

ACTIVITIES OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

1993/94 INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

15.1 The Scientific Committee agreed that all three Working Groups should meet during the intersessional period. In addition, a workshop on krill flux (paragraphs 2.29 to 2.31) and a joint meeting of WG-CEMP and WG-Krill will be held.

15.2 An offer was made by South Africa to host the meetings of WG-Krill and WG-CEMP, the krill flux workshop and the joint meeting. Mr Miller reported that currently it was planned to hold the workshop first, followed by parallel sessions of the two Working Groups including the joint meeting. The whole set of meetings would probably take about two weeks and take place some time between mid-July and mid-August 1994.

15.3 The Scientific Committee expressed its thanks to South Africa and accepted its generous offer to host these four intersessional meetings. It was noted that the plan to hold the two Working Group meetings in parallel for some of the time was a welcome contribution towards increased efficiency and cost saving. Dr Bengtson noted that the plan would involve a higher intensity of work for the Secretariat which might necessitate the inclusion of an extra day for flexibility.

15.4 The Joint Meeting of WG-Krill and WG-CEMP will have as its objective the facilitation of interaction between WG-Krill and WG-CEMP on matters of common concern. This facilitation should be primarily directed at the development of an ecosystem approach to management.

15.5 The draft agenda of the Joint Meeting will include the following as its primary items:

- (i) Ecosystem interactions:
 - (a) Potential impacts of localised krill catches; and
 - (b) Krill/predator functional relationships.

- (ii) Ecosystem assessment:
 - (a) Development of prey, fishery, and environmental indices;
 - (b) Integration of predator, prey, environmental, and fishery indices into ecosystem assessments;
 - (c) CEMP experimental approach; and

(d) Mechanisms for incorporating ecosystem assessments into the Scientific Committee's management advice to the Commission.

(iii) Organisation of future work:

- (a) Review of the effectiveness of current Working Groups' organisation;
- (b) Identification of priority tasks best addressed by Working Groups; and
- (c) Suggested terms of reference and Working Group organisation.

15.6 This framework will be developed intersessionally by the Working Group Conveners in consultation with the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and members of both Working Groups.

15.7 The Scientific Committee agreed that it should be represented at the Vith SCAR Symposium on Antarctic Science in Venice by the Science Officer (paragraph 12.27), and that CCAMLR should present a poster to the meeting which would be prepared through correspondence between the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee.

15.8 It was further agreed that it would significantly assist the work of the Scientific Committee if the Chairman, Dr Kock, also attended the Symposium.

15.9 The Scientific Committee agreed that following the practice established in 1992, there should be a coordination meeting between the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Conveners of Working Groups during the 1993 meeting of the Commission.

15.10 There has been an increase in the amount of information relevant under Item 10 "Assessment of Incidental Mortality" of the Scientific Committee's agenda in recent years (paragraph 10.18). In light of the difficulty of giving all this information due consideration during the course of the Scientific Committee, the Committee agreed that its work would be facilitated if an *ad hoc* working group on incidental mortality could meet just prior to the Scientific Committee to consider this matter.

15.11 The *ad hoc* group would produce a report for consideration of the 1994 meeting of the Scientific Committee. Dr Moreno was nominated to convene this *ad hoc* group.

ORGANISATION OF FUTURE WORK OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

15.12 During the last few years, the Scientific Committee has become increasingly aware of the need to evaluate the relevance of terms of reference for its Working Groups. This is because the work conducted by the Working Groups has become more integrated as progress has been made in implementing an ecosystem approach to study Antarctic marine living resources. The original terms of reference are attached as Annex 8.

15.13 Furthermore, the scope and complexity of the Scientific Committee's work have increased in recent years. For example, Members submitted 120 and 108 working papers to the 1992 and 1993 meetings of the Working Groups respectively (Annex 8, Table 2). Of these papers, 19 and 27, respectively, were reviewed by at least two Working Groups. In addition, during the last two years there were approximately 29 and 40 instances where topics or papers were addressed by at least two of the Working Groups.

15.14 In addition to identifying which work can best be done by Working Groups, the Scientific Committee agreed that the format of its present meeting agenda must be revised. For example, as more information becomes available under agenda items Marine Mammal and Bird Populations and Assessment of Incidental Mortality, a modification of procedures to better address these issues is needed (see paragraph 15.10).

15.15 The Scientific Committee has recognised the need for increased liaison among groups by conducting a joint meeting of WG-Krill and WG-CEMP during the 1992 intersessional period and by planning another joint meeting of the two groups during 1994. In addition, it agreed to begin considerations of how best to conduct its work at future Working Group meetings. The Scientific Committee has recognised that careful consideration must be given by Members to ensure that the most appropriate format is identified and adopted for future work. It agreed that the present format which has a structure determined by species groups (e.g., fish, crab, krill, predators) results in some duplication. However, some Members felt that structure determined by function (e.g., modelling, stock assessment) may result in excessive separation of the disciplines.

15.16 The Scientific Committee agreed, therefore, that during the 1993/94 intersessional period Members should be encouraged to consider the broad issue of ways to efficiently organise the future work of the Scientific Committee. To assist in this effort, each Working Group should be requested to discuss this matter at their intersessional meetings. Those discussions, while focusing most immediately on the specific work within each Working Group, should take place within the fuller context of the entire scope of the Scientific Committee's work. In particular, Members and the Working Groups should:

- (i) identify the work of the Scientific Committee that can most effectively be undertaken by the Working Groups;
- (ii) evaluate the relevance of the terms of reference for the current Working Groups;
- (iii) identify elements of work currently being undertaken by Working Groups that are being addressed well and those elements which could be improved;
- (iv) suggest ways in which priority work can be accomplished most efficiently; and
- (v) identify Scientific Committee activities that should be reduced or deleted.

15.17 The Scientific Committee will, at its next meeting, consider modification of the structure and terms of reference of its Working Groups and provide appropriate advice to the Commission.