

Dear WG-SAM Member,

This year, the mid-year meetings of the SC-CAMLR are to be held in Bremerhaven, Germany with the Working Group on Statistics, Assessments and Modelling (WG-SAM) scheduled to begin meeting on Monday 24 June 2013 for five days.

Although our work plan priorities have primarily been developed by the Scientific Committee, and are set out in Table 6 of SC-CAMLR-XXX, I was tasked to develop a list of topics and priorities for WG-FSA in consultation with the SC Chair and to communicate the outcomes to the members (SC-CAMLR 2012 paragraph 15.4), which is the purpose of writing this letter.

The Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXX, paragraphs 15.3-15.4) identified two main standing agenda items for WG-SAM:

- (i) Evaluation of research plans from members notifying to fish in New and Exploratory fisheries in Subareas 48.6 and 58.4.
- (ii) Review of research proposals for closed areas, areas with zero catch limits, and other areas not included in (i).

At its 2012 meeting, the Scientific Committee identified the need for additional work in the following three areas: development of appropriate exploitation rates for inclusion in proposals (paragraph 3.161), further development of tagging data selection algorithms (paragraph 3.167) and development of a framework to assess progress towards assessments in data poor fisheries (paragraph 3.177), and requested Members present the results of this work for consideration by WG-SAM at its 2013 meeting.

The Scientific Committee has also identified the ongoing need for WG-SAM to review new statistical methods and stock assessment models and methods before they are used in the work of SC-CAMLR and its Working Groups. In the past this has included parameter estimation, stock and biological assessment methods, tools for population, food web and ecosystem modelling, and evaluation of management strategies.

Further, I would like to hold a session to discuss and scope out the joint SAM-EMM focus symposium on Spatial Modelling in 2014 (SC-CAMLR-XXXI Paragraph 15.2) which will also be an integral part of our work on operating models and management strategies.

Given that the time is available, it has been recommended that we allow a day and a half for report preparation and reading. I propose that we have discussion on Monday to Wednesday and then report adoption on Friday afternoon.

Please find attached a draft agenda and annotated agenda for comment. Please be aware that the deadline for submission of papers for consideration by WG-SAM is 9am Australian Eastern Standard Time on 10 June 2013. Please submit comments to me on the draft agenda and annotated agenda by 13 June 2013. A revised draft agenda and annotated agenda will be circulated immediately prior to the meeting following your comments and the final submission of papers. I look forward to seeing you in Bremerhaven.

Sincerely,

Stuart Hanchet, Convenor, WG-SAM

March 8 2013