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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATON TO MEMBERS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
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Observer's Report from the 19th Meeting of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee

Judy Zeh, Chair of the Scientific Committee, asked that Karl-Hermann Kock's report from the October 2000 meeting of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee meeting be circulated since it may be of interest to many members of our own Scientific Committee. Judy wishes to acknowledge her appreciation of this clear, concise report, and in particular to draw your attention to the interest expressed by CCAMLR for IWC involvement in the data analysis workshop for the Krill 2000 survey. Please note that this workshop is scheduled for late May or early June 2001. The Standing Working Group on Environmental Concerns will be considering workshop plans and participation as more information becomes available.

Finally, on behalf of Judy and everyone here at the IWC Secretariat, best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission

Observer's Report from the 19th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Hobart, Australia, 23 – 27 October 2000

Observer Dr. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany)

The meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was held at the Wrestpoint Hotel in Hobart, Australia, from 23 to 27 October 2000. 22 of the 23 Member countries participated in the meeting. Observers from Namibia and Mauritius where illegal (IUU) catches of *Dissostichus* spp. had been landed recently were present at the meeting. Namibia is an acceding state to CCAMLR while Mauritius has decided to accede to CCAMLR in November 2000 and stop unloading of IUU catches in Port Louis.

Main topics of the meeting were:

- Fishery status and trends
- Dependent species (CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program, Incidental mortality in longline fisheries)
- Harvested species (Krill, fish, squid and stone crabs and their assessment)
- Ecosystem monitoring and management
- Management under conditions of uncertainty about stock size and sustainable yield
- New and exploratory fisheries

I provided a brief verbal report on IWC activities in relation to Southern Ocean whale stocks and referred in particular to the participation of whale observers on three of the four CCAMLR vessels during the Krill 2000 survey in the western part of the Atlantic Ocean sector (CCAMLR area 48). A point of particular interest to the Scientific Committee of the IWC might be that CCAMLR started to embark on discussions of subdividing total allowable krill catches (TACs) for CCAMLR Subareas into smaller management units. The IWC has gone through this kind of discussion in the early 1990's with regard to minke whale catches, the application of the RMP, and the segregation of the area into smaller management units.

The relationship between CCAMLR and the IWC were discussed under 'Cooperation with other organizations'.

Cooperation with other organisations (Agenda item 11)

CCAMLR was pleased to note that the IWC participated with a considerable number of observers in the Krill 2000 hydro acoustic survey in January – February 2000 which covered the western part of the Atlantic Ocean sector between the South Shetland Islands in the west and the South Sandwich Islands in the east. The first krill data evaluation workshop took place in La Jolla (California, USA) from 29 May to 9 June 2000. The new krill biomass estimate for this area of 44.2 million tonnes was released by CCAMLR before the meeting of the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) in Taormina (Sicily, Italy) from 17 to 28 July 2000. The TAC for each of the CCAMLR Subareas in the western Atlantic Ocean sector (Subareas 48.1 – 4) was about 1 million tonnes per subarea. Another TAC for one of the Subareas in the Indian Ocean sector (58.4.1) was set as 440 000 tonnes. The present annual catch of krill which is restricted to the western Atlantic Ocean sector is in the order of 100 – 110 000 tonnes.

The Scientific Committee of CCAMLR decided at its 19th Meeting in October 2000 to hold a second workshop in Cambridge (UK) in late May or early June 2001 to further analyse the data sets from the Krill 2000 survey. The Scientific Committee agreed that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee should write to the IWC and invite participation in the planned CCAMLR workshop. The IWC should also be asked for information in respect to their plans for any future joint IWC/CCAMLR workshop.

The Balleny Islands have been proposed by New Zealand as a Specially Protected Area. (SPA). CCAMLR agreed that the proposal provided the best scientific evidence available for the area. However, with reference to an enlargement of the area proposed by New Zealand with considerable potential restrictions on commercial fishing activities in the region, some CCAMLR members disagreed with the proposal. An extensive account of the deliberations of the proposal can be found in SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 11.9 to 11.17.

CCAMLR's Working Group on Ecosystem and Management reviewed a proposal by Italy to establish a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea. A long-term research programme was established at this site.. The Scientific Committee welcomed this proposal but noted that the plan should first be considered by GOSEAC before further consideration by CCAMLR.

The next SCAR Symposium on Antarctic Biology will be held in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from 27 August to 1 September 2001. Whale biologists within the remit of the IWC are encouraged to participate in this symposium and to submit papers.