

DATA COLLECTION AND HANDLING

Presentation of Data

7.1 Catch and effort statistics are received on STATLANT 08A and 08B forms. Data received up to and including the 1984/85 season (see SC-CAMLR-V/BG/8) are summarised and presented at Annex 8 in this report.

7.2 It was noted that the flow of data to the Commission was satisfactory to a large degree although there were still gaps in both the recent and historical data and that some catches were still being reported as unidentified.

7.3 It was explained that some gaps in data presented by the USSR reflected the absence in the particular season of research vessels which gather the data. In other instances the data gathered by the fishing companies was no longer available.

7.4 Of particular importance are the data on catches of *N. guntheri* taken in a separate directed fishery in subarea 48.3 (in the vicinity of Shag Rocks) and also finfish catches before 1979 in subarea 58.5. The USSR agreed to provide these data before the next meeting of the Committee.

7.5 It was recognised that some fish catches were not assigned to species because of problems experienced by fishermen in identifying the catch despite the provision of identification charts. It is to be hoped that the new Species Identification Sheets produced in conjunction with FAO will help. It was recommended that fishing countries adopt procedures to include scientific observers on commercial vessels as a means of ensuring *inter alia* correct identifications.

7.6 The temporal and spatial scales on which data should be collected and presented were discussed again. It was noted that in addition to gathering detailed catch and effort data on a spatial scale of 0.5° latitude by 1° longitude and a temporal scale of 10 days, there was a need for recording data on finer scales for analyses that will be required in the future. Two such requirements have been identified and there has been agreement to record data on a finer scale for use in studies on krill (see SC-CAMLR-IV, paragraph 5.9) and finfish (see CCAMLR-IV, paragraph 45).

7.7 Further, based on the report of the Working Group for the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program, it was agreed that krill fishery data may be needed on spatial scales that

inter alia are related to the foraging range of predators. The Committee therefore reiterated the request that data be gathered on as fine scales as possible so that they may be utilised either in such a form or recombined for areas of biological significance.

Presentation of Data by the Secretariat

7.8 The Committee reviewed the presentation of data given in the reports of the Scientific Committee and in SC-CAMLR-V/7 and agreed that some forms of presentation were unnecessary and others somewhat difficult to follow. It was agreed that a new format was required and that this should be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Convener of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment for presentation on a trial basis at the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. The format used for presentation of summarised data in SC-CAMLR-V/4 offered some advantages and could be used for guidance.

7.9 The publication of a Statistical Bulletin was considered. In the past the publication of such a bulletin had been deferred until such time as a complete set of historical data became available (see SC-CAMLR-IV, paragraph 8.4). Although there are still some gaps in the data, the Committee now believes that the point has been reached where such a bulletin should be prepared. It therefore proposes that the bulletin be published and updated annually. To facilitate the update of the bulletin, a loose-leaf format is proposed. FAO codes should be used to refer to countries.

Advice to the Commission

7.10 In general, data collection and handling shows some improvement. There are still problems associated with catches not being identified, and with gaps in the historical data set.

7.11 The Scientific Committee also drew the Commission's attention to the need outlined in paragraph 4.25 for detailed data to be submitted on *N. guntheri* in area 48.3 and *N. squamifrons* in 48.3 and 58.4.4. In addition, the Scientific Committee recommended that catch data for the period prior to 1979 for area 58.5 should be submitted.

7.12 Data on both finfish and krill fisheries should be collected on as fine temporal and spatial scales as possible and in the detail set out for finfish in the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Commission in paragraph 45. This was seen as important not only for the

work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment and the Krill CPUE Simulation Study but also for the needs of the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

7.13 A bulletin should be published summarising historical catch and effort data. This bulletin should be updated annually. The formats for presentation of data in the bulletin will be determined by the Convener of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment in association with the Secretariat.

7.14 It is recommended that note be taken of paragraph 4.42 of this report in which it is recommended that detailed data on the catches of *Pleuragramma antarcticum* in the whole of area 58.4 be provided at the temporal and spatial scales discussed in paragraph 7.6. It was noted that so far there have only been research vessel catches by the USSR.