

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.1 The Chairman noted that since the preparation and distribution of the provisional agenda, some additional issues associated with the Commission had arisen which also required the attention of the Scientific Committee.

2.2 It was agreed that in anticipation of related requests expected from the Commission, two additional topics would be addressed under agenda item 14: a) a review of exemptions from conservation measures for scientific research, and b) the proposal to the Commission that the Scientific Committee provide advice on the likely effects on harvested species and non-target species of alternative conservation and harvesting strategies, using the various conservation measures open to the Commission.

2.3 It was agreed that a request for funds from the BIOMASS Executive would be considered under agenda item 8.

2.4 The provisional agenda, with the additions noted above, was adopted (Annex 3).

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN

3.1 The Chairman noted that Members had been active since the last session, with four intersessional meetings taking place. He thanked the conveners, rapporteurs, participants, and the Secretariat for contributing to the success of these meetings.

3.2 The Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring, chaired by Dr K. Kerry (Australia), met in Hamburg, FRG, from 2–7 July 1986. A report from that meeting was distributed as SC-CAMLR-V/3, and is attached as Annex 6.

3.3 A Workshop on Antarctic Fish Age Determination, chaired by Dr T. Lubimova (USSR), was held in Moscow, USSR, from 14–18 July 1986. The Convener presented a verbal report from that meeting; it is anticipated that a final report will be available soon.

3.4 The Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment, chaired by Dr R. Hennemuth (USA), was held in Hobart, Australia, from 1–5 September 1986. A report from that meeting was distributed as SC-CAMLR-V/4, and is attached as Annex 4.

3.5 An informal group on Long-Term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee, chaired by Dr K. Sherman (USA), was held in Hobart on 7 September 1986. A report from that meeting was circulated as SC-CAMLR-V/6, and is attached as Annex 9.

3.6 Preparations for a Krill CPUE Simulation Study, coordinated by Dr J. Beddington (UK) had made some progress.

3.7 Preparations for the CCAMLR/IOC Scientific Seminar on Antarctic Ocean Variability and Its Influence on Marine Living Resources, Particularly Krill, to be held in June 1987, are proceeding well (SC-CAMLR-V/BG/16).

3.8 The Chairman noted that a Plan of Action to guide the Secretariat during the intersessional period was drafted, as agreed, at the conclusion of the last meeting by the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, the Executive Secretary, and Conveners of working groups. This plan proved to be quite useful in coordinating Secretariat activities, and all tasks outlined were completed.

3.9 The Chairman felt that preparing a Plan of Action for the Secretariat annually will prove very useful. However, he noted that changes in venue and dates of planned meetings had caused some difficulty in the past year. Therefore, firmer agreements for intersessional plans should be made during the Scientific Committee meeting to allow Members and the Secretariat to make appropriate plans to participate.

3.10 Reports of Members, reflecting fisheries and scientific activities undertaken during the past year, had not been received from all Members as required. Only 5 Members (European Economic Community, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and South Africa) submitted their reports in time to meet the deadline of 30 days prior to the Scientific Committee meeting. An additional 11 Members submitted their reports after the deadline or at the start of the meeting. No reports had been received yet from 2 Members.

3.11 In noting that late reports put a heavy, last-minute work load on the Secretariat, the Chairman encouraged all Members to meet the agreed deadlines for submission of documents.

3.12 India submitted a report of activities from 1981–1985 which includes the period during which India participated in the Scientific Committee as an observer. The Chairman

stated that it would be helpful if observers from acceding states would also provide a report of their activities. A report from Spain was received.

3.13 The submission of current STATLANT data is adequate, but the historical data is still incomplete. Detailed historical fisheries data would be valuable, as well as future catch and effort data that provide more detail than those available in STATLANT submissions.

3.14 In closing his report, the Chairman called the Scientific Committee's attention to its important responsibility of providing sound advice to the Commission. He reminded Members of the great scientific and political importance of maintaining high standards in their work and of formulating advice to the Commission to ensure the effective conservation and proper management of the ecosystem and its living resources. Through these actions, the Scientific Committee would promote the credibility of the Convention and of the Antarctic Treaty system as a whole.