

## CCAMLR SCHEME OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION

9.1 During the 1995/96 season and in accordance with the Scheme of International Scientific Observation, observers had conducted observations on 16 longline vessels fishing for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 (Annex 5, Tables 26 and 27).

9.2 All data were submitted to the Secretariat. Observations reported by scientific observers were considered by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 7.27 to 7.51) and also by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11). Discussions of the Scientific Committee on this subject are given in paragraphs 3.27 to 3.34 of this report.

9.3 One major development in the implementation of the scheme this season was that all observers on longline vessels were required to record data using Scientific Observer Logbooks prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to Members in January 1996. Only four completed logbooks have so far been received by the Secretariat. Other reports used different formats for recording observations. WG-FSA recommended ways of improving data recording and submission procedures (Annex 4, paragraphs 3.7 to 3.19, 7.81 and 7.82). This is considered below in paragraphs 9.8 to 9.10.

9.4 Following the request of the 1995 meeting of WG-FSA, the Secretariat drafted forms for the Scientific Observer Logbook for recording observations in trawl fisheries. Several changes to longline logbooks were also suggested by scientific observers and considered by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13). The revised logbook data submission forms for longline and trawl fisheries have been submitted to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XV/BG/26) for information.

9.5 The Scientific Committee recalled its advice to this year's meeting of SCOI. The advice covered two major topics:

- (i) the scope of the scheme's application; and
- (ii) the need to obtain accurate positional information from fishing vessels.

9.6 With regard to accurate positional information from fishing vessels, the Scientific Committee emphasised that this information is essential if fishing effort expands over a wide geographical area or the fishery follows stock(s) across statistical areas or subareas.

9.7 The Scientific Committee considered and approved all the suggestions proposed by WG-EMM and WG-FSA (for reference see paragraph 9.2 above) on the improvement of data submission, in particular, and the work of the scheme, in general.

9.8 In particular, the Scientific Committee approved the suggestion that each Member should designate a technical coordinator who will be responsible for:

- (i) receipt and distribution of observer logbooks;
- (ii) advance notification to the Secretariat of all observers designated and the duration of their programs;
- (iii) timeliness of the submission of reports on observations; and
- (iv) answering data queries received from the Secretariat.

9.9 With regard to the deadline for submission of observers' reports, the Scientific Committee agreed that the reports should be submitted by Members not later than one month after the completion of the observer cruise.

9.10 The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission approve the necessary funds for the publication in 1997 of the *Scientific Observer Manual* with data recording forms, instructions for their completion and examples of completed forms (Annex 5, paragraph 3.16). The publication should be in a loose-leaf format in order to enable Members to compile and copy Scientific Observer Logbooks in a number sufficient for their observers and the duration of their programs. The Commission is also requested to give priority to the publication of the *Scientific Observer Manual* in all four official CCAMLR languages.

9.11 Members were requested to ensure that all observers, both national and those designated by the Scheme of International Scientific Observation, provide data to the Secretariat in the format prescribed by the Scientific Observer Logbooks. The Secretariat would not be able in the future to process any data which are not submitted in formats other than CCAMLR's.

9.12 The Scientific Committee recommended that the Secretariat be requested to investigate the potential for developing a CCAMLR database data entry system for use by observers. This would possibly reduce the data entry burden on the Secretariat.