

REVIEW OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

9.1 Dr K. Sherman (USA) reviewed the draft report of the Informal Group on the Long-Term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-V/6) (Annex 9). The main areas for which a long-term program were outlined were: (1) advice to the Commission, (2) fishery stock assessments, (3) mammal and bird population assessments, and (4) ecosystem monitoring.

9.2 The Scientific Committee agreed that developing a long-term program of work was an important activity that will assist the Committee in its work. Evaluating and modifying the long-term program is an ongoing process that requires annual updating. It was agreed that this annual review would occur immediately following the Scientific Committee's session, so as to benefit from its discussions.

9.3 It was noted that two papers tabled at this session had particular relevance to formulating and providing advice to the Commission (SC-CAMLR-V/17 and SC-CAMLR-V/BG/13).

9.4 Many fishery assessment activities are being planned for the next several years. These efforts will be more productive if they are coordinated within the Scientific Committee. It was agreed that an *ad hoc* group, chaired by Dr Sherman, would meet immediately after the Scientific Committee session to coordinate plans for fishery assessment cruises.

9.5 In light of the many fish stock assessment tasks outlined, there was a proposal to make the *Ad Hoc* Fish Stock Assessment Working Group into a permanent Working Group. It was agreed that this proposal would be considered further during the intersessional period and at the 1987 session of the Scientific Committee.

9.6 The Scientific Committee recognised the considerable expertise available regarding Antarctic mammal and bird population assessment. Consultations and exchanges of information are encouraged between the Scientific Committee and existing groups of experts (such as the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission, SCAR Group of Specialists on Seals, and SCAR Subcommittee on Bird Biology).