19 In future, the STATLANT forms for the preceding season should be lodged at the very latest by September 30 of that year.
- 8.20 The Scientific Committee noted that assessments by working groups would be facilitated by early submission of data to the Secretariat, and close liaison between the Secretariat and the Working Group Conveners to ensure that all possible pre-processing of data is carried out before a Working Group assembles.
- 8.21 The Scientific Committee requests member nations to forward the historical data required in order to publish the Statistical Bulletin.