

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Reports of Observers from International Organisations

SCAR

11.1 The Scientific Committee noted with pleasure the presence of Dr Fanta as Observer from SCAR at this meeting and believed that it would facilitate collaboration between SCAR and CCAMLR.

11.2 Dr Fanta presented a report on the Tenth Meeting of SCAR's Group of Specialists on Environmental Affairs and Conservation (GOSEAC), held in Basel, Switzerland, in September 1998 (SC-CAMLR/XVII/BG/21). The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) The introduction of non-native species in the Antarctic may interfere with the local biota and SCAR recommended that such introductions be reported and monitored; 'zero' tolerance was not seen as a practical solution.
- (ii) Methods for environmental monitoring for the detection of impacts caused by human activity in the area included chemical, behavioural, physiological and biochemical methods. Individual variability and natural fluctuations at populational level, as well as the lack of enough baseline data were seen as limiting factors in the interpretation of the results. The influence of activities outside the Treaty area, mainly related to fisheries activities was also noticed. A close collaboration with WG-EMM was identified as important.
- (iii) Codes of conduct developed to protect bird and seal populations or individuals from the effects of human presence should be developed within a precautionary perspective in the absence of adequate scientific data.
- (iv) Management plans were seen as useful tools to avoid or minimise impacts of human activity in the Treaty area.
- (v) A potential increase in the interest of commercial exploitation of biological resources other than fisheries (mainly for pharmaceutical purposes) was identified and SCAR recommended that CCAMLR remains attentive with respect to marine organisms.

IWC

11.3 The Observer from IWC, Ms D. Thiele had reported on the plans to have IWC observers conduct whale sightings during the CCAMLR synoptic krill survey in Area 48 (paragraphs 4.13 and 4.30).

FAO

11.4 The Observer from FAO, Mr Shotton, deferred presentation of his report (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/44) to the meeting of the Commission. The Scientific Committee recalled that issues regarding the occurrence of elasmobranch in the by-catch of fisheries within the Convention Area had been discussed (paragraphs 5.127 to 5.130).

ASOC

11.5 The Scientific Committee noted the report of the Observer from ASOC, Ms C. Mormorunni (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/48). The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) The illegal and unregulated fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. threatened to severely undermine CCAMLR's progress towards precautionary management and the conservation of Antarctica's marine living resources. The uncertainty surrounding the level of illegal and unregulated catch had introduced an uncertainty into the assessments which significantly undermined their reliability and viability, as well as the fishery's projected impacts on dependent and associated species, and the greater marine environment. ASOC believed that Members had no other choice but to set zero catch limits for *D. eleginoides* until the illegal and unregulated fishery was brought under control.
- (ii) The incidental seabird mortality was exacerbated by the illegal and unregulated fishery and the levels reported by ad hoc WG-IMALF (Annex 5, section 7) indicated that urgent action was needed to eliminate all incidental seabird mortality.
- (iii) ASOC recalled the paper on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) tabled by the IUCN observer at CCAMLR-XVI. ASOC encouraged CCAMLR to consider this powerful conservation and management tool, and specifically how it may be immediately applied within the Convention Area.
- (iv) ASOC reminded the Scientific Committee that decisions taken this year will demonstrate to the broader international community whether CCAMLR is in fact able to carry out its mission and ensure the protection and conservation of the Antarctic marine environment.

SCOR, CCSBT, ICES, IOC and IATTC

11.6 No observers from these organisations presented a report at the meeting.

Reports of SC-CAMLR Representatives at Meetings of Other International Organisations

SCAR Subcommittee on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms

11.7 The Scientific Committee noted the report of the CCAMLR observer at the SCAR Subcommittee on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, Dr Fanta, (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/22). The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) The preliminary announcement of the Workshop on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, to be held in Brazil from 12 to 15 May 1999.
- (ii) The main purpose of the workshop will be to obtain a view of the state of the art of adaptation, gene flow, evolution, biodiversity and new techniques for the development of a proposal for a future integrated, multinational, multidisciplinary research program within SCAR.

- (iii) As many of the proposed themes are of direct interest to CCAMLR, the subcommittee wishes to invite a member of the Scientific Committee to attend the meeting and actively participate in the discussions of aims, trends and needs of research.

