

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

8.1 The practice in the past has been for the Chairman in collaboration with the Vice-Chairmen, Conveners of the Working Groups and the Secretariat to draw up a plan of intersessional activities. Initially, this plan was introduced with the aim of assisting the Secretariat in organising its activities during the year. More recently it has included action required from the Conveners and the Chairman.

8.2 It was suggested that such a plan might also be of assistance to all Members in preparation for the annual meetings of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Scientific Committee endorsed this proposal. A plan of intersessional activities for 1988/89 will be drafted after the meeting and circulated to Members within several weeks.

Co-ordination of Field Activities for the 1988/89 and 1989/90 Field Seasons

8.3 The Scientific Committee during its 1987 Meeting recognised the need for promoting further co-ordination of national research programs. It was agreed that the Informal Group on the Long-Term Program of Work should meet prior to the 1988 Meeting of the Scientific Committee to review 'mechanisms for ensuring that the research activities of Member countries facilitate the work of the Committee' (SC-CAMLR-VI, paragraph 11.8).

8.4 The Group met on 23 October 1988. The Convener, Dr K. Sherman (USA) presented the meeting's report (SC-CAMLR-VII/13), which was adopted with minor revisions by the Scientific Committee (Annex 8).

8.5 The Group concentrated its effort in discussing three major topics:

- (i) obtaining information on national programs' research plans as they relate to CCAMLR;
- (ii) co-ordination of multinational research, monitoring, and survey efforts; and
- (iii) identification and prioritisation of the long-term information needs of CCAMLR (long-term strategy of the Scientific Committee).

8.6 A summary of research programs of CCAMLR Members for 1988/89, 1989/90 and 1990/91 seasons was prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of information extracted from the Members' Activities Reports. This summary was updated during the meeting of the Scientific Committee and distributed as SC-CAMLR-VII/BG/48.

8.7 It was noted that the Secretariat had experienced some difficulty in extracting information in sufficient detail from the standard reports of Members Activities. It was agreed that a more specific request would be formulated. A question was also raised as to whether national representatives to the Scientific Committee or to the Commission should be responsible for providing this information.

8.8 The Scientific Committee decided that in the future the Secretariat should circulate requests of information on planned research to national CCAMLR representatives. The request should clearly indicate which information is required for Scientific Committee purposes. The Secretariat should maintain and annually distribute a summary of national research plans.

8.9 The co-ordination of national research, monitoring and survey efforts may best be achieved by identifying research priorities more clearly. The Group suggested that it might be useful to convene a small group routinely to identify and evaluate the various proposed tasks of the Scientific Committee. Several other steps in the development and implementation of a long-term plan of work of the Scientific Committee were proposed by the Delegation of USA (SC-CAMLR-VII/BG/47).

8.10 The Scientific Committee endorsed the steps outlined in the US proposal, but noted that required activities could be taken in existing groups and did not require, at present, the establishment of new one.

8.11 A special methodology was elaborated and successfully used in the Southwest Fisheries Center (La Jolla, USA) for the elaboration of a strategic framework of long-term research plans. Dr I. Barrett (USA), Director of this Center, introduced this methodology to the Scientific Committee. Although it was not known if this methodology had been used in other international organisations, two CCAMLR meetings on krill are presently planned at La Jolla and participants of these meetings were invited to try this methodology. Additional documentation will be submitted to the Secretariat.

Conservation Strategy

8.12 The Commission's Working Group for the Development of a Conservation Strategy convened an ad hoc Technical Sub-Group to advise it on 'performance criteria for assessing different conservation strategies'. The Sub-Group reported to the Working Group which met immediately prior to the Scientific Committee. As the Working Group had not finished its work at the time of the Scientific Committee meeting, this item was not discussed.