

REVIEW AND PLANNING OF THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Activities in the Intersessional Period

9.1 In previous years the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, in consultation with the Conveners of the Working Groups, had drafted plans of intersessional activities with the aim of assisting the Secretariat in organising its work. Last year it was decided that such a plan would also be of assistance to all Members in preparation for the annual meetings of the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies (SC-CAMLR VII, paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2) Accordingly a schedule of activities was prepared and distributed shortly after the meeting.

9.2 The Scientific Committee agreed that the plan had been useful and the practice should be repeated.

Coordination of Field Activities for the 1989/90 and 1990/91 Field Seasons

9.3 The Scientific Committee last year requested the Secretariat to maintain, annually update and distribute a summary of national research plans (SC-CAMLR-VII, paragraph 8.8). The summary is to be used by Members and the Scientific Committee for the coordination of national research programs in support of CCAMLR. The specific aspects of coordination of field research will be handled by the Scientific Committee's specialist working groups.

9.4 Following the Scientific Committee's decision, the Secretariat requested national CCAMLR representatives for information on planned research in the 1989/90, 1990/91 and 1991/92 seasons. A summary of research plans of Members for these seasons was later compiled by the Secretariat and distributed as SC-CAMLR-VIII/BG/3.

9.5 It was emphasised that these are not statements that activities are definitely to take place, but indications of activities that it is hoped will take place, and which may present opportunities for collaboration.

9.6 It was pointed out that the request for this information was sent out shortly after that for Reports of Members' Activities and that the two involved similar, but not identical information which complicated the task of its compilation for some Members. It was also pointed out that SC-CAMLR-VIII/BG/3 had only become available very late in the meeting

and still did not include information on some Members' plans, limiting its usefulness in facilitating coordination of research.

9.7 It was agreed that the Secretariat should be asked to look at the range of information requested of Members and presented to the Commission and Scientific Committee, not with a view to a change in the information required, but to review the means and timing of requests for the information, the format in which it is presented, and the time it is presented to the Scientific Committee.

9.8 Last year Dr I. Barrett (USA) informed the Scientific Committee of a special methodology used in the Southwest Fisheries Centre (La Jolla) for elaboration of a strategic framework on long-term research plans (SC-CAMLR VII, paragraph 8.11).

9.9 Dr Barrett reported to the Scientific Committee that he had submitted additional documentation on the method to the Secretariat, as he had undertaken, and had introduced it to participants in the meeting of the WG-Krill, held at the Centre during 1989. This is reported in SC-CAMLR-VIII/4, paragraphs 97 and 98. He also referred to a paper on strategic planning for the US Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program (SC-CAMLR-VIII/BG/50) which briefly describes an application of the process. Participants included some Members of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.