

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources met under the Chairmanship of Dr D. Miller (South Africa) from 27 to 31 October 1997 at the Wrest Point Hotel, Hobart, Australia.

1.2 Representatives from the following Members attended the meeting: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

1.3 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting observers from Finland, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and encouraged them to participate in the meeting as appropriate.

1.4 The List of Participants is given in Annex 1. The List of Documents considered during the meeting is given in Annex 2.

1.5 The following rapporteurs were appointed to prepare the report of the Scientific Committee:

- Mr T. Ichii (Japan), Fishery Status and Trends;
- Dr P. Penhale (USA), Species Monitored in the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program;
- Dr J. Croxall (UK), Assessment of Incidental Mortality;
- Dr K. Kerry (Australia), Marine Mammal and Bird Populations;
- Dr S. Nicol (Australia), Krill Resources;
- Dr A. Constable and Mr R. Williams (Australia), Fish Resources;
- Dr G. Watters (USA), Crab Resources;
- Dr I. Everson (UK), Squid Resources, and all items relating to WG-EMM;
- Dr R. Holt (USA), Ecosystem Monitoring and Management;
- Mr R. Williams (Australia), Management under Conditions of Uncertainty about Stock Size and Sustainable Yield;
- Dr G. Kirkwood and Dr G. Parkes (UK), New and Exploratory Fisheries; and
- Secretariat, all other matters.

Adoption of the Agenda

1.6 The Provisional Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and was adopted without amendment (Annex 3).

Report of the Chairman

Intersessional Meetings of Working Groups

1.7 The Chairman noted that Members had continued their work during the intersessional period, with several meetings taking place. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the USA for hosting the meetings of WG-EMM and associated subgroups.

1.8 The third meeting of WG-EMM was held from 21 to 31 July 1997 in San Diego, USA, and was chaired by its Convener, Dr Everson. The Subgroup on Statistics and the Workshop on International Coordination met from 14 to 18 July, and were chaired by Dr Watters and Dr S. Kim (Republic of Korea) respectively.

1.9 WG-FSA met in Hobart, Australia, from 13 to 24 October 1997, and was chaired by its Convener, Dr de la Mare.

1.10 Two ad hoc groups continued their work during the intersessional period. Reports of the IMALF group and the group dealing with fish by-catch in krill fisheries were considered by WG-FSA.

1.11 The Chairman expressed his thanks to conveners, Members, rapporteurs and the Secretariat for contributing to the success of these meetings.

1.12 The report of WG-EMM is attached as Annex 4 and that of WG-FSA as Annex 5.

Intersessional Activities of CCAMLR Members

1.13 The Chairman advised of the following intersessional activities of CCAMLR Members:

- (i) vessels from 10 Member countries participated in commercial fishing;
- (ii) nine scientific cruises, mainly fisheries research surveys, were conducted in the Convention Area;
- (iii) eight Members carried out CEMP-related research programs; and
- (iv) 43 scientific observation programs were carried out by scientific observers nominated in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and also by national scientific observers.

Scientific Committee Representation at Meetings of Other International Organisations

1.14 The Scientific Committee was represented as an observer at the following international meetings during the intersessional period:

- (i) ICES Symposium – Seabirds in the Marine Environment (22 to 24 November 1996, Glasgow, UK) – Dr J. Croxall (UK);
- (ii) International Symposium on Environmental Research in the Antarctic (3 to 4 December 1996, Tokyo, Japan) – Dr M. Fukuchi (Japan);
- (iii) Seventeenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (3 to 7 March 1997, Hobart, Australia) – Dr W. de la Mare (Convener, WG-FSA) and the Secretariat;
- (iv) CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) (3 to 6 June 1997, Canberra, Australia) – Dr E. Sabourenkov (Secretariat);
- (v) 'Antarctica and Global Change: Interactions and Impacts' (13 to 18 July 1997, Hobart, Australia) – Prof. P. Quilty (Australia);
- (vi) Ninth Meeting of the SCAR Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC) (July 1997, Bremerhaven, Germany) – Dr E. Fanta (Brazil);
- (vii) ICES Annual Science Conference (25 September to 3 October 1997, Baltimore, Maryland, USA) – Dr I. Lutchman (UK);
- (viii) 1997 Annual Meeting of the IWC Scientific Committee (29 September to 11 October 1997, Bournemouth, UK) – Mr T. Ichii (Japan);
- (ix) SCAR Workshop on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms (6 to 8 October 1997, Padua, Italy) – Dr E. Fanta (Brazil).

New Publications

1.15 In addition to the publication of annual reports of CCAMLR meetings, the following were published during the intersessional period:

- (i) *CCAMLR Science*, Volume 4;
- (ii) *CCAMLR Scientific Abstracts, 1996*;
- (iii) extensively revised edition of *CEMP Standard Methods*;
- (iv) *Scientific Observers Manual*; and
- (v) *Statistical Bulletin*, Volume 9.

Preliminary Consideration of the Scientific Committee Budget

1.16 The Scientific Committee considered an outline of the proposed working budget for 1998. The draft was presented in a format similar to that used in previous years. Further discussion of the Scientific Committee budget is given in paragraphs 14.1 to 14.7.