

## SQUID RESOURCES

### Review of Activities Related to Squid Resources

4.1 Dr Beddington reported to the Scientific Committee that during February 1989, exploratory fishing was carried out by two Japanese registered commercial squid jigging vessels (with UK scientists on board). They fished within Statistical Area 48.

4.2 Catches of commercial quantities were obtained within Subarea 48.3, some 185 n miles west of Shag Rocks. A total of 8.23 tonnes of the Ommastrephid squid, *Martialia hyadesi* was caught (SC-CAMLR-VIII/BG/25). Fine-scale catch and effort data were reported to the Secretariat by the UK.

4.3 Dr Beddington also indicated that he had received information on the operation of a Taiwanese squid jigging vessel which had made catches within the Convention Area during the past year.

4.4 In discussing the above developments, the Scientific Committee agreed that there was not much likelihood that squid fishing in the Convention Area would expand in the near future. There were a number of reasons for this, but in brief, these could be mainly attributed to the limited and relatively uncompetitive market potential of *M. hyadesi*. Dr Lubimova felt that the resource was not available in sufficient quantities or with adequate predictability to be of future importance as a commercial resource. Dr Shimadzu said that it was unlikely the Japanese vessels would fish for squid in the near future.

4.5 Despite the reservations expressed in paragraph 4.4, however, the Scientific Committee was of the opinion that given the ecological importance of squid in general (particularly to certain predators found in Statistical Area 48), there would be considerable merit ensuring that fine-scale catch and effort data on future squid fishing operations (as provided by the UK) are reported to the Commission.

### Advice to the Commission

4.6 The Scientific Committee drew the Commission's attention to catches of squid taken during 1988/89 in the Convention Area by a non-Member nation. It was suggested that the

institution of some mechanism to obtain data of this kind from non-Member nations should be investigated.

4.7 The Scientific Committee recommended that fine-scale catch and effort data from squid fishing operations in the Convention Area should be submitted to the Commission. It was also suggested that the Secretariat should, in consultation with Members most experienced in the analysis of data and the mechanics of squid jigging operations, develop a reporting system for presenting squid jigging catch and effort statistics.