

**REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING
OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**
(Hobart, Australia, 26 to 30 October 1998)

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 26 to 30 October 1998 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 Namibia, the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) 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;
- Prof. J. Croxall (UK), Assessment of Incidental Mortality;
- Dr K. Kerry (Australia), Marine Mammal and Bird Populations;
- Dr S. Nicol (Australia), Krill Resources;
- Mr R. Williams (Australia), Fish Resources;
- Dr R. Holt (USA), Crab Resources;
- Dr I. Everson (UK), Squid Resources;
- Dr A. Constable (Australia), Timing of the Fishing Season and Ecosystem Monitoring and Management;
- Dr G. Kirkwood (UK), Management under Conditions of Uncertainty about Stock Size and Sustainable Yield;
- Mr M. Purves (South Africa) and Prof. G. Duhamel (France), New and Exploratory Fisheries;
- Prof. B. Fernholm (Sweden), Cooperation with Other Organisations; and
- Dr D. Ramm and Ms N. Slicer (Secretariat), all other matters.

Adoption of the Agenda

1.6 The Provisional Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Agenda was adopted with one amendment, the addition of 'Timing of the Fishing Season' as Subitem 5(v) (Annex 3).

Report of the Chairman

Intersessional Meetings of Working Groups

1.7 Three CCAMLR meetings were held during the intersessional period:

- (i) the Workshop on Area 48;
- (ii) the meeting of WG-EMM; and
- (iii) the meeting of WG-FSA.

1.8 On behalf of the Scientific Committee, the Chairman thanked the conveners for their significant contributions to these meetings and the Governments of USA and India for hosting the Workshop on Area 48 and WG-EMM respectively. The Chairman personally thanked Mr V. Ravindranathan (India) for his efforts and those of the local organising committee in supporting the 1998 meeting of WG-EMM.

1.9 The Chairman also commended Dr Holt for undertaking the difficult task of Convener of WG-FSA at short notice, following the resignation of Dr W. de la Mare (Australia). The Scientific Committee acknowledged the substantial contribution that Dr de la Mare had made to the assessment and management of Antarctic marine resources during his long association with CCAMLR.

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

Intersessional Activities of CCAMLR Members

1.11 The following fisheries took place under the conservation measures in force during the 1997/98 fishing season (Annex 5, Table 2):

- (i) *Euphausia superba* in Area 48;
- (ii) *Champsocephalus gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 and Division 58.5.2;
- (iii) *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subareas 48.3, 58.6, 58.7 and Division 58.5.2; and
- (iv) *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1.

1.12 The Scientific Committee thanked all scientific observers involved in monitoring fisheries in 1997/98 for the great deal of very good work which they had done under difficult conditions. The data and reports had contributed substantially to the analyses of CCAMLR. The Scientific Committee particularly acknowledged the efforts made by Mr M. Lewis (UK), scientific observer aboard the ill-fated longliner *Sudur Havid*, which sank while fishing in Subarea 48.3 on 6 June 1998, with the loss of 17 lives. The Scientific Committee also acknowledged the efforts of the captain and crew of the Chilean longliner *Isla Camila* and Mr P. Marshall (UK), scientific observer on board, and the captain and crew of the South African longliner *Koryo Maru 11*, who rescued the *Sudur Havid* survivors.

1.13 The Scientific Committee acknowledged with sadness the absence of Dr K.-H. Kock (Germany), a former Chairman of the Committee, due to ill health. Dr Kock was wished a full and speedy recovery.

1.14 The Chairman regretfully informed the Scientific Committee of the deaths of two prominent scientists involved in the work of CCAMLR. Dr P. Prince (UK) and Dr P. Fedoulov (Russia) had been respected members of CCAMLR working groups, and both had contributed substantially to the work of the Scientific Committee.

1.15 The Chairman also informed the Scientific Committee that Dr Croxall was recently appointed as Professor at the Universities of Durham and Birmingham.

Scientific Committee Representation at Meetings
of Other International Organisations

1.16 The Scientific Committee was represented by observers at the following international meetings during the intersessional period:

- (i) SCOR Working Group 105;
- (ii) CWP;
- (iii) Globec Open Science Committee and SO-GLOBEC Steering Committee;
- (iv) FAO Consultation on By-catch in Fisheries;
- (v) SC-IWC;
- (vi) Third meeting of CCSBT-ERSWG;
- (vii) Second International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application;
- (viii) XXV SCAR and associated meetings;
- (ix) GOSEAC;
- (x) SCAR VII Biology Symposium; and
- (xi) 1998 ICES Annual Science Conference.