

## FISHERY STATUS AND TRENDS

### Krill

2.1 Reported catches of krill (*E. superba*) are shown in Tables 1 and 2. A total of 103 318 tonnes was caught during the 1998/99 split-year. The catch was taken by Argentina, Japan, Republic of Korea, Poland and Ukraine.

2.2 The Scientific Committee noted the following plans for krill fishing during the 1999/2000 season: Japan, Poland and the Republic of Korea reported that their krill fishing activities would be similar to those in the 1998/99 season (i.e. about 60 000 tonnes, 20 000 tonnes and 2 000 tonnes respectively). Uruguay reported that it had one vessel that began fishing in August 1999 and expects to continue during the next season. Germany and the USA stated that they expect to have one and two vessels respectively, fishing during the next season. Argentina reported that it had one vessel that fished during the 1998/99 season, but unfortunately it sank, although there was no loss of life. Argentina acknowledged that the owner company expects to replace the vessel and fish during the next season. Russia indicated that if a Russian company is allowed to fish for *C. gunnari* during the coming season, it may switch to the krill fishery when the finfish fishery is closed. Ukraine indicated that it will send two to three vessels to fish for krill in 1999/2000 and that about 30 000 to 40 000 tonnes will be taken. Finally, the Scientific Committee noted that WG-EMM (Annex 4, paragraph 2.9) received information from the CCAMLR Secretariat that Canada was evaluating a proposal to fish for krill, that Panama had indicated it would not fish for krill and that no response to its inquiry was received from China.

2.3 The Scientific Committee noted that trends in CPUE, reported in tonnes per hour or tonnes per day for Subareas 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3 over recent years, were close to their long-term mean values.

2.4 The Scientific Committee welcomed an analysis, provided by Japanese scientists, of haul-by-haul CPUE reported as catch per tow and catch per minute, and the size distribution of krill caught by the Japanese fleet in the 1997/98 season (WG-EMM-99/48). Submission of data from other nations' fisheries was encouraged as was analysis of the data.

2.5 The Scientific Committee noted that WG-EMM discussed types of conversion factors (CFs) used to estimate the total catch of krill. The Japanese fleet has traditionally used a factor of 10 to raise the weight of fishmeal to the estimated fresh weight of the catch. A factor of 10 was also used to raise the weight of peeled krill to the estimated fresh weight of the catch. A factor of 1 was used to estimate fresh weight from the weight of frozen krill. Other Members were encouraged to collect detailed data on fresh and processed weights and submit the information to the Secretariat.

2.6 Japan confirmed that key market features regarding their krill fishery reported last year (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraph 2.5) still applied in 1999. That is, krill was harvested mostly as feed for the aquaculture industry and bait in recreational fisheries; a small proportion was for human consumption.

2.7 Last year the Scientific Committee requested information from the krill fishery on past and current market prices for krill products (SC-CAMLR-XVII, paragraphs 2.5 and 2.6). This information is needed for the economic analysis of the fishery and development of management strategies which are compatible with the fishery's stage of development (SC-CAMLR-XVII, Annex 4, paragraph 2.9). This need was reiterated this year.

2.8 The Scientific Committee noted WG-EMM's concern at the extent of the winter fishery for krill in the ice-free areas off South Georgia (Annex 4, paragraph 2.11). It was noted that this may place localised pressure on krill populations and therefore, management strategies should be reviewed in light of year-round fishing. The Scientific Committee agreed that

Members involved in krill fisheries should provide general information on krill prices and a breakdown of catches by product type.

## Fish

2.9 Catches reported from the Convention Area during the 1998/99 split-year are presented in SC-CAMLR-XVIII/BG/1 Rev. 1 (Tables 3 and 4). The major catches of finfish include: 4 567 tonnes in Subarea 48.3, 5 399 tonnes in Division 58.5.1, 5 531 tonnes in Division 58.5.2 and 1 938 tonnes in Subarea 58.6.

2.10 The total catch reported in the longline fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 exceeded the catch limit by 152 tonnes (4%). The Scientific Committee agreed that monitoring of catch levels by the Secretariat as the catch limit was approached had been in accordance with the agreed protocol, and the small excess was the result of high catch rates during the final 10 days of the fishing season.

2.11 Information concerning illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing levels and status is presented in section 5.

2.12 Several Members made notification of their intentions to conduct new and exploratory fishing activities for several species in several subareas and divisions. These are taken up in section 9.

2.13 In addition, the UK submitted a notification of research vessel activity when the total catch is expected to be >50 tonnes (WG-FSA-99/41). This involved experimental fishing for *D. eleginoides* using pots. There had been considerable debate at the WG-FSA meeting on whether this notification should be considered as one for a research vessel activity with a total catch exceeding 50 tonnes, or as a new or exploratory fishery. This notification was taken up in section 6.

## Crabs

2.14 The Scientific Committee noted that the UK fished for crabs using pots in Subarea 48.3 during September 1999. Approximately 4 tonnes were reported caught in 14 days of fishing (see also paragraph 5.125). The UK indicated they will continue their fishery during the next season. The USA also indicated that they expect to have one vessel fishing for crabs during the next season.

2.15 The management advice concerning crab stocks in Subarea 48.3 is provided in paragraphs 5.128 to 5.130.

## Squid

2.16 There was no fishery for squid in the Convention Area in the 1998/99 season and no additional data on squid have been reported to the Secretariat. Management advice is provided in paragraph 5.133.