

CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

10.1 At its Ninth Meeting, the Commission directed the CCAMLR Secretariat to produce a draft paper on scientific observation for circulation to Members for comment in the intersessional period and consideration at CCAMLR-X (CCAMLR-IX, paragraph 11.10). The draft paper (CCAMLR-X/7) was considered by the Scientific Committee. As part of its task the Secretariat also produced a proposal for the formats for observations by observers on commercial fishing vessels in the CCAMLR Convention Area. The two papers were considered by intersessional meetings of the Scientific Committee's Working Groups and changes suggested to the observation formats by the Working Groups were taken into account in the paper considered by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-X/8).

10.2 The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission adopt the observation formats as agreed by the Working Groups, subject to amendment as necessary on the basis of further review, and that these be annexed to the document elaborating the scheme.

10.3 There was discussion of Attachment D to CCAMLR-X/7 which specified the provisions of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and the tasks and functions of international scientific observers. Concern was expressed about the means by which observation of research vessels is provided for in the proposed scheme. The Scientific Committee clearly identified observation on commercial vessels as the priority. It was pointed out that the research activities of Members already involve some degree of international cooperation. A formal scheme specifying tasks for observers on research vessels could unnecessarily constrain their ability to participate effectively in the research program of the vessel, particularly in relation to other researchers. The Scientific Committee therefore agreed to recommend to the Commission that the tasks of observers on research vessels not be specified in the scheme.

10.4 In relation to observers on commercial vessels, the essential purpose of gathering and validation of scientific data was reiterated. To achieve this the scheme should be flexible enough to enable the changing research priorities identified by the Scientific Committee to be addressed. The priorities for collection of data would also vary according to the vessel and fishery involved. The Scientific Committee agreed therefore that the observers' actual tasks should not be specified in the document elaborating the scheme. The list of tasks in this document should, however, broadly outline the key areas of work which the observer will be required to undertake. It was agreed that this should include effort as well as catch data, the procedures by which catch weight is measured and measurement of product to green weight

conversion factors. Accordingly, a revised draft of Attachment D, Section 2, was prepared for the Commission (Annex 8).

10.5 Dr Shust suggested that observers of the flag state of a commercial vessel would be best equipped to further the aim of collection and validation of data. Others argued that the presence of observers from an international pool would improve the comparability of data collected from different vessels, and increase the reliability of the data received by the Commission through validation by the observer of data collected. The importance of distinguishing between inspection and observation in this context was reiterated and it was agreed that these points should be taken into account by the Commission in its consideration of the issue.

10.6 The Scientific Committee noted the comments of the Working Groups on the proposed scheme (Annex 5, paragraphs 7.10 to 7.13; Annex 6, paragraphs 4.1 to 4.22; and Annex 7, paragraphs 7.25 to 7.31) and accepted with appreciation the offers by members of both WG-Krill and WG-FSA to assist in the preparation of a manual for observers in consultation with the Secretariat.

10.7 The Scientific Committee endorsed the priorities identified by WG-FSA for allocation of activities under the scheme to the following fisheries (in order of priority):

- (i) *Champsoccephalus gunnari*;
- (ii) longline fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides*;
- (iii) by-catch of juvenile fish in the krill fishery; and
- (iv) *Electrona carlsbergi*.

10.8 The Convener of WG-Krill pointed out that the Working Group had also identified (iii) above as a priority, noting that collection of data by observers is likely to be the only means of obtaining this information and referred to the high priority (paragraph 3.21) of having observers on krill vessels.