

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL GROUP  
ON THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF WORK  
FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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INTRODUCTION

The Informal Group on the Long-Term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee met on 23 October 1988 immediately prior to the Seventh Meeting of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.

2. The Convener of the Group, Dr K. Sherman (USA), welcomed participants, who represented most of the members of the Scientific Committee. Dr J. Bengtson (USA) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Dr Sherman reviewed the rationale for the Informal Group's work, and outlined the purpose of the meeting. The ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of Antarctic living marine resources requires a more comprehensive approach to research and monitoring efforts in support of the Convention's objectives than is generally practiced in other international commissions concerned with marine resources.

4. The present emphasis in CCAMLR on studies of the dynamics of fish, krill and dependent and related predator species in relation to the effects of fishing and environmental changes on populations is resulting in considerable scientific activity.

5. Because of the expense and logistic difficulties of conducting assessments, monitoring and directed research in the Antarctic, it is important that the Scientific Committee prepare and annually update long-range plans and short-term annual plans that will encourage effective co-ordination and integration of national research and monitoring activities in support of CCAMLR.

6. Efforts during the past two years to promote planning and co-ordination have resulted in several excellent examples of co-ordinated research programs and collaborative work between two or more countries. Such efforts represent an encouraging movement towards a well integrated research and monitoring effort that is evolving from the needs identified by the various working groups of the Scientific Committee.

7. Recognising the need for promoting further co-ordination of activities, the Scientific Committee during its 1987 meeting agreed that the Informal Group on the Long-Term Program of Work should meet prior to the 1988 meeting of the Scientific Committee to review the 'mechanisms for ensuring that the research activities of Member countries facilitate the work of the Committee' (SC-CAMLR-VI, paragraph 11.8).

## PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION

8. Members participating in the discussion of the long-term program of work concurred that as the activities undertaken by the Scientific Committee become more numerous and complex, it is important to give increased consideration to planning and co-ordination. In this regard, it was agreed that there are three topics to which the Scientific Committee should give particular attention:

- (i) obtaining information on national programs' research plans as they relate to CCAMLR
- (ii) co-ordination of multinational research, monitoring, and survey efforts, and
- (iii) identification and prioritisation of the long-term information needs of CCAMLR (long-term strategy of the Scientific Committee).

9. It was noted that some progress is being made on the first two points listed above, through the compilation of summaries of Members' planned activities as well as through the initiation of joint, collaborative research among some Members. Identifying and prioritising the long-term data requirements of CCAMLR is an area that needs further attention by the Scientific Committee.

## INFORMATION ON NATIONAL PROGRAM PLANS

10. The Secretariat kindly provided the Group with two papers to aid its discussions: 'Research Programs of CCAMLR Members for 1988/89, 1989/90 and 1990/91 Seasons', prepared by the Science Officer, and the 'Report of the Informal Group on the Long-Term Program of Work for the Scientific Committee'. A review of the research programs report by meeting participants led to the general conclusion that the summary was incomplete. To update the document, Members were asked to provide more recent information to the Science

Officer no later than Tuesday, 25 October. It was noted that updated information on plans from observer countries would be welcomed. The updated information was collated and redistributed by the Secretariat as SC-CAMLR-VII/BG/48.

11. Mr D. Miller (South Africa) noted that it is difficult for the Secretariat to extract information in sufficient detail from the standard reports of Members' activities. Therefore, the Group agreed that Members should annually prepare and submit to the Secretariat summaries of their plans, as possible, for the next three years. The format to be used should be the same as the one agreed at the Group's 1987 meeting, which provides more details than the standard reports of Members' activities.

12. Representatives from Spain, Poland, USSR, USA and Norway in particular expressed interest in obtaining as much specific information on national plans as possible during the present meeting. This information is considered especially important in assisting scientists and administrators in planning national programs or directed research in support of CCAMLR.

13. Dr T. Lubimova (USSR) suggested that in preparing summaries of plans for future work, it would be useful if Members not only outlined specific activities, but also indicated those research topics felt to be most important from that country's point of view. This information would allow Members to be aware of what research topics are likely to be emphasised by various nations in support of CCAMLR.

#### CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH, MONITORING AND SURVEY EFFORTS

14. Participants expressed considerable support for continuing to explore means for improving the co-ordination of national research and monitoring programs in a manner that would include the Secretariat, the Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Conveners of the Working Groups. The Group expressed an interest in exploring possible means for moving the planning and co-ordination process forward and in addressing this issue during the full meeting of the Scientific Committee under the agenda item relating to long-term planning.

15. The Group agreed that it would be desirable to summarise annually the assessment, monitoring, and other activities considered as high priorities for co-ordinated multi-national participation. It was felt that it would be useful for the Conveners of the various Working Groups to develop these summaries based on their groups' recent discussions.

16. Several Members expressed their view that it would be desirable for the Group to co-ordinate field activities carried out by various nations in support of CCAMLR objectives. Facilitating co-ordination of the scheduling and technical aspects of certain surveys and research activities would promote efficient use of the financial and logistic resources that nations commit to CCAMLR issues.

17. It was noted that co-ordination of various activities (e.g. trawling, surveys, monitoring) should include not only the activities for the forthcoming season but also activities anticipated for future seasons (e.g. 2–5 years).

#### LONG-TERM INFORMATION NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

18. Several Members noted that within their national programs, it would greatly aid their decisions regarding the selection of research topics in support of CCAMLR if there were a clearer indication from the CCAMLR Scientific Committee as to which topics should be afforded priority. Having a clear indication of priorities would provide a means for countries that are in a position to undertake directed research to adjust their national programs accordingly.

19. Several Members expressed their view that it would be desirable for the Scientific Committee to be more explicit in identifying research needs of high priority. By identifying research priorities more clearly, the Scientific Committee is likely to be in a better position to influence the research topics chosen by national programs by indicating areas of greatest need from the Scientific Committee's point of view.

20. It was suggested that it might be useful to convene a small group routinely to identify and rank by priority the various proposed tasks of the Scientific Committee. It may be desirable for this Group to be composed of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, the Secretariat, and Conveners of the various working groups.