

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ICES

12.1 The observer to the 81st statutory meeting of ICES (Dr Agnew) presented his report (SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/23). Over 500 participants attended the meeting (23 September to 1 October 1993, Dublin, Ireland) and more than 500 papers were presented.

12.2 A Bureau Working Group on Strategic Planning for ICES which met this year made several recommendations for changes to the structure of ICES which are of interest to CCAMLR. These included: placing more emphasis on Theme sessions at the statutory meeting; merging the Pelagic, Demersal and Baltic Fish Committees into a single Fish Ecology Committee; and integrating studies from disciplines such as fisheries science and socio-economics to look at, for example, information requirements of different management options.

12.3 Details of plans for several symposiums to be held in 1994 and 1995 were given in the paper.

12.4 Dr Everson reported that the ICES Fisheries Acoustics Science and Technology Working Group was preparing a report on methods for the estimation of acoustic target strength.

IWC

12.5 The observer to the IWC (Dr de la Mare) introduced his report of the meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IWC (April to May 1993, Kyoto, Japan) (SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/9). The Scientific Committee completed its refinements of the Revised Management Procedure and the development of the Revised Management Scheme, and after examining the results from implementation tests for the application of the procedure to Antarctic minke whales recommended that should catch limits be set for these stocks, 'small areas' corresponding to 10° longitudinal sectors should be used.

12.6 Continuing its comprehensive assessment of Southern Hemisphere baleen whales, the IWC this year produced a revised estimate of humpback whale numbers south of 60°S, amounting to 5 600 animals. A new population estimate for Area V minke whales of 93 000 animals, calculated from 1991/92 sightings, was substantially less than the two previous estimates (295 000 and 178 000), but this was probably a reflection of year-to-year differences in the distribution of whales.

IWC Resolution on Research on the Environment and Whale Stocks

12.7 In response to a request from the IWC for information relevant to a Resolution on Research on the Environment and Whale Stocks, adopted at the 1993 meeting of the IWC, the Executive Secretary had informed the IWC of CCAMLR's programs relevant to this resolution (SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/24).

12.8 The Scientific Committee noted that a framework for the collection of data applicable to this resolution has not yet been established. However, the Scientific Committee asked the Secretariat to write to the IWC, further to the letter described in SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/24, expressing its interest in assisting the IWC in this resolution and providing a listing of CCAMLR data holdings which might be of relevance to the resolution.

IOC

12.9 One of the observers from the IOC, Lic. Marschoff, reported that the IOC is reorganising its program in respect of Antarctic activities. He offered to compile a summary of the relevant sections of Working Group reports and report back to the IOC.

12.10 Dr Marín informed the Scientific Committee that the first meeting for evaluation of living marine resources within the GOOS Program (Marine Living Resources Module/GOOS/IOC-FAO) will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 7 to 10 December 1993. He noted that it may be appropriate to inform this group about the aims and research interests of CCAMLR, and the Secretariat was asked to bring this to the attention of the IOC.

12.11 The Convener informed the Scientific Committee that the next edition of the General Bathymetric Chart being produced by the IOC Ocean Mapping Project would probably appear in 1996, and that at present a high precision International Bathymetric Chart of the Weddell Sea is being created as part of this program.

FAO

12.12 Participation of the Secretariat in an *ad hoc* meeting on high seas fisheries statistics has been discussed in paragraph 3.75.

12.13 Dr Shotton, the observer from FAO, informed the Scientific Committee that FAO has considerable interest in the potential of ecosystem approaches for the management of fisheries, particularly in developmental situations, and the experience and methods of CCAMLR in this regard are of particular relevance. FAO wishes to strengthen contacts with CCAMLR so that its experience can be of benefit to other regions where such a management approach might be effective.

12.14 He further stated that the implications of the precautionary principle for fisheries management are of direct relevance to FAO's mandate and its Fisheries Resources Division is preparing an analysis of the implications (and means of implementation) of this principle for operational fisheries management. This paper should be completed by December 1993. FAO continues to provide technical support on this and other issues to the UN.

SCAR

12.15 The Data Manager informed the Scientific Committee that the BIOMASS Database should be available by December 1993. The Scientific Committee once more expressed its thanks to SCAR for making these data available to CCAMLR, and especially acknowledged the work of Mr M. Thorley, BIOMASS Database Manager, and his staff for their work in preparing the data for dissemination. It noted that these data have been of use to CCAMLR Working Groups for the last two years in the development of calculations of krill potential yield, and that the proposed krill flux workshop is expected to make further extensive use of them.

12.16 SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/16 gives details of the completed SCAR Antarctic digital topographic database. Dr Croxall, the observer from SCAR, informed the Scientific Committee that discussions are being held on the possibility of extending the database to include offshore bottom topography.

