

OTHER BUSINESS

Submission of Papers

18.1 The Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendations of WG-EMM and WG-FSA regarding the circulation of meeting documents and CCAMLR reports. The Working Groups had agreed that the rules pertaining to the submission and circulation of meeting documents should be strictly enforced (Annex 4, paragraph 11.1; Annex 5, paragraph 10.2). These rules were necessary so as to allow participants adequate time to consider papers and issues for discussion, and alleviate the workload of the Secretariat in the lead up to meetings.

18.2 The Scientific Committee endorsed the recommendations of WG-EMM and WG-FSA that Members and the Secretariat should be encouraged to move towards electronic submission and circulation of papers (Annex 4, paragraph 11.3; Annex 5, paragraph 10.3), and other steps to streamline the publication of these documents. This was seen as a logical step, and one which would eventually reduce the amount of paper used in producing the documents, and the volume of papers carried by Members to and from the meetings. Eventually, papers could be submitted electronically via email, or through the proposed CCAMLR web site.

18.3 The Scientific Committee noted that the current CCAMLR document distribution publication policy had resulted in a restricted circulation of CCAMLR reports and publications, with many participants at working groups no longer receiving bound copies of the Scientific Committee reports, and other relevant documents prior to the working group meetings (Annex 5, paragraph 10.4). The Scientific Committee recommended that the Commission review the current distribution policy to ensure that all participants at working group meetings receive, as a minimum, copies of the working group and Scientific Committee reports.

Secretariat Support

18.4 The Scientific Committee noted the great job that the Secretariat performed each year, under considerable pressure, in support of the Scientific Committee and its working groups. The number and complexity of the tasks had increased considerably over time, and the Scientific Committee examined ways of alleviating some aspects of this workload. In doing so, the Scientific Committee was sensitive to the need to provide constructive advice and guidance to the Secretariat.

18.5 The Scientific Committee identified three areas for review:

- (i) advice to potential hosts of working group meetings;
- (ii) preparation by the Secretariat prior to meetings; and
- (iii) conduct and organisation during meetings.

18.6 The Scientific Committee noted that the Secretariat has a set of guidelines for working group meetings. These guidelines include a check list of equipment and facilities required by the Secretariat. In addition, Dr Everson was developing a set of guidelines for conveners, the Secretariat and potential hosts to facilitate planning and organisation of working group meetings. The Scientific Committee agreed that these should be combined.

18.7 The Scientific Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and conveners of WG-EMM and WG-FSA should meet during the Commission meeting to collate the Secretariat's tasks, and allocate priorities and deadlines. The Scientific Committee agreed that this was an essential task which had lapsed during recent years. Such a list would provide a clear understanding of the intersessional requirements of the Scientific Committee and working groups, and enable conveners to consider alternative options if tasks can not be completed within the resources available. This would also facilitate review, identification of problems and resource limitations. Finally, this would provide feedback to both the Scientific Committee and Commission, as recommended by the management review of the Secretariat (Report of the Group of Experts, paragraph 98).

18.8 The Scientific Committee agreed that the Chairman and conveners of the working groups would prepare a schedule for the implementation of high priority tasks identified by the Scientific Committee and its working groups. It also agreed that this schedule would be appended to its report¹.

18.9 The Scientific Committee also considered processes during the meeting, and identified several areas where efficiencies could be reviewed. For example, the following points, which also apply to all meeting participants, should be reviewed:

- (i) dispersal of meeting documents; and
- (ii) organisation of rapporteurs.

18.10 The Scientific Committee noted that a substantial part of its report consisted of words drawn directly from the reports of the working groups. In this respect, the Scientific Committee agreed that, during the intersessional period, the Chairman and the conveners of the working groups would investigate ways of restructuring the suite of reports so as to minimise repetition.

18.11 Finally, the Scientific Committee noted that the library resources in the Secretariat provided inadequate support to Members during the analyses of WG-FSA, and staff during the intersessional periods. The Scientific Committee recommended that adequate resources be provided to improve the scientific contents of the library, particularly in the fields of stock assessment, ecosystem management and taxonomy.

International Krill Symposium

18.12 Dr Nicol reported on preparations for the Second International Symposium on Krill (SC-CAMLR-XVI/BG/35). The symposium will be held during August/September 1999 at the University of Santa Cruz, California, USA. The main sessions will cover:

- (i) krill demography, life history and genetic diversity;
- (ii) krill development, growth, reproduction and ageing;
- (iii) krill physiology and biochemistry;
- (iv) krill nutrition, metabolism and energetics; and
- (v) krill behaviour, swarming, vertical migration, foraging and antipredator

¹ The schedule was circulated to Members in November 1997.

mechanisms.

18.13 CCAMLR was contributing A\$7 000 in 1998 towards the cost of running the symposium.

18.14 Some Members questioned the allocation of half the time of the symposium to invited speakers and of US\$41 000 (73% of the total symposium costs) to the expenses of these speakers. Dr Nicol agreed to bring this concern to the notice of the organisers.

Data and Data Access Rules

18.15 It was noted that the Secretariat maintains two datasets (on sea-ice and sea-surface temperature), whose raw data have been acquired from public domain NOAA datasets. It was agreed that these data should not be subject to the existing rules of data access which apply to data submitted by Members to the CCAMLR databases. The Secretariat should, therefore, entertain direct requests for access to these data from individual researchers. In due course these data could be included in the open access part of the proposed CCAMLR web site. Any costs of processing requests should, however, be charged to the user, who should also be required to make appropriate acknowledgment to CCAMLR.