

OTHER BUSINESS

Rules of Procedure

15.1 In the course of its deliberations on the application for observer status by ASOC, the Scientific Committee identified several shortcomings in its Rules of Procedure relating to the participation of observers at its meetings (Rules 19 and 20). Specifically, these related to the procedure for inviting observers to be present, and the conditions of their participation.

15.2 A draft set of amendments to the Rules of Procedure was prepared and is presented in Annex 8. It was agreed that these and other amendments to the Rules should be considered in full as early as possible during the deliberations of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee in 1991.

Scientific Committee - Official Contact

15.3 There is no formally-agreed procedure for communicating official and urgent matters between the Secretariat and Members of the Scientific Committee. Up to now, this form of communication has been achieved either through the Member Contact nominated by the Commission or directly to the Representative at the most recent meeting of the Scientific Committee.

15.4 The Scientific Committee agreed to introduce a similar procedure to that used by the Commission which, under its Rules of Procedure (Rule 3), requires that 'each Member of the Commission shall nominate a correspondent who shall have primary responsibility for liaison with the Executive Secretary between meetings'.

15.5 The Scientific Committee agreed that this decision would take effect immediately and would be included in its Rules of Procedure when next they are revised.

15.6 The Secretariat will contact Members after the Meeting concerning the nomination of their Official Contacts for the Scientific Committee.

Exploratory Crab Fishery

15.7 Dr R. Holt (USA) informed the Scientific Committee that the US Government had issued a permit for the vessel MV *Marlin* to conduct exploratory fishing for king and stone crabs in Subareas 48.1, 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 during the 1990/91 season. This permit limited the catch to 1 000 tonnes of crabs. The fishery would probably take place from November 1990 through February 1991 using crab pots. The detailed reporting of catch and biological data from this experimental fishery are mandatory.

15.8 Concern was expressed by the Scientific Committee that this fishery had been authorised without prior knowledge of the demographic characteristics of these species. Some Members were concerned about the size of the take allowed by the US permit. It is feared that if the total 1 000-tonne limit is taken in one local area, it is likely to be close to the total biomass of the target species. If successful, this take may put the target species at the brink of extinction in some areas.

15.9 Dr Holt assured the Scientific Committee that full details of this exploratory fishery would be available at the next meeting of the Scientific Committee and that data would be reported to CCAMLR in the usual way.

15.10 In view of this situation, the Scientific Committee agreed to the need for the establishment of an appropriate mechanism to prevent future development of fisheries without sufficient information upon which to base management advice.

Standardised Grid of Oceanographic Stations

15.11 Mr Miller enquired as to the progress of Dr I. Barrett's (USA) offer to prepare a tentative station pattern and suite of methods for a standardised grid of oceanographic stations in the CCAMLR Convention Area (SC-CAMLR-VIII, paragraphs 13.8 to 13.10).

15.12 Dr Holt informed the Scientific Committee that Dr Barrett had investigated the methods available for monitoring oceanographic parameters and had concluded that the limited resources available to researchers in Antarctic waters may be unsuited to the establishment of a standardised grid. Instead he advocated the development of a geographical information system or similar system for analysing data obtained at a wide range of stations, opportunistically sampled, in the CCAMLR region. He indicated the USA will report on the feasibility of this approach at the 1991 WG-Krill and WG-CEMP meetings.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

16.1 The Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific Committee was reviewed and adopted.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

17.1 The Executive Secretary reiterated Mr Miller's earlier expression of thanks on behalf of the Scientific Committee to the outgoing Chairman, Dr Everson, and presented him with a memento as a mark of appreciation for his chairmanship over the past four years.

17.2 Prof. Lubimova also expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the Scientific Committee to Dr Everson for his guidance as Chairman, drawing attention to the manner in which he had led the Committee in its achievements in recent years.

17.3 In reply, Dr Everson thanked participants, working group conveners, rapporteurs and the Secretariat for their support and cooperation. He said that the improvements in the amount and quality of the science that had come out of the Scientific Committee over the years had been achieved through the dedication of all involved. He believed that with this continuing support and commitment to the Commission's goals, the next Chairman, Mr Østvedt, would, at the end of his term, feel an equal sense of gratitude in having been fortunate to have worked with such an enthusiastic, keen and dedicated Scientific Committee.

17.4 Dr Everson then closed the Meeting.