

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### ACQUISITION OF BIOMASS DATABASE

10.1 With the conclusion of the BIOMASS program in 1991, SCAR had offered to make the data in the BIOMASS database available to CCAMLR free of charge (SC-CAMLR-X, paragraphs 11.8 to 11.10). The Scientific Committee requested that the Secretariat consult with the manager of the Biomass Data Centre (BDC) to determine the most efficient and cost-effective way of acquiring the BDC data. The Data Manager's report was presented as SC-CAMLR-XI/BG/3.

10.2 The report recommended that since these data have been of use to WG-Krill and the Scientific Committee recently (Annex 4, paragraphs 4.47 to 4.62; SC-CAMLR-X, paragraph 3.78; this report paragraph 2.33), CCAMLR should not only acquire these data but also load them into an active database for the use of CCAMLR Members. The cost of this operation, detailed in SC-CAMLR-XI/BG/3 was estimated as A\$3 000.

10.3 The Scientific Committee agreed with this proposal. The Committee expressed its thanks to SCAR and BIOMASS for maintaining these data for the duration of the BIOMASS program and for offering to supply them free of charge to CCAMLR. The Scientific Committee also extended its thanks to Australian Antarctic Division, for agreeing to make computer facilities available for this project to CCAMLR free of charge.

10.4 It was agreed that the Data Manager would contact the manager of the BDC to ensure that a full record of all transformations that have been made to the data in constructing the BIOMASS database will be lodged with the CCAMLR Secretariat for consultation by users of the database.

### REQUEST OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

10.5 The Scientific Committee considered the request of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to comment on the scientific matters raised in a proposal by the Government of France that the IWC designate all waters south of 40°S as a whale sanctuary (SC-CAMLR-XI/12). It was also aware of an IWC resolution on the need for research on the environment and whale stocks in the Antarctic region, which calls for exchange of information between the IWC and CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XI/14).

10.6 The Scientific Committee recognised that the IWC is the global international organisation with authority for the management of whales. Accordingly, the Scientific Committee agreed that it should confine its discussion to scientific aspects of the proposal. There was a range of views on the scientific basis of the proposal and its relationship to the IWC's Revised Management Procedure, but no advice could be offered that had not already been reflected in the discussions of this topic by the Scientific Committee of IWC. However, the CCAMLR Scientific Committee welcomed further cooperation with the IWC Scientific Committee in investigating the role of whales in the Southern Ocean ecosystem.

10.7 The Scientific Committee noted that the minke whale was one of the original indicator species proposed under CEMP and that the results of substantial directed research into potential monitoring parameters had been reported to WG-CEMP. The minke whale no longer appeared on the list of indicator species simply because no specific proposals, including methods, for monitoring had been received. The Scientific Committee considered that it was desirable for any IWC program of research and monitoring on minke whales to include the development of methods addressing parameters of relevance to CEMP. The Scientific Committee would be happy to assist in these endeavours.

#### REPORTS OF OBSERVERS

10.8 Dr Croxall, the observer to SCAR, presented a report on SCAR activities of relevance to CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XI/BG/9), particularly relating to meetings associated with XXII SCAR in Argentina in June 1992. Most of the documents and reports referred to below can be obtained from the SCAR Secretariat.

10.9 The second part of SCAR's proposal for coordinated Antarctic research on the International Geosphere - Biosphere Programme, entitled "The Role of Antarctica in Global Change; Part 2 - An International Plan for a Regional Research Programme" will be published late in 1992. This major research program which will contain research on the effects of increased UV-B radiation on Antarctic biota, as well as the major initiatives in marine research described below, will be coordinated by a new group of specialists to which SCAR national committees have been invited to nominate corresponding members. Members of CCAMLR may be interested in maintaining liaison with their nominated representatives to this SCAR group.

10.10 SCAR, together with COMNAP has also submitted a paper on environmental monitoring in Antarctica to the Group of Experts on Environmental Monitoring at Buenos Aires, June 1992. The

paper covered areas complementary to those covered by CCAMLR, and the meeting recommended that environmental monitoring should be closely coordinated with activities of CCAMLR.

10.11 The management plan for the Seal Islands was approved by SCAR as reported in paragraphs 5.64 to 5.70.

10.12 SCAR and COMNAP have jointly established an *ad hoc* planning group on Antarctic Data Management. The aim of this group is to investigate data coordination in the setting up of an Antarctic data base, and ultimately a data network of Antarctic data holdings. This is envisaged to proceed via the solicitation of information on current data holdings by national and international organisations. The Scientific Committee asked the Data Manager to write to SCAR expressing CCAMLR's interest in participating in the discussions of the planning group.

