

## CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

### OBSERVATIONS IN THE 1993/94 SEASON

13.1 In the 1993/94 season three Members, in fulfilment of the conditions of Conservation Measure 69/XII, placed international observers on vessels operating in the *D. eleginoides* fishery in Subarea 48.3: UK (on vessels from Korea and Chile), USA (on a Russian vessel) and Russia (on a Bulgarian vessel).

13.2 In introducing the report of the US observer on the FV *Maksheevo* (7 February to 18 April 1994; SC-CAMLR-XIII/BG/9 Rev. 1), Dr Holt expressed the gratitude of the US to the Russian captain for the professional way in which the observer was treated, and acknowledged the assistance of UK colleagues with logistic organisation. He noted that although some results were reported in SC-CAMLR-XIII/BG/9 Rev. 1, analysis of observer samples (in particular otolith readings) was continuing. The report was considered by both WG-FSA and WG-IMALF.

13.3 The report of the UK observers on FV *Ihn Sung 66* (15 December 1993 to 7 February 1994; SC-CAMLR-XIII/BG/14) was introduced by Dr G. Parkes (UK). Three observers had participated, two being present on the vessel at any one time, and although the observers did not speak Korean, they were able to communicate in Spanish with the captain. On behalf of the UK he thanked Korean colleagues for their cooperation, but noted that the observer had found that the captain was not fully informed of his obligations under Conservation Measure 69/XII, especially with regard to the experimental protocol, and that the observers had found working conditions difficult. The principal results of the observations had been presented to WG-FSA and WG-IMALF (WG-FSA-94/22, WG-IMALF-94/15 and 16). Otolith and scale samples taken for age determination had not yet been processed.

13.4 Dr D.-Y. Moon (Republic of Korea) acknowledged that difficulties had been experienced in communicating with the vessel and its company, but that this situation would be improved in future arrangements.

13.5 Reports from the UK observers on the BF *Friosur V* (Chile) had been presented to WG-FSA (WG-FSA-94/31) and WG-IMALF (WG-IMALF-94/15 and 16). A Chilean observer was also present on this cruise and this had markedly increased the quality of the observations.

13.6 Dr Moreno noted that the presence of two observers on a ship was generally desirable to complete the heavy workload requested of observers, and suggested that the Chilean/UK experience

of a local observer on board the *Friosur V* in addition to international observers could be used in other situations to reduce the workload on observers, enable increased coverage of observed events and increase cooperation between crew and observers.

13.7 Dr Robertson noted that the conversion factor of 0.69 for the headed and gutted fish on the Korean vessel was different to the factor of 0.5 noted in paragraph 4.7 of the WG-FSA report (Annex 4) for the Chilean vessel, and highlighted the need to obtain reliable conversion factors for CCAMLR fisheries. The Scientific Committee Chairman advised that the factor 0.5 was for fillet weight to green weight, hence the difference. Members were urged to submit information on conversion factors to the Secretariat.

13.8 It was reported that observers had found the *Scientific Observers Manual* very useful, but as was the case last year, they had used the forms in the manual as a guide only and had actually used their own forms (SC-CAMLR-XII, Annex 4, paragraph 4.3).

13.9 The Scientific Committee agreed that at the time of entering into a bilateral arrangement, some consideration should be given to establishing provisions for analysing data and samples collected by observers. It was recalled that the most important consideration was that data and samples from observer programs should be analysed in a timely fashion, so that results could be presented to the relevant Working Groups as early as possible. In cases where neither the host nor the observing Member could process the results in sufficient time, other Members might be able to find the resources to do the work.

#### ADVICE TO THE COMMISSION

13.10 The Scientific Committee recalled its decisions regarding the technical aspects of recording data on incidental mortality (Annex 8, paragraph 4.4). It recommended that, whenever logistically possible, two scientific observers should be present on each vessel for the purpose of recording such data (paragraph 9.27).

13.11 The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission ensure that Members entering into an Observer Arrangement take steps to make certain that the crews of their fishing vessels are well aware of the responsibilities of hosting an observer, and the requirements of those observers in the execution of their duties, and also to ensure that the conditions available on the vessels are satisfactory.

13.12 To ensure that data collected by observers are analysed and reported to relevant Working Groups in a timely fashion, the Scientific Committee recommended that:

- agreement on the fate of data and samples, and the arrangements for their analysis, should be considered by the parties to the arrangement at the initiation of observer arrangements; and
- where neither host nor observing Member is able to process samples in a timely fashion, consideration should be given to sending them elsewhere for processing.

13.13 The Scientific Committee asked the Working Groups to consider what would be the best cooperative arrangements to ensure that samples are analysed in a timely fashion when they cannot be worked up by either party to an observer arrangement. A list of institutions able to perform such work would be helpful in this regard.

13.14 To facilitate access to observer data, it was recommended that all data acquired as part of an observer program should be lodged with the Secretariat. In this regard, the Scientific Committee endorsed the suggestion in Annex 4, paragraph 3.11 and recommended that:

- all data from observer programs which could be entered into existing CCAMLR databases (in particular, the longline, research, length composition, age composition, age-based biological databases) should be submitted to CCAMLR;
- a copy of all other data from observer programs should also be lodged with the Secretariat where it would be held as hard copy only; and
- these data would be subject to the CCAMLR rules on data access (Annex 10).

13.15 Regarding the *Scientific Observers Manual*, the Scientific Committee recalled its discussions in paragraph 9.28 under items regarding observer information and agreed that:

- the priority list for observations of incidental mortality (Annex 8, paragraph 4.5) should be added to the list of research priorities given on pages 5 and 6 of the *Scientific Observers Manual*;
- consideration of revisions to the section on data collection and sampling requirements for observers (page 7), which should contain some indication of the relative priorities for data collection, should be deferred to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. In the interim, the Working Groups were requested to consider relevant priorities for data

collection and proposals for changes to this section of the *Scientific Observers Manual*; and

- pending these and other technical additions a new version of the *Scientific Observers Manual* should be considered for 1996.