

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1999/2000 INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD

13.1 The following Scientific Committee activities are planned for the 1999/2000 intersessional period:

- (i) CCAMLR-2000 Survey (January–February 2000);
- (ii) B₀ Workshop (two-week period, May–June 2000);
- (iii) meeting of WG-EMM (17 to 28 July 2000); and
- (iv) meeting of WG-FSA (9 to 19 October 2000).

13.2 The Scientific Committee thanked Prof. L. Guglielmo (Italy) for his kind offer to host the sixth meeting of WG-EMM in Taormina, Sicily, in July 2000. The Scientific Committee recalled that Italy had very successfully hosted the first meeting of WG-EMM in 1995.

13.3 The Scientific Committee again decided to postpone the Workshop on the Development of a Long-term Management Strategy for *C. gunnari* until a time after 2000 (paragraph 5.106).

13.4 The Scientific Committee briefly reviewed the procedure developed by the Chairman and conveners of working groups to allocate and track intersessional tasks. Activities during the 1998/99 intersessional period were listed in SC-CAMLR-XVII, Annex 6. It was agreed that this procedure had been successful, and was used by the Secretariat, the working groups and Members in planning intersessional work.

13.5 The Secretariat's intersessional work in 1998/99 in support of the working groups had been reported at the latter's respective meetings (WG-EMM-99/10, WG-FSA-99/8). The working groups had reviewed this work, and noted that most of the tasks in the past intersessional period had been completed; tasks which remained incomplete were generally pending input by Members or international organisations.

13.6 Major activities scheduled in the 1999/2000 intersessional period are listed in Annex 6.

13.7 The Scientific Committee assessed a proposal by SCAF to alternate meetings of WG-EMM between host countries and the Secretariat's Headquarters in Hobart. The proposal aimed to reduce the costs associated with the Secretariat's travel to the meetings of WG-EMM.

13.8 While the Scientific Committee recognised that some savings could be made by holding the meeting of WG-EMM in Hobart every second year, it was not clear how great such savings would be, given that costs would be incurred in hosting the meetings at the Headquarters. In addition, the Scientific Committee believed that this proposal would incur significant 'costs' in the long term. The Scientific Committee also recognised that some countries incurred high costs in sending delegations to Hobart, due to its remoteness, and that such costs may prohibit return visits within a single year.

13.9 The Scientific Committee indicated that it had further reservations concerning SCAF's proposal for the following reasons. The key consideration for hosting the meetings of WG-EMM in Member countries was to encourage young scientists (with little or no support for international travel) and national organisations to participate more broadly in, and contribute to, CCAMLR research activities. Participation by young scientists was an essential element in the recruitment of expertise and the development of innovative methodologies to manage the Antarctic marine living resources. Limiting the ability of young scientists to attend meetings would result in a critical loss of expertise over the long term, and jeopardise the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups.

13.10 The Scientific Committee noted that the work of its working groups is already suffering from reduced participation at meetings held in recent years. For example, this year's Convener of WG-FSA had sought the assistance of colleagues in encouraging more experts in assessment

modelling and statistics to participate in the activities of WG-FSA, to spread the increasing load of this aspect of the working group's work (Annex 5, paragraph 12.3). The Scientific Committee echoed this need, and encouraged Members to send more researchers, including young scientists, to future meetings of CCAMLR.

13.11 In addition, Dr Miller agreed to contact national representatives of the Scientific Committee, and seek their active support to recruit new scientists to meetings.