

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION

7.1 The Scientific Committee had been asked by the Commission to review the appropriateness of the 50-tonne krill catch limit, set as a scientific research exemption, specified in Conservation Measure 64/XII (CCAMLR-XII, paragraph 6.10). The Scientific Committee was unable to offer advice on this limit at its last meeting and called for Members using commercial types of trawl to submit information on the levels of catches which could be taken in research cruises, to be reviewed at WG-EMM-95 (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 11.2).

7.2 No information on this subject was available to WG-EMM, and consequently the Scientific Committee was unable to provide any further advice on the appropriateness of the limit for krill. It reiterated its call for information and requested WG-EMM to again consider the matter in the light of information available.

7.3 Last year, some members of WG-FSA had suggested that the period of six months required for advance notification of intended survey activity, where the expected catch was greater than 50 tonnes, was overly restrictive (SC-CAMLR-XIII, paragraph 11.4). WG-FSA considered this matter (Annex 5, paragraph 7.3) and concluded that the provision was appropriate in that it provides for sufficient opportunity for review of proposals by Working Groups and the Scientific Committee.

7.4 The Scientific Committee stated that its understanding of Conservation Measure 64/XII, paragraph 3(a), was that the review process would be complete either at the end of the two-month review period, should no request for review be lodged, or at the end of full review by the Scientific Committee and its Working Groups, should a request be lodged. The research survey could proceed immediately after the review process was complete. It requested that the Commission confirm that its understanding is correct.