

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION

8.1 The Scientific Committee noted the notifications by Members of scientific research surveys planned for the 1997/98 intersessional period (SC-CAMLR-XVI/BG/17, Table 5).

8.2 Dr Gubanov outlined the proposal by Ukraine to conduct a survey in Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 (SC-CAMLR-XVI/BG/9). This multidisciplinary oceanographic survey is scheduled to begin in December 1997 and extend into 1998. The survey will focus on oceanographic and hydrologic work, and will follow a sampling design similar to that used in a survey conducted earlier in 1997. The research vessel did not have the capacity to deploy trawls. The Scientific Committee noted this submission, and agreed that this survey would be administered under Conservation Measure 64/XII (paragraph 2, total catch < 50 tonnes).

8.3 Dr Balguerías outlined the proposal by Spain to conduct a longline survey in Subarea 48.6, outside territorial waters, and Division 58.4.4, and in waters in FAO Area 47 (SC-CAMLR-XVI/5). The survey, as notified by COMM CIRC 97/42, was to take place from 20 September to 20 October 1997. However, the survey had been postponed, and would now take place during October/November 1997. The survey would last about 45 days, and commercial longlines shortened to about 1 500 commercial-sized hooks, would be used to sample *D. eleginoides*. Conservation Measure 29/XV would be applied to minimise the incidental capture of seabirds and mammals, and the total catch is expected to be less than 50 tonnes.

8.4 Dr Balguerías also advised that the same configuration of longlines would be used throughout the survey. There were no specific plans to report unregulated fishing activities which may be encountered in the survey area, however these could be noted. The charter vessel, *Ibsa Quinto*, would not be carrying a CCAMLR inspector during the survey.

8.5 The Scientific Committee noted that, in accordance with Conservation Measure 64/XII (paragraph 1a), catches of *D. eleginoides* taken during the survey would be held against any catch limit in force. Further, because the fishing season was closed, catches would be held against catch limits for the 1997/98 season.

8.6 Dr Holt advised that the USA intended to conduct a stratified random bottom trawl survey for finfish during March/April 1998 in Subarea 48.1 (CCAMLR-XVI/MA/14). The total catch was expected to be less than 50 tonnes.

8.7 Prof. Moreno sought clarification as to whether the 50-tonne catch limit applied to each subarea surveyed during one cruise, or to the total catch taken during a cruise. The Scientific Committee agreed that the generic condition in the interpretation of Conservation Measure 64/XII was that the 50-tonne catch limit applied to each research cruise.

8.8 The Scientific Committee recalled the Commission's request to review the applicability of the 50-tonne limit in Conservation Measure 64/XII (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraph 8.7). The Scientific Committee noted that, in the absence of any new information from Members, WG-EMM had not been able to give this matter further consideration. In view of this, Scientific Committee was unable to comment further on the applicability of the 50-tonne limit.