FISHERY STATUS AND TRENDS

Krill

2.1 Reported catches of krill (*E. superba*) are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

2.2 Following a request by the Scientific Committee at its 1997 meeting (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 2.6), information obtained from FAO indicated that Poland had reported catches of 801 tonnes in 1988/89, 2 506 tonnes in 1992/93 and 74 tonnes in 1997/98 from Division 41.3.2 just to the north of the Convention Area. Additional catches of 161 tonnes in 1979/80 and 112 tonnes in 1990/91 had been reported by the former Soviet Union in the same statistical division. The Scientific Committee encouraged Members that have fished for krill in waters adjacent to the Convention Area to submit catch and effort data to the Secretariat in the CCAMLR formats.

2.3 The Scientific Committee reiterated the importance of fine-scale data and haul-by-haul data to the assessment of the krill fishery. Members were encouraged to submit all available data to the Secretariat.

2.4 The Scientific Committee noted the following plans for krill fishing during the 1998/99 season: Japan, Poland and the Republic of Korea reported that their krill fishing activities would be similar to those in the 1997/98 season (i.e. about 60 000 tonnes, 20 000 tonnes and 2 000 tonnes respectively). The UK was likely to fish at a level similar to 1997/98 (i.e. 700 tonnes). Ukraine noted its intention to fish for krill using three vessels and that the joint venture with Canada was still under discussion. Uruguay expressed an interest in the krill fishery, although no actual plans have been formulated as yet. One German company had notified its intention to commence krill fishing, but due to domestic legal issues it is unclear at present whether fishing will commence in the forthcoming season. Argentina is considering issuing a permit to fish for krill to one operator. One of the conditions of this permit will require the carrying of a scientific observer. A single US vessel, which has been issued with a permit to fish for krill, has not operated as yet. The Scientific Committee requested the Secretariat to contact Panama and China to determine their intentions to fish for krill in the forthcoming season.

2.5 The Scientific Committee noted that krill harvested by Japanese trawlers in the Convention Area waters is used mostly as feed in the aquaculture industry and bait in recreational fisheries; a small portion of the catches is also processed as food for human consumption. The demand for krill has dropped recently due to a downturn in the Japanese economy (Annex 4, paragraph 2.7). The quality of krill for use as feed, bait or food for human consumption is judged by three attributes: greenness of the hepatopancreas, body colour and body size. Large white krill with little green in their hepatopancreas are the most valuable, and are targeted by the fishing industry. Over recent years, Japanese trawlers have extended their fishing season to autumn and winter so as to avoid catching early-season green krill and to increase their catch of white krill. This strategy also avoids unduly stockpiling large quantities of krill products in freezer stores onshore. Members were urged to provide such information to WG-EMM and the Scientific Committee.

2.6 The Scientific Committee agreed the need for information on past and current krill market information. This information would provide further insight into the fishery, for instance in an appreciation of the economic factors affecting the fishery and ultimately potential catch levels. Members were urged to provide such information to WG-EMM and the Scientific Committee.

Fish

2.7 Catches reported from the Convention Area during the 1997/98 split-year were presented in SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/1 Rev. 2 (Tables 3 and 4). The catches include: *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 (3 258 tonnes by mostly Chile, South Africa and UK). Divisions 58.5.1 (4 741 tonnes by France and Ukraine), 58.5.2 (2 418 tonnes by Australia), Subareas 58.6 (175 tonnes by France and South Africa within their respective EEZs) and 58.7 (576 tonnes by South Africa within its EEZ); *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 (6 tonnes by Chile) and Division 58.5.2 (68 tonnes by Australia); and *Dissostichus mawsoni* in Subarea 88.1 (41 tonnes by New Zealand). There was no fishing for *Electrona carlsbergi.*

2.8 The Scientific Committee drew attention to the substantial amount of unreported catches of *D. eleginoide*s, in particular in the Indian Ocean sector (Area 58). The total reported catch of *D. eleginoides* from EEZs outside the CCAMLR Convention Area and from inside the CCAMLR Convention Area was 27 908 tonnes in the 1997/98 split-year (Annex 5, Table 3). Based on sightings of longliners in various subareas and divisions, their known fishing capacities, reports of some of their landings and estimates of their catch and effort, the unreported catch was estimated to be 22 415 tonnes. The total catch of *D. eleginoides* was estimated by WG-FSA to be 50 323 tonnes (Annex 5, paragraph 3.30).

2.9 In most subareas/divisions, unreported catches accounted for between 60 and 90% of the estimated total catch derived from catch and effort data. Estimates for the 1997/98 split-year of landings of unregulated catches in Mauritius and Walvis Bay, Namibia accounted for 25 503 tonnes. This is quite similar to the estimated unreported catch of 22 415 tonnes from the CCAMLR area.

2.10 The amount of unreported catch was also investigated by examining the trade statistics for *D. eleginoides*. Trade statistics for this species were available from the Japanese and US markets principally. From these reports, it was estimated that about 90% of *D. eleginoides* was exported to Japan and the USA (Annex 5, Table 10). It was estimated that at least 60 518 tonnes of *D. eleginoides* were traded in the 1997/98 split-year.

2.11 The Scientific Committee highlighted that catches (27 908 tonnes) reported from national and CCAMLR fisheries constituted less than 50% of the *D. eleginoides* trade (60 518 tonnes) during the 1997/98 split-year and that this has serious implications for yield estimates both over the short and long term (Annex 5, paragraph 3.34).

2.12 The total unreported catch of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Convention Area during 1997/98 (22 415 tonnes) was compared with an estimate of 38 000 to 42 800 tonnes in 1996/97 (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 4, Appendix D, Table D.4). The observed drop in catches between the two years could not be attributed to any particular cause, although it was speculated that declining catch rates across the Indian Ocean may be a contributing factor. The Scientific Committee also recognised that action against illegal/unregulated fishing taken by various countries may also be contributing to the decline in illegal/unregulated catches.

2.13 Given that it is unlikely that unregulated fishing will cease immediately, the Scientific Committee agreed that there is a distinct possibility that *D. eleginoides* stocks will continue to be depleted to extremely low levels and that this would also be accompanied by a severe reduction of several bird species to very low levels (see also discussion under Agenda Item 4(ii)). The former, in particular, may contravene Article II.3(c) of the Convention, thereby necessitating attention to be given as to how long it would take for stocks of *D. eleginoides* to recover, and under what circumstances it could be expected to take place.

2.14 In keeping with its advice in 1997 and since unregulated fishing for *D. eleginoides* in the Indian Ocean is likely to continue at high levels in the foreseeable future, the Scientific Committee drew the Commission's attention to the fact that only effective measures to deter illegal/unregulated fishing would serve to reduce such fishing and that in the absence of these

measures, unregulated fishing is expected to continue at a level consistent with economic demand. In addition and as already indicated (paragraph 2.13), ineffective control of future unregulated fishing for *D. eleginoides* is likely to compromise the long-term yield of the targeted stock.

Crabs

2.15 There was no fishery for crabs in the Convention Area in the 1997/98 season and no additional data on crabs have been reported to the Secretariat.

Squid

2.16 The Republic of Korea/UK new fishery for *Martialia hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3, produced a catch of 53 tonnes in the 1997/98 split-year (SC-CAMLR-XVII/BG/1 Rev. 2). Mr H.-C. Shin (Republic of Korea) informed the Scientific Committee that the Republic of Korea had so far no plans to undertake a squid fishery in 1998/99.

2.17 Prof. J. Beddington (UK) informed the Scientific Committee that a non-Member country has an interest in a squid fishery in Subarea 48.3 for 1998/99.