

## CCAMLR DATA MANAGEMENT

### Interaction with Other Organisations

10.1 At its last meeting, the Scientific Committee requested that the Secretariat lodge information on planned research cruises, being compiled annually by CCAMLR, on an electronic bulletin board being developed by SCAR (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.11). The Data Manager reported that no request for this information had yet been received. The Scientific Committee agreed that the Secretariat should provide the information to SCAR when the bulletin board is developed.

10.2 The Data Manager reported in SC-CAMLR-XIV/BG/5 that SCAR had decided that the host of its Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) would be the International Centre for Antarctic Information and Research (ICAIR) (New Zealand). Appropriate formats for submitting directory information to the AMD would be developed over the next year. The Scientific Committee reiterated its request (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.14) that when the AMD became operational, information about CCAMLR data holdings should be lodged with it. The CCAMLR rules of access to data would be clearly stated with this information.

10.3 The usefulness of exchanges of information about data holdings with other institutions concerned with Antarctic Data Management was recognised. In particular, the increasing value of CCAMLR's long-term data sets both to the Scientific Committee and the international scientific community was noted (Annex 4, paragraph 9.17). The Scientific Committee recommended that the Secretariat continue to develop contacts with other international and national data centres, such as the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) (Colorado, USA), ICAIR and the Chilean national centres described in SC-CAMLR-XIV/BG/33, especially with regard to developing a World Wide Web site (WWW) (see paragraph 10.5) and exchanging information on data holdings.

10.4 The Data Manager reported that progress was being made with acquiring data from the IWC (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.23). A full report on this work will be presented at the 1996 meeting of the Scientific Committee.

### World Wide Web

10.5 The Secretariat's proposal for the development of a CCAMLR WWW site, requested by the Scientific Committee last year (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 14.31), was presented in SC-CAMLR-XIV/5. The Scientific Committee agreed that a web site should be developed at the Secretariat in stages, along the lines indicated in the proposal. The following process should apply:

- (i) install, develop and test a web site containing textual information in 1996. A home page, the text of the Convention, the CCAMLR newsletter and WG-EMM newsletter should be mounted;
- (ii) monitor the traffic on the web site and provide a report to SC-CAMLR-XV; and
- (iii) the Scientific Committee will review progress and consider further developments of the web site at its 1996 meeting, including the question of access to public domain data sets through the web.

10.6 It was emphasised that although this scheme includes a component of monitoring usage, such monitoring would not necessarily indicate the level of usage that might be expected for later developments of the web server, such as access to public domain data sets.

#### Data Management Workload

10.7 Paper SC-CAMLR-XIV/BG/5 provided information that the amount of data processed by the Secretariat had increased three-fold in 1995. It also indicated that new requirements for data reporting, both of historic and future data (Annex 4, section 8; Annex 5, paragraph 11.2) would mean that the amount of data that had to be processed by the Secretariat was likely to increase over the next few years. These increases were greater than those predicted in 1993 (CCAMLR-XII/8) for which the Commission had provided additional funding (CCAMLR-XII, Annex 4, paragraph 5).

10.8 The Scientific Committee considered that the role of Secretariat Data Management had changed since the 1980s from a limited data processing function to an organisation from which the Scientific Committee had three primary requirements:

- (i) data management functions (data acquisition, database maintenance);
- (ii) coordination of Scientific Committee protocols for data acquisition and analysis, including model validation; and
- (iii) routine and investigative data analysis.

10.9 The workload associated with all three requirements of the Scientific Committee is currently increasing. Much of this increased workload is a consequence of initiatives of both the Scientific

Committee and the Commission towards management under uncertainty and the development of an ecosystem approach. Both these developments require very high quality data and complex statistical analyses that are heavily dependent upon computing power.

10.10 In this regard, the Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendation of WG-FSA that the Secretariat purchase a fast workstation and analysis software (Annex 5, paragraph 11.5).

10.11 The Scientific Committee emphasised that it could not function without a high quality Data Management/Analysis Section within the Secretariat. It directed the Data Manager to keep the resource requirements of the Data Management/Analysis Section under review and to provide advice on funding requirements as necessary.

#### Ukrainian Historical Data

10.12 Paper SC-CAMLR-XIV/BG/15 described a large volume of historical oceanographic environmental and ichthyological data covering a 20-year period which is currently held on paper records at YugNIRO (Ukraine). These data might be of considerable assistance to the Scientific Committee. To increase their accessibility, these data are being transferred to magnetic media. The Scientific Committee was pleased that Ukraine was undertaking this task, and encouraged other Members to assist Ukraine.