

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1998/99 INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

13.1 The following Scientific Committee activities are planned for the 1998/99 intersessional period:

- (i) meeting of WG-EMM;
- (ii) Second Symposium on Krill; and
- (iii) meeting of WG-FSA.

13.2 Mr López Abellán extended an invitation to hold the WG-EMM meeting at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography in Tenerife, during the second half of July 1999. The Scientific Committee thanked Mr López Abellán for his kind offer, and the Government of Spain for offering to host the meeting.

13.3 The Second Symposium of Krill will be held in Santa Cruz (USA) from 23 to 27 August 1999.

13.4 The meeting of WG-FSA was scheduled to be held at the Secretariat's headquarters from 11 to 20 October 1999.

13.5 The Scientific Committee decided to postpone the Workshop on *C. gunnari* until a time after 1999 (paragraph 5.132).

13.6 The Scientific Committee discussed the procedure developed by the Chairman and conveners of working groups to allocate and track intersessional tasks (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/25). Activities during the 1997/98 intersessional period were reviewed. The majority of the tasks given to the Secretariat, including most of those afforded a high priority, had been completed. This had reflected the efficient and thorough support that the Secretariat had provided to the Scientific Committee and its working groups.

13.7 All of the tasks which had not been completed were either ongoing, or were awaiting input from Members. The Scientific Committee identified these tasks.

### Scheme of International Scientific Observation:

- (i) preparation of data entry programs – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 10.11);

### Harvested species:

- (ii) indices of local krill availability – input from Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, paragraph 3.20);
- (iii) species discrimination in acoustic surveys – input from Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, paragraph 8.18);
- (iv) data logging from acoustic surveys – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, paragraph 8.23);
- (v) scale and otolith collections and age-length keys for *Dissostichus* spp. – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 5.48);
- (vi) acoustic database for fish and krill – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 5.156);
- (vii) research survey format – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 5.157);

- (viii) electronic data submission – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 10.11);
- (ix) data extraction query for weighted length frequencies – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 4.163);

Incidental mortality arising from longline fishing:

- (x) request information on French program for monitoring albatross and petrel populations – input from Member (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 4.40);
- (xi) reports on incidental mortality of seabirds outside the Convention Area – input from Members, particularly from South America (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 7.99);
- (xii) information on South African longline fishery for hake – input from Member (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 7.102);
- (xiii) information on use of artificial bait – input from Mustad (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 7.139);
- (xiv) studies and information on artificial bait – ongoing by Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5, paragraph 7.140);
- (xv) experience with underwater setting – ongoing by Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 4.66);

Dependent species:

- (xvi) investigate availability of data on Antarctic petrels – being considered by Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 4.4);
- (xvii) develop software on monitoring at-sea behaviour – ongoing and part of planning process for the synoptic survey (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, paragraph 8.69);
- (xviii) update CEMP data – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 6.6);
- (xix) requests for Members’ suggestions for analysis of IWC data – input from Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, paragraph 8.134);

CCAMLR Data Management:

- (xx) staged approach to updating databases – ongoing (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 10.3); and
- (xxi) forecasting data entry resource requirements – ongoing and input from Members (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 10.15).

13.8 The Scientific Committee agreed that the procedure developed by the Chairman and conveners of working groups had allowed the Scientific Committee to:

- (i) focus on issues of priority, and track tasks allocated to the Secretariat and Members;
- (ii) document these tasks; and
- (iii) evaluate its own performance, and the allocation of resources.

13.9 Dr Everson added that it had been gratifying to see the work of the Scientific Committee evolve in this manner, and indicated ways of facilitating the review process in future years. He had found the format used for reporting the Secretariat's work in support of WG-EMM very useful (WG-EMM-98/23). That format included details of the actions taken, and references to meeting papers and other information related to these actions. A similar format had been used to report work in support of WG-FSA (WG-FSA-98/5).

13.10 The Scientific Committee agreed that the reporting format should include for each task identified:

- (i) a brief description;
- (ii) reference to the relevant paragraph(s) in the report;
- (iii) a list of the actions taken, with dates;
- (iv) a list of what information was obtained as a result of those actions, with dates; and
- (v) the current status of the task.

13.11 The Scientific Committee endorsed the following tasks for the 1998/99 intersessional period:

- (i) all of the outstanding or ongoing tasks identified in paragraph 13.7;
- (ii) the tasks identified by WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 12.2 to 12.7); and
- (iii) the tasks identified by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 9.16 to 9.20).

13.12 In addition, the Secretariat was requested to transfer these tasks to the format identified in paragraph 13.10, distribute the listing to all members of the Scientific Committee and working groups at the earliest time possible after these meetings, and append the list to the final version of the Scientific Committee report (Annex 6).

13.13 The Scientific Committee reported that the Secretariat had provided excellent support at the meeting of WG-EMM in Kochi, India, and thanked Mrs L. Bleathman, Drs Ramm and Sabourenkov, and Ms G. Tanner for their dedication and very professional work. Dr Everson recalled that Dr Sabourenkov had prepared a job plan for his work during the meeting of WG-EMM which had proven useful, and had highlighted the large amount of work done during the meeting.

13.14 It was also noted that the Data Management group, including Mr Appleyard, Mrs Millar, Ms Slicer and Mr Williams had been instrumental in ensuring that the large amount of data was available at the right place and at the right time during the meeting of WG-FSA.

13.15 The Scientific Committee commended all of the staff at the Secretariat for the substantial amount of work of a diverse nature they had done in support of the Scientific Committee and its working groups during the past year, and for their professional approach to producing the reports under intense time pressures.

13.16 The Scientific Committee was aware that a number of pressure points at key times and in specific areas within the Secretariat support of the Scientific Committee and working group activity had emerged over recent meetings, and endorsed the views expressed at WG-FSA that:

- (i) the Scientific Committee and working groups should, wherever possible, facilitate the work of the Secretariat by submitting rapporteur reports in electronic format; and
- (ii) the Secretariat should maintain its pro-active approach to its resources and keep under review the re-allocation of existing resources, or the addition of resources, to spread the workload and relieve pressure points.

Both these suggestions were seen as improving the efficiency of the Scientific Committee's work and the Committee's interactions with the Secretariat in key areas.