

INTRODUCTION

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), at its 1992 Meeting, adopted a Scheme of International Scientific Observation as required under Article XXIV of the Convention. The Scheme is designed to gather and validate scientific information essential for assessing the status of populations of Antarctic marine living resources and for assessing the impact of fishing on those populations and populations of related and dependent species. The Scheme is applied equally to harvesting and research vessels.

In order to assist CCAMLR Members and their observers in planning observation programs and recording data, the CCAMLR Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Committee and its working groups, has developed this *Scientific Observers Manual*. The manual contains a number of guidelines for scientific observations and reference materials.

At its meeting in 2005, the Scientific Committee approved the recommendation from the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) that the observer logbook forms and instructions be removed from the manual and made available in electronic format. Accordingly, the logbook data recording and reporting sheets and instructions are now available from the CCAMLR website (www.ccamlr.org/pu/e/sc/obs/logbooks.htm) or by contacting the Secretariat.