

CCAMLR DATA MANAGEMENT

10.1 The Scientific Committee reviewed matters relating to data management included in the reports of WG-EMM and WG-FSA.

10.2 It was noted that the Working Groups identified three different types of problems with the CCAMLR database:

- (i) a number of errors and omissions due to problems with the validation of the data before and/or after they have been entered into the database;
- (ii) access difficulties due to a lack of understanding of the structure of the database and absence of guidelines for using it; and
- (iii) lack of data essential to the analyses.

10.3 The Scientific Committee acknowledged the importance of these problems and the high priority which needed to be given to their solution. To this end, it recommended that the database be reviewed in order to identify and correct possible errors and also to determine which datasets were incomplete and which data were missing.

10.4 To facilitate the understanding and operation of the database, the development of an inventory of the information contained in the database and a user's guide was considered important. Therefore, the Scientific Committee recommended that the new Data Manager undertake this task as a matter of priority.

10.5 The Scientific Committee also noted that, as anticipated at the 1995 meeting (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 10.7), data requirements and analyses requested by the Working Groups had grown considerably, and consequently increased the workload of the data management section. These tasks could not be handled by the Secretariat under current circumstances, primarily because the position of Data Manager was vacant and would take some time to be filled.

10.6 In consequence, the Scientific Committee endorsed all data requirements from WG-EMM and WG-FSA, but recommended that tasks be prioritised so that in the next intersessional period, those of high priority are undertaken first.

10.7 In addition to the processing of information routinely submitted to the Secretariat, data management tasks identified as having high priority include:

- (i) complete entry and validation of haul-by-haul data for the *D. eleginoides* fishery in Subarea 48.3, particularly with respect to positional information and other items specified in Annex 5, Table 16;
- (ii) develop and apply methods for validation of data entered into the database;
- (iii) prepare data files for length-density analyses of *D. eleginoides* from trawl surveys;
- (iv) complete and validate entry of data from the 1995/96 observer programs contained in the database;
- (v) obtain comprehensive bathymetric data;
- (vi) produce tables of areas of seabed within depth strata for Subareas 48.6, 58.6, 58.7, 88.1 and 88.2 and Divisions 58.4.2 and 58.4.3 similar to those produced by Everson and Campbell (1990);
- (vii) revise catch and effort and biological data forms for the reporting of data from the new fishery for *M. hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3;
- (viii) enter and validate data in the database pertaining to CEMP parameters for dependent species and calculate CEMP indices for the current season;
- (ix) continue the analysis of the link between overall krill abundance and actual krill availability to predators within CPDs; and
- (x) support the Subgroup on Statistics in its analyses as described in Annex 4, paragraph 7.59;

10.8 In addition, there were a number of requests to be made for data and information to be submitted by Members to the Secretariat which were of high priority. These are:

- (i) haul-by-haul length frequency data for *D. eleginoides* from earlier bottom trawl surveys carried out in Subarea 48.3;
- (ii) catch data from *D. eleginoides* fisheries from areas adjacent to the Convention Area;

- (iii) haul-by-haul, catch and age data from earlier commercial fisheries of *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3;
- (iv) haul-by-haul data from the Ukrainian fishery of *D. eleginoides* in Division 58.5.1;
- (v) information on *D. eleginoides* fishing activities conducted in the Convention Area by non-Members States;
- (vi) all appropriate data in CCAMLR formats on CEMP indicator species currently held by Members; and
- (vii) continued submission of haul-by-haul data from the krill fishery.

10.9 Lower-priority tasks which could be performed when time becomes available include:

- (i) collection and analysis of time budget data from the krill fishery; and
- (ii) studies on the occurrence of fish in krill catches in accordance with the recommended methods set forth in SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraphs 3.28 and 3.29.

10.10 The Scientific Committee recognised that continuous updating and validation of the information contained in the database is vital to maintaining the quality of the analyses performed by WG-EMM and WG-FSA and for developing the Scientific Committee's advice to the Commission. The Scientific Committee reiterated its concern over the difficulties described in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.5, and these may become worse in the near future due to the expansion of the new fisheries.