12.17 At its meeting in 1992, the Scientific Committee had asked the Data Manager to write to SCAR expressing CCAMLR's interest in participating in discussions of the SCAR-COMNAP *ad hoc* planning group on Antarctic Data Management. Following this request, CCAMLR has been invited to participate as observer at the meetings of this group.

12.18 The first stage towards integrated Antarctic data management proposed by the group is the establishment of a Data Directory system (SC-CAMLR-XII/BG/5). The Scientific Committee agreed that it would be appropriate for CCAMLR to lodge information about its data holdings and data access rules with the Data Directory when it becomes functional.

12.19 It was noted that information on data of use to CCAMLR would also be available through the Data Directory and, therefore, the system could be of value to the Scientific Committee. However, reservations were expressed about participation of CCAMLR in the second stage of the project, the construction of a database, since this might conflict with CCAMLR's data access rules. It was pointed out, however, that participation in the first part of the project would not imply automatic participation in the second.

12.20 In order that the development of the Directory proceed in a manner appropriate to CCAMLR's needs and that CCAMLR is able to provide advice to SCAR on the project, the Scientific Committee recommended that the Data Manager should represent CCAMLR at the next meeting of the SCAR-COMNAP group.

12.21 SO-GLOBEC (co-sponsored by SCAR) had been extensively discussed in the WG-Krill, WG-CEMP and WG-FSA reports (see Annex 4, Appendix F). The Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendations of all Working Groups that it should maintain close liaison with the SO-GLOBEC Program to ensure coordination of research programs of interest to both GLOBEC and CCAMLR.

12.22 The observer from SCAR (Dr Croxall) informed the Scientific Committee that the next meeting to discuss implementation of SO-GLOBEC was due to be held in June 1994, probably in Cambridge, UK. Until the structure of SO-GLOBEC is further developed it would be premature to nominate observers from each of the Working Groups of CCAMLR. However, a number of regular participants at CCAMLR Working Groups were also involved with the SO-GLOBEC subcommittees, and these people would be best placed to maintain liaison between the groups for the time being.

12.23 Accordingly, the Scientific Committee nominated Dr Croxall as its primary liaison with the Steering Committee of SO-GLOBEC, requesting him to seek assistance from the other members of the Scientific Committee's Working Groups who also attend SO-GLOBEC meetings.

12.24 Dr Croxall also drew the attention of the Scientific Committee to the development of the SCAR-sponsored Coastal Zone EASIZ (Ecology of the Antarctic Sea-Ice Zone) Program which had its first implementation meeting in Bremerhaven in September 1993. This program is designed to be complementary to SO-GLOBEC, focusing on interactions in the coastal zone especially concerning ice and ice biota, coastal community composition, nutrient cycles and benthic dynamics, and attempts to coordinate the coastal station work of SCAR members, with particular attention to longterm datasets.

12.25 It was noted that another important interaction between SCAR and CCAMLR was represented by the APIS Program which was discussed in more detail in paragraphs 9.2 to 9.9.

IUCN

12.26 The observer from IUCN (Mr A. Graham) informed the Scientific Committee that IUCN attaches great importance to CCAMLR, especially in relation to Article II. It continues to assist its Members in developing conservation strategies for its sub-Antarctic islands, and is seeking funding for a workshop on the impacts of human activities in the Antarctic. He noted that, at its next General Assembly (Argentina, January 1994), the IUCN will discuss a resolution identifying the importance it attaches to CCAMLR and recommending CCAMLR principles and practices be applied to all regional fisheries.

NOMINATION OF OBSERVERS

12.27 The following observers were nominated as observers at meetings in 1994:

- 82nd Statutory Meeting of ICES, 22 to 27 September 1994, St Johns, Canada: Dr Balguerías;
- 46th Annual Meeting of the IWC, May 1994, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico: Dr de la Mare;
- XXIII Meeting of SCAR, Rome, 29 August to 9 September 1994: Dr Croxall, with assistance from Dr Bengtson and Mr Miller at the meetings of SCAR specialist and subsidiary groups;
- Vth SCAR Symposium on Antarctic Biology, Venice, 30 May to 3 June 1994: Dr Sabourenkov; and
- SO-GLOBEC Implementation Meeting, Cambridge, UK, June 1994: Dr Croxall.

12.28 The Secretariat was also nominated to represent CCAMLR at the SCAR-COMNAP *ad hoc* Antarctic data management meeting (Boulder, USA, September 1994); and at the FAO *ad hoc* consultation on the Role of Regional Fishery Agencies in relation to high seas fishery statistics (La Jolla, USA, 13 to 16 December 1993).