

DATA MANAGEMENT

10.1 Dr Ramm presented a report on the work undertaken by the Secretariat's Data Management group in the 1998/99 intersessional period (SC-CAMLR-XVIII/BG/8). This group includes Mr E. Appleyard (Scientific Observer Data Analyst), Mrs L. Millar (part-time Data Entry Assistant), Ms N. Slicer (part-time Data Management Assistant) and Mr N. Williams (Computer Systems Officer).

10.2 The amount of data processed by the Secretariat has continued to increase, and a third of all data held in the CCAMLR databases had been processed over the past three years. Approximately 16% of all records submitted to date had been processed in 1999. In spite of increasing efficiencies in data management, the increased amount of data places ever-increasing demands on the Secretariat's resources.

10.3 CCAMLR data processed in 1999 included catch and effort reports, fine-scale fishery data, observer data, STATLANT data, research survey data and CEMP data (see also Annex 4, paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4; Annex 5, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.16). In addition, the Data Management group processed and analysed data on bathymetry and seabed areas, sea-ice extent and sea-surface temperatures.

10.4 Electronic data forms (eforms) were now available for reporting STATLANT data, catch and effort reports, fine-scale data (catch, effort and biological) and observer data (see WG-FSA-99/8 and 99/10). The eforms were developed in Microsoft Excel. A prototype Microsoft Access database had also been developed for the observer data, and is yet to be trialled in the field.

10.5 In addition to this work, the Data Management group had also undertaken the following major tasks in 1998/99:

- (i) produced Volume 11 of the *Statistical Bulletin* (1989–1998);
- (ii) revised and updated the procedure for generating CEMP indices, and the layout of the annual report to WG-EMM;
- (iii) further developed estimates of the fishery–krill–predator overlap;
- (iv) further developed draft standard methods for recording sea-ice cover viewed from a CEMP site (Index F1), local weather at a CEMP site (Index F3) and snow cover at a CEMP site (Index F4);
- (v) revised estimates of seabed areas within the fishable depth range of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Convention Area, and estimated seabed areas for *D. eleginoides* in adjacent waters;
- (vi) developed a new research survey database and begun transferring data to this new system;
- (vii) further developed a routine for deriving catch-weighted length frequencies for *Dissostichus* spp. and *C. gunnari* caught in commercial fisheries within the Convention Area; and
- (viii) revised the *Fishery Data Manual*.

10.6 Major work is detailed in meeting papers presented to the Scientific Committee or its working groups. Dr Ramm also participated in the Eighteenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fisheries Statistics (CWP-18) (paragraphs 11.17 to 11.20).

10.7 Dr Ramm advised that the data processing load was likely to be greater in 2000 than in 1999, due to the possible submission of observer data from krill fisheries. The archiving of core datasets from the CCAMLR-2000 Survey would also require new work including the modification of the existing data system and the expansion of data storage facilities.

CCAMLR Website

10.8 At the end of 1998, after the prototype CCAMLR website had been tested and discussed at CCAMLR-XVII, the task of further developing and maintaining the website was transferred to the administration area of the Secretariat. Work on the website in 1999 has continued under the supervision of the Administration and Finance Officer. New developments can be viewed at <http://www.ccamlr.org> and are summarised in CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/17. The Data Management group has continued to assist where appropriate.

10.9 The Scientific Committee reviewed progress, and endorsed the recommendations of WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraphs 10.1 to 10.12 and 12.7) and WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 10.1 to 10.6). With regard to STATLANT data, the Scientific Committee confirmed that data published in the *Statistical Bulletin* should be placed on the website as a downloadable file in pdf format, or equivalent.

10.10 The Scientific Committee briefly discussed the need for establishing a CCAMLR Geographic Information System (GIS) in support of its analyses, and for enhancing the presentation of information on the website. The Scientific Committee agreed that there was a growing need for this type of software, and that a GIS would provide a detailed spatial analysis of the data which will be acquired during the CCAMLR-2000 Survey. The Scientific Committee would welcome any contribution in the development of such methodology to assist in the analyses of CCAMLR-2000 Survey data.