10.13 The activities of the SCAR Bird Biology Subcommittee and Group of Specialists on Seals are discussed in paragraphs 7.1 to 7.7.

10.14 As part of its IGBP Program SCAR is developing a new coordinated multinational initiative for marine research in the Antarctic sea-ice zone, currently comprising three separate programs. SCAR and SCOR have agreed co-sponsorship of the Southern Ocean Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (SO-JGOFS) and the Southern Ocean Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics Programme (SO-GLOBEC). The latter which will investigate relationships within zooplankton and at higher trophic levels is therefore of particular interest to CCAMLR. The most recent initiative is the coordination of work, especially involving longterm studies, at shore-based sites, particularly in the Antarctic Peninsula, Ross Sea and parts of the Antarctic continent in the Indian Ocean sector.

10.15 Recommendations from SCAR to CCAMLR concern support for rapid implementation of the program of scientific observation on fishing vessels and another recommendation of relevance to CCAMLR concerns coordination of scientific research at King George Island. In the latter respect it was noted that the Programa Antártico of the Universidad de Chile proposes to devote a session of the forthcoming seminar, held in conjunction with the Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, USA, on "Science in Antarctica" (Santiago, 12 to 14 May 1993).

10.16 The next major biological meeting of SCAR will be the biology symposium in Venice, Italy in late May to early June 1994. This symposium should contain the results of much research of relevance to CCAMLR and will also offer opportunities for the presentation of the results of research conducted within CCAMLR.

10.17 Mr Balguerías, CCAMLR observer to ICES, presented his report of the 80th Statutory Meeting. Of the 95 current working groups of ICES, 70 held meetings during the 1991/92 season, approximately 45 dealing with the assessment stocks of commercial interest.

10.18 A large number of groups established for the assessment of stocks of single species have been replaced by others based on geographical criteria, and the consideration of multispecies approaches and the environmental relationships of commercial species has become more prevalent in their work. A new approach has been adopted by the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management; it has been accepted that the establishment of fisheries management objectives is the responsibility of management bodies, and the role of ICES should be limited to providing scientific advice to managers. ACFM now presents a range of options of ways of achieving agreed management aims, and their implications, rather than providing specific recommendations for TACs.

10.19 A workshop held at Woods Hole on the analysis of data from assessment cruises was of special relevance to CCAMLR, especially considering CCAMLR's own workshop to address this problem (Annex 5, Appendix H). The report from this workshop will be sent to CCAMLR when it is available.

10.20 Information on forthcoming ICES sponsored meetings was also given in SC-CAMLR-XI/BG/8, including workshops on sampling strategies for age and maturity data (February 1994, Copenhagen), the distribution and sources of pathogens in marine mammals (22 to 26 March 1993, Cambridge), and a symposium on computers in fisheries research to be held prior to the next Statutory Meeting in Dublin (Ireland), September 1993.

10.21 The observer to the Scientific Committee of the IWC, Dr de la Mare, presented his report (SC-CAMLR-XI/BG/6) and drew attention to the recently adopted Revised Management Procedure (RMP) for calculating catch limits. Much of the procedure and the science that has contributed to the development of the RMP should be of interest to CCAMLR.

10.22 In response to a letter from the Convener of WG-CEMP enquiring about sources of data available for investigating the krill requirements of baleen whales, the Scientific Committee of IWC noted that many of the studies it was undertaking as part of the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere baleen whales should provide much of the required information, and would be available in one to two years now that the priority of the Scientific Committee to develop the RMP had been realised.

10.23 The Chairman introduced CCAMLR-XI/BG/12, concerning the recent FAO technical consultation on high seas fishing (paragraph 1.14). There were many references to the CCAMLR

Convention Area in the context of high seas management in this document, without apparent consultation of CCAMLR. The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission consider this development carefully.

10.24 The following were nominated as observers for the meetings taking place in 1993:

- 81st Statutory meeting of ICES (September 1993, Dublin, Ireland):  
Mr Balguerías; and Secretariat representation: Data Manager;
- 1993 meeting of IWC (May 1993, Kyoto): Dr de la Mare;
- SCAR planning workshop for a program of research on pack-ice seals (see paragraph 7.18): Dr Bengtson.