SCAR Group of Specialists on Seals

11.8 The Scientific Committee noted the report of the CCAMLR observer to SCAR-GSS, Prof. Torres (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/15). The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) At the recent meeting at the Universidad de Concepción (Chile) in July 1998 the SCAR-GSS elected a new chairman, Dr J. Bengtson (USA), and Secretary, Dr I. Boyd (UK).
- (ii) The group reviewed information on the status and population trends of all species of Antarctic pinnipeds. During its last meeting in 1996, SCAR-GSS had prepared a five-year review of information to CCAMLR. These tables were updated. The next five-year update of pinniped status and trends will be prepared by SCAR-GSS during its next meeting and sent to CCAMLR by October 2000, incorporating the recent results of the circumpolar survey of pack-ice seals (APIS).
- (iii) It was agreed to send to CCAMLR a set of documents of the APIS Program, in time for the meeting of WG-EMM, as a basis for developing a standard method for surveying pack-ice seals.
- (iv) SCAR-GSS was informed about the decision of WG-EMM to standardise colour codes of tags placed on fur seals to make the locations of taggings obvious on resighting. This was of particular interest to SCAR-GSS since it attempts to maintain an Antarctic seal tagging and marking database at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, USA. Considering the colour codes suggested by WG-EMM, it was noted that the recommended procedure was to have the male and female portion of the individual tags in separate colours. SCAR-GSS felt that this recommendation might create identification problems in the future, because of colour fading and the difficulty of being able to read only one side of the tag during resighting efforts.
- (v) Another matter of interest to CCAMLR related to the finding of plastic particles in seal scats, which suggest that bioaccumulation of such particles may be taking place in the Antarctic marine ecosystem. Monitoring these particles for abundance, distribution and species involved might constitute an interesting research topic. If so, the fecal samples necessary to be collected for useful information is more than 100.
- (vi) To improve information flow between SCAR-GSS and CCAMLR, more rapid exchange of documents was suggested, and SCAR-GSS asked the CCAMLR and SCAR observers to assist with this task.

11.9 Dr Penhale advised that the USA had approved the APIS program for the 1999/2000 season.

SCAR Subcommittee on Bird Biology

11.10 Prof. Croxall reported on the meeting of SCAR-BBS, the executive summary of which was tabled as SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/24. The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) The latest report from the Central Data Bank for Antarctic Bird Banding (CDB) based at the University of Cape Town, South Africa covering years 1987 to 1996.
- (ii) The production of annual lists of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic publications on birds for publication in *Marine Ornithology*.
- (iii) The intention to publish the report of an intersessional survey of penguin marking activities supporting earlier concerns of the sometimes deleterious effects of flipper bands on penguins; some progress with the design of new flipper bands for penguins, including the use of plastic materials, has been made.
- (iv) Publication of the report of the Penguin Conservation Assessment and Management Plan Workshop held in Cape Town, South Africa, in September 1996 which proposed classification under IUCN's Red List Categories of threat for rockhopper and royal penguins as vulnerable, and for macaroni as near-threatened. SCAR-BBS considered research requirements for each species in the light of activities undertaken in the last two years. A need for continued research, including population surveys, was identified for all three species.
- (v) The status and trends of the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic seabirds document, tabled at the subcommittee's last meeting and subsequently submitted to CCAMLR, is now in press with *Marine Ornithology*.
- (vi) The SCAR-BBS intention to undertake reviews of bird populations (including trends) in Protected Areas to contribute to the strategic assessment of Antarctic Protected Areas.
- (vii) The planned undertaking of an Important Bird Areas (IBA) study of the Antarctic Continent, using the internationally-agreed criteria which are being applied in studies underway for all other continents. Such a study entails the identification, using objective criteria, of a network of sites critical for the long-term viability of bird populations, enabling the adequacy of the existing Protected Areas system to be reviewed in terms of their birds, and recommendations made for new protected areas.
- (viii) The proposal to establish a computerised and on-line site-specific database on breeding distribution and abundance of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic birds, hosted by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC). The database would be accessible under the proposed home page for the subcommittee on the SCAR WG-Biology website.
- (ix) The approval by WG-Biology of the recommendation of the ad hoc Working Group on Seabirds at Sea Methodology Workshop in 1996. For future international coordinated projects within the Southern Ocean that wish to determine the quantitative abundance (density) of seabirds at sea, a method that incorporates bird flux through the survey area should be used in preference to the BIOMASS protocol. At present, two methods involving bird flux are available, and the method used is dependent on the objectives of the seabird project. The Vector method has the advantage of including all birds in the transect for density calculations, resulting in greater detail in quantitative analyses. The Snapshot method accepts some loss of quantitative detail for uncommon species, with the

advantage of being less labour intensive (i.e. fewer observers required). Irrespective of the method chosen, a 300-m transect width and basic time unit of 10 minutes (or an alternative that can be analysed in 10-minute periods) are recommended for consistency and compatibility with historical datasets.

