

Dear WG-EMM Member,

This year, the intersessional Working Group meetings of the Scientific Committee are to be held in Punta Arenas, Chile, with the Working Group on Ecosystem Management and Monitoring (WG-EMM) scheduled from 7 to 18 July 2014.

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-EMM in consultation with the Scientific Committee Chair and to communicate the outcomes to the Members, which is the purpose of writing this letter.

During WG-EMM-14, we will emphasise discussions that relate directly to the krill-centric ecosystem and management of the krill fishery and spatial management.

Similar to last year's WG-EMM meeting, topics relating to the krill-centric ecosystem will be categorised into those that might be considered 'issues for the present' and those that might be considered 'issues for the future.' Issues for the present include consideration of recruitment variation, B_0 , estimates of precautionary yield, CEMP on what we have now, and scientific observation of the krill fishery. Issues for the future include discussions related to the development of a feedback management strategy and an integrated assessment for krill, review CEMP and WG-EMM-STAPP, and consider science and surveys that can be conducted from krill fishing vessels.

I particularly would like to draw your attention to the revised work plan for development of feedback management for krill fishery endorsed by the Scientific Committee last year (SC-CAMLR-XXXII, paragraph 3.15). It recommended four stages in the development of the fishery:

- stage 1 – continuation of the current trigger level and its spatial distribution among subareas
- stage 2 – an increase from the trigger level to a higher interim catch limit and/or changes in the spatial distribution of catches that are adjusted based on decision rules that take account of results from the existing CEMP and other observation series
- stage 3 – a further increase to a higher interim catch limit and/or changes in the spatial distribution of catches that take account of results from an 'enhanced' CEMP and other observation series
- stage 4 – a fully developed feedback management strategy that is based on forecasts from ecosystem models, may involve structured fishing and/or reference areas, and includes catches up to the precautionary catch limit based on decision rules taking account of enhanced CEMP and other observation series.

As you all know, the two task groups were formed to progress work on stage 2, and they have been progressing their work intersessionally based on existing data for Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 towards developing feedback management strategies during 2014 and 2015.

I would also like to note that the Commission will review CM 51-07 during 2014, and is therefore expecting advice on this subject from WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XXXII, paragraph 3.20).

I encourage you all to prepare materials that will facilitate lively and productive discussions on these topics. I stress that it is critical for us to make substantial progress according to our revised staged work plan to develop feedback management strategies for the krill fishery.

I would also like to note the initiative by ARK holding a workshop just prior to the WG-EMM meeting to promote interactions between krill scientists and the masters of fishing vessels (SC-CAMLR-XXXII, paragraphs 3.41 and 3.42). I understand that invitations to this workshop are currently under discussion, anyone wishing to get more information should contact ARK (info@ark-krill.org).

As per our normal practice, the amount of time spent on any single topic will be influenced by what is collectively brought to the table in the form of working papers, presentations, or simply points for discussion. If you have the opportunity, please send me an email to briefly summarise your preparations for the meeting.

Finally, instructions for the preparation and submission of papers can be found at the CCAMLR website. Please note that submission deadline of the working documents is two weeks prior to start of the meeting (Monday, 23 June 2014, 9:00 am Hobart time,). I would ask that you all please recognise our abbreviated agenda and submit papers accordingly. If you submit papers this year that address topics scheduled for consideration in future years, we may postpone discussion of your work.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Punta Arenas, and if you have any thoughts regarding the agenda and work schedule proposed here, please share them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'So Kawaguchi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

So Kawaguchi, Convener WG-EMM

2 April 2014