

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

11.1 Dr K. Sherman (USA) reviewed the draft report of the Informal Group on the Long-term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee. The Group met on 25 October and plans to hold another meeting immediately after the Scientific Committee's meeting.

11.2 This year's agenda of the Group contains two major items: 'Review of the 5 Year Plan of Work of the Scientific Committee' and 'Co-ordination of Future National Surveys'. The latter item includes co-ordination of national surveys for fish stock assessment in the 1987/88 and 1988/89 seasons as recommended by the Commission (CCAMLR-V, paragraph 58).

11.3 The Group drafted and distributed among delegates a request for information on planned national research programs. The request included the following major items to be completed for each program: (1) scientific objectives, (2) study area, (3) period of study, (4) facilities to be used, and (5) other details.

11.4 The information provided by Members has been collated by the Group and will be used as the basis for improving the overall co-ordination and integration of national programs related to the scientific program of CCAMLR.

11.5 In discussing this topic, it was pointed out that there was an apparent lack of effort to integrate various national programs into the future framework of activity of the Scientific Committee. The collated information alone does not provide an adequate means to evaluate the relevance of current or planned research.

11.6 Several proposals were made on possible means for the co-ordination of national research activities, including nomination of national co-ordinators and exchange of cruise information between chief scientists. However, the conclusion was that at present the Scientific Committee does not have any mechanisms for the integration of national research efforts into its long-term program of work, or for co-ordination of such research. Some co-ordination has recently been achieved, but only through bilateral agreements between interested countries (e.g. USA/Poland, and France/USSR).

11.7 It was suggested that some aspects of long-range planning might be better handled in other subsidiary bodies of the Committee. In particular, the Fish Stock Working Group should consider how trawl surveys could best be carried out in order to help the Group

achieve its tasks. To this end countries intending to carry out surveys were requested to inform the Convener of the Working Group of their intention as far in advance as possible.

11.8 It was decided that the Informal Group on the Long-term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee should continue its work during the intersessional period, and that the mechanisms for ensuring that the research activities of member countries facilitate the work of the Committee should be reviewed at its 1988 session. The report on the work of the Group during the 1987 Commission session will be appended as Annex 6. For convenience of reference this report includes material added after the Scientific Committee concluded its substantive discussions.