11.11 The Scientific Committee was informed that the 1998 SCAR meeting adopted four recommendations referring to seabirds which occur in the Convention Area. These concerned:

- (i) submission of bird banding data (Rec XXV-Biol 8);
- (ii) requirements to submit comprehensive data on the use of implanted transponder tags in penguins to the SCAR Central Data Bank for Antarctic Bird Banding (Rec XXV-Biol 9);
- (iii) the priority for research on threatened and near-threatened penguin species, viz rockhopper, royal and macaroni penguins (Rec XXV-Biol 10); and
- (iv) encouraging research on seabird populations at risk from longline fisheries, and on related initiatives for developing and using improved mitigating measures, especially in South American waters where least resources have hitherto been available for such work; and that CCAMLR be informed on such research and its results (Rec XXV-Biol 11).

SCAR WG-Biology

11.12 The Scientific Committee noted the report of the CCAMLR observer to SCAR WG-Biology (Prof. Fernholm), SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/20. The main points of interest to CCAMLR are listed below.

- (i) The working group supported the development of a coordinated protected area system (Rec XXV-Biol 3).
- (ii) The management plans for SSSI Nos 8 and 34, Western Shore of Admiralty Bay, and Lions Rump, King George Island, were endorsed (Rec XXV-Biol 12).
- (iii) Four general principles that WG-Biology considered important for its future work:
 - (a) to establish programs with coordinated multidisciplinary aims and activities;
 - (b) to ensure that biological programs are designed which include clear links to and/or collaboration with existing and potential SCAR research on global change;
 - (c) to ensure that biological programs are designed which have links to and/or collaboration with international research programs being undertaken under the auspices of bodies other than SCAR (e.g. SCOR, CCAMLR); and
 - (d) to develop within SCAR's biological research programs the potential for effective research on topics and issues relating to environmental protection, conservation and management (and to develop efficient mechanisms for transmitting the results of such research to the necessary bodies within the Antarctic Treaty System concerning environmental matters).
- (iv) The working group recommended the appointment of Dr Fanta as the observer to the CCAMLR Scientific Committee (Rec XXV-Biol 13).

- (v) The Working Group planned to have its next meeting in association with SCAR XXVI in Japan, 2000.
- (vi) The Working Group elected as a new chairman Y. Le Maho (France).

SCAR VII International Biology Symposium

11.13 The Scientific Committee noted the report of the CCAMLR observer to SCAR VII International Biology Symposium, Dr Penhale, who introduced SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/23 and indicated that its purpose was to draw attention to papers of interest to the Scientific Committee. Proceedings will be published in about one year.

SCOR

11.14 The meeting of WG-105 (the Impact of World Fisheries Harvests on the Stability and Diversity of Marine Ecosystems) was held in Hobart in January 1998. Dr Constable was the CCAMLR observer at that meeting. As agreed at SC-CAMLR-XVI, a draft copy of the book *Understanding CCAMLR's Approach to Management* had been submitted to the meeting.

ATCM

11.15 The Scientific Committee noted the Executive Secretary's report of the XXII ATCM (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/18). The definitions of marine protected areas which had been proposed and endorsed by the Scientific Committee had now been accepted. Six resolutions had been adopted, including 'Antarctic Data Management' and 'ATCM Homepage'.

SO-GLOBEC

11.16 The Scientific Committee noted the recent work of SO-GLOBEC as outlined in Annex 4, paragraphs 9.92 to 9.96. A poster outlining progress in SO-GLOBEC was presented.

ICES

11.17 The Scientific Committee noted the annual report from ICES (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/17) which had been submitted by the CCAMLR Observer, Ms I. Lutchman (UK).

11.18 Dr Miller will be the CCAMLR observer to the ICES meeting in November. Should Dr Miller be unable to attend then Dr Sullivan would be CCAMLR observer.

CWP

11.19 The Scientific Committee noted the Data Manager's report from the intersessional meeting of CWP (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/9). This report had been discussed under 'Data Management' (paragraphs 10.9 to 10.14).

