

## SQUID RESOURCES

6.1 Squid catches in FAO statistical areas adjacent to the Southern Ocean have increased significantly in recent years (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/10 and SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/11). Given the high levels of squid consumption by large vertebrate predators in the Antarctic, especially in sub-Antarctic areas, it is important that our lack of knowledge of squid standing stock, production and general demography be rectified, so that the consequences of any future commercial exploitation of squid can be properly assessed. Octopods are also common and widespread in some parts of the Convention Area, although little is known of this group either.

6.2 Current reported catches of squid in the CCAMLR area are very low - a total of a few tens of kilograms in recent years, and two tonnes reported from Area 48 in 1979. No Member stated any intention of harvesting squid in the CCAMLR area in the foreseeable future. Dr Lubimova reported that the USSR has done considerable research on Antarctic squids (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/18), but that few squid are caught in nets in the Convention Area, and many species are unsuitable for human consumption. Studies on the role of squid in the ecosystem are important, however, because of the high levels of consumption of squid by marine mammals and birds.

6.3 Results from UK research show that one of the commonest squid taken from seabird stomachs in Subarea 48.3 (South Georgia) is *Martialia hyadesi*, a species which is fished commercially around the Falklands/Malvinas Islands. Thus it is important to study this species in the Convention Area, both as a potentially harvestable species and for its important ecological role.

6.4 Recent work on the diet of squid, including the results of Japanese research reported to the recent CCAMLR/IOC Seminar on Antarctic Ocean Variability, shows that krill form a substantial fraction of the diet of many species.

6.5 The Scientific Committee encourages Members to conduct research on squid in the Convention Area because of their important ecological role as predators of krill and as food for large vertebrates. Topics such as those detailed in SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/11, namely species composition and distribution, production and biomass, demography and population dynamics and trophic relations are relevant to such research. The activities of the Cephalopod International Advisory Council (detailed in SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/32) were noted.