

RESOLUTION 31/XXVIII
Best available science

The Commission,

Recognising the importance of sound scientific advice as the centerpiece of its ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of Antarctic marine living resources,

Aware that the availability of adequate scientific information is fundamental to carrying out the objectives of the Convention and, in particular, those in Article II,

Determined to preserve its leading position in the development of the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach embodied in Article II,

Conscious that Article XIV establishes the Scientific Committee and that each Member of the Commission shall be a Member of the Scientific Committee and shall appoint a representative to the Committee with suitable scientific qualifications,

Emphasising the importance of the effective participation of the developing Member countries in the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups,

Reminded that under Article XV, the Scientific Committee was established as a forum for consultation and cooperation concerning the collection, study and exchange of information and to provide to the Commission with assessments, analyses, reports and recommendations to implement the objectives of the Convention,

Reaffirming its commitment to Article IX.4 of the Convention, whereby the Commission shall take full account of the recommendations and advice of the Scientific Committee in the development of measures to implement the principles of conservation embodied in the Convention,

Determined to preserve its record as a global leader in science-based conservation, sustainable use and fisheries management,

Building on the deliberations and conclusions of the Working Group for the Development of Approaches to Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (WG-DAC) in 1990 (CCAMLR-IX, Annex 7, Appendix 2) regarding the ways in which scientific evidence is used by the Commission to aid its decision-making, and the Commission's conclusion that the Commission should regard the Scientific Committee as the source of the best scientific evidence available (CCAMLR-IX, paragraph 7.6),

Acknowledging the recommendations received from the independent Review Panel in 2008 regarding the collection and use of scientific information in the conservation and management of Antarctic marine living resources,

urges all Members to,

1. Take full account of the best scientific information available from the Scientific Committee in the formulation, adoption and revision of conservation measures.

2. Work together to ensure that scientific information is adequately collected, reviewed and applied in a transparent fashion in accordance with sound scientific principles.
3. Facilitate a coordinated and coherent approach to ecosystem monitoring, research and management that provides robust scientific advice to the Commission by:
 - (i) participating actively in the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, and becoming involved in the programs initiated by these bodies;
 - (ii) contributing to the scientific data and real-time information necessary to the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups.
4. Contribute to, and enhance the quality of, the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups as a means to promote rigorous science-based discussions. In particular, Members are encouraged to:
 - (i) regularly notify the Commission of potentially relevant research and monitoring being conducted within the Convention Area;
 - (ii) promote active dialogue, information exchange and scientific collaborations between Members' representatives to the Commission and the Scientific Committee, and the scientists in their respective Member countries;
 - (iii) ensure the participation of scientists with suitable scientific qualifications or experience at intersessional and sessional meetings of the Scientific Committee and its working groups;
 - (iv) contribute to the capacity-building of the developing Member countries and to enhance their effective participation in the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, by providing, *inter alia*, financial assistance and training programs;
 - (v) seek mechanisms for obtaining financial means to provide scientific analysis and support for the Scientific Committee and its working groups more equitably among all Members of the Commission without compromising the quality of the scientific input.
5. Promote the independence and excellence of the Scientific Committee and its working groups process by:
 - (i) enabling the presentation to the Commission of their scientists' best, independent, objective advice;
 - (ii) providing for transparent and effective decision-making;
 - (iii) providing clear expression of the contents and significance of scientific findings to the Commission.
6. Support and encourage the peer review, wide distribution and discussion of assessments and other significant outputs of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, within and outside of CCAMLR's organisational structure.