IWC

11.20 The Scientific Committee noted the observer's report (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/47), and recalled earlier discussions regarding the collaboration between IWC and CCAMLR, and in particular plans underway in regard to the synoptic survey (paragraphs 4.13 and 4.30).

11.21 The Chairman of the Scientific Committee was tasked with contacting Dr S. Reilly, and seeking direct feedback on the future activities of the liaison group between IWC and the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 11.13).

CCSBT, ICCAT and IATTC

11.22 The Scientific Committee noted the CCSBT Observer's report (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/4). The information provided in this report had been considered during the recent meetings of WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 7.186). It also noted the ICCAT Observer's report (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/46) and the IATTC Observer's report (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/35).

Second International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application

11.23 Dr Everson reported that the Second International Symposium on Fish Otolith Research and Application held in Bergen, Norway, from 20 to 25 June 1998 had been a great success. A large number of papers had been presented on all aspects of otolith research and applications. Of particular relevance to CCAMLR are studies on age validation and stock identity. Dr Everson stated that he was unsure of the planned timetable for publication of the proceedings.

Future Cooperation

11.24 The Scientific Committee noted that WG-EMM considered a number of international meetings which were of relevance to its work (Annex 4, paragraphs 9.91 to 9.100).

- (i) SO-GLOBEC Steering Committee had drafted a Science Plan for its program from 1999 onwards and looks for cooperation with CCAMLR and IWC.
- (ii) A Symposium of ICES/SCOR, 'Ecosystems Effects of Fishing', would be held from 16 to 19 March 1999 in Montpellier, France, and the subject matter is considered to be of interest to the Scientific Committee. Dr Constable had been invited by the organising committee to coordinate the development of a keynote paper, in conjunction with colleagues from the Scientific Committee. It was recommended that past and current conveners involved in the development of the ecosystem approach and still involved in CCAMLR, together with the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and the former and current Data Managers, Drs Agnew and Ramm, would assist with this task.
- (iii) An international workshop on interannual variability in the Southern Ocean will be held at the British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK, from 2 to 7 August 1999.

11.25 The Scientific Committee nominated the following observers to meetings in 1998/99:

- (i) 31st Session of the IOC Executive Council, 17 to 27 November 1998, Paris, France – no observer;
- (ii) First Session of the IOTC Scientific Committee, 7 and 8 December 1998, Victoria, Seychelles – Australia (Mr J. Barrington);
- (iii) International Conference on Integrated Fisheries Monitoring, 1 to 5 February 1999, Sydney, Australia – Dr Miller and/or Dr Agnew;
- (iv) 1999 Meeting of the IWC Scientific Committee, 3 to 15 May 1999, Grenada, West Indies – possibly Dr Kock;
- (v) Committee for the Environmental Protection, ATCM, May 1999, Lima, Peru – Dr Miller;
- (vi) SCAR-BBS Workshop, May 1999, Montana, USA – Prof. Croxall;
- (vii) Eighteenth Session of CWP, 6 to 9 July 1999, Luxembourg – Dr Ramm;
- (viii) Krill Symposium, 23 to 27 August 1999, Santa Cruz, USA – Dr Nicol;
- (ix) Workshop on the Interannual Variability in the Southern Ocean, August 1999, Cambridge, UK – Dr E. Murphy or J. Priddle;
- (x) CMS, 10 to 16 November 1999, Cape Town, South Africa – Mr Cooper;
- (xi) ICES, venue and date to be determined – Ms Lutchman;
- (xii) XIth Meeting of GOSEAC, July 1999, venue to be confirmed – Dr Fanta; and
- (xiii) SCAR Workshop on Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, 12 to 15 May 1999, Curitiba, Brazil – Drs P. Rodhouse (UK) and G. Carvalho (Brazil).

11.26 The Scientific Committee agreed that all observers invited to meetings of the Scientific Committee and working groups in 1998 should be invited to attend the meetings in 1999.

Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

11.27 Last year, the Scientific Committee noted that CCAMLR should keep under review developments within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as these may affect participation of CCAMLR and its Members in various programs related to biodiversity (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraphs 11.25 and 11.26).

11.28 The Secretariat has informed CBD of CCAMLR's work in relation to albatross conservation and has drawn CBD's attention to the interactions between albatrosses and longline fisheries as an example of harmful biological consequences caused by anthropogenic effects (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraphs 7.31 and 7.32).

11.29 Copies of the Secretariat correspondence with CBD on the matters mentioned above are given in SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/14.