

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The reports of Observers representing the Commission at the following meetings are attached as the Appendices indicated:

Appendix	Meeting	IWC Observer
A	ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME), 27-30 March 2007, Vilm, Germany 2007 ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC), Helsinki, Finland, 17-21 September 2007	Tore Haug (Norway)
B	26 th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR, Hobart, Australia, 22 – 26 October 2007	Karl-Herman Kock (Germany)
C	16 th Annual Meeting of PICES, Victoria, Canada October 26 – 5 November, 2007	Hidehiro Kato (Japan)
D	14 th Conference of the Parties of CITES, The Hague, 3-15 June 2007	Bill Hogarth (USA)
E	15 th Meeting of the Advisor Committee (AC) to the Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), Bonn, 31 March – 3 April 2008	Meike Scheidat (The Netherlands)
F	Series of ACCOBAMS meetings	Greg Donovan (IWC)

REPORT FROM THE 2007 ACTIVITIES IN ICES

Observer: Tore Haug (Norway)

The ICES Working Group on Marine Mammal Ecology (WGMME) met 27-30 March 2007 in Vilm, Germany, to review any new information on population sizes, bycatches and mitigation measures for fisheries that have a significant impact on small cetaceans and other marine mammals. Additionally, so far as it was possible, the working group summarized the planned observations to meet requirements of EU Regulation 812/2004 (implementation of onboard monitoring schemes and observers to monitor and estimate the scale of bycatch of marine mammals in certain fisheries) by ICES area member state for 2007. The working group also reviewed and reported on the preliminary results of the SCAN II project, for which new surveys were carried out in 2005. In addition to contribute to the development of survey methodology, the project provided the first comprehensive estimates of abundance of small cetaceans in the whole west European Atlantic continental shelf region. Also, SCANS II is relevant with respect to the development of a framework for management of bycatches.

Furthermore, WGMME summarized the current status of the planning of a workshop on marine mammal health - the workshop is intended to be held in Liège, Belgium, in 2008. And finally, WGMME assessed information on how changes in hydrodynamics and sea temperature affect changes in the distribution, population abundance and condition of marine mammals, the main conclusion being that pagophilic species such as polar bears and ice breeding seals will be the most likely species to be impacted by an increase in sea temperature.

The 2007 ICES Annual Science Conference (ASC) was held in Helsinki, Finland, 17-21 September 2007. Several ICES committees (e.g., Living Resource Committee and Marine Habitat Committee) deals with marine mammal issues. Thus, both present and future theme sessions at the ASC are designed with marine mammals included as an integral part. Relevant sessions at the 2007 ASC were:

- Theme session D (“Comparative marine ecosystem structure and function: Descriptors and characteristics”): The variable role of important marine mammal species was assessed in several presentations aimed to give integrated characterizations and comparisons of different ecosystems of the northern hemisphere.
- In theme session I (“Effects of hazardous substances on ecosystem health in coastal and brackish-water ecosystems: Present research, monitoring strategies, and future requirements”), results were presented from impact studies of white whales and harbour seals.
- Theme session L addressed the issue “Stock identification – applications for aquaculture and fisheries management”. Work were presented that addressed questions related to minke whale and grey seal stock structure using genetic (DNA) analyses.
- Both theme sessions O (“Flying outside the ICES assessment WG paradigm – alternative approaches to providing fisheries management advice”) and R (“The ecosystem approach: What’s the impact on marine science, science-based advice, and management of marine ecosystems”) included presentations relevant to the management of marine mammals.

Upcoming theme sessions, relevant to marine mammal issues, intended for the ASC, 22-26 September 2008 in Halifax, Canada, include, but may not be restricted to: “Role of sea ice in polar ecosystems”, “Comparative dynamics of populations in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of St. Lawrence ecosystems” and “New methodology for tracking fish, mammal and sea bird behaviour and migrations”.

In cooperation with NAFO and NAMMCO, ICES will arrange a symposium in Dartmouth, Canada, 29 September – 1 October 2008. The symposium is entitled “The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem in the 21st Century” and it will include four theme sessions:

- Biological and environmental factors affecting life history traits.
- Foraging strategies and energetic requirements.
- Theoretical considerations on apex predators and multispecies models.
- Marine mammal – fisheries interactions.

**OBSERVER'S REPORT FROM THE 26TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
(CCAMLR), HOBART, AUSTRALIA, 22 – 26 OCTOBER 2007**

Observer: Dr. Karl-Hermann Kock (Germany)

The 26th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was held under the chairmanship of Dr. E. Fanta (Brazil) at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 22 to 26 October 2007. 23 Member countries, including China, which had become a member only recently, attended the meeting.

I provided a verbal report on those results from the 59th Annual Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the IWC held in Anchorage, USA in May 2007 which were of interest to CCAMLR. A report on the progress of the forthcoming CCAMLR – IWC Workshop to review input data for Antarctic marine ecosystem models to be held in Hobart in August 2008 was provided as SC-CAMLR SC-XXVI/BG/05 and is annexed to this report.

Main topics of the meeting were:

- Fishery status and trends of Antarctic fish stocks, krill (*Euphausia superba*), squid and stone crabs
- Incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in fisheries in the CCAMLR Convention Area
- Harvested species (krill, fish, 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
- Joint activities of CCAMLR with the IWC with respect to ecosystem modelling in the Southern Ocean
- Planned IPY and IWC Cooperation with CCAMLR

Reports of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR) and its Working Groups on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) and Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) and their various subgroups are available through the CCAMLR secretariat and on the CCAMLR web site.

Krill fishing

(Please note that the separation of the Southern Ocean by CCAMLR for statistical subunits (Figure 1, Appendix) is different from the IWC and its subdivisions into 6 whaling areas, Figure 2, Appendix)

Krill fishing nations were Norway, Korea, Japan and Poland. The krill catch from December 2006 to October 2007 was 104 364 tonnes and entirely taken in Area 48 (Atlantic Ocean sector). The catch was very similar to the catch in the preceding season. Norway and Korea reported the largest catch of krill with a total of 39 561 tonnes and 33 079 tonnes respectively. It is likely that, similar to 2005/06, about 120 000 tonnes will be taken by end of the 2006/07 fishing season on 30 November 2007.

The total krill catch notified for the subsequent 2007/08 season was 515 000 tonnes, after Vanuatu and the Cook Islands (as non – members of CCAMLR) have withdrawn their notification to take part in the krill fishery. Three vessels from two states (Norway and Ukraine) notified that they would be using a continuous fishing system. The high level of notifications may indicate that the krill catch will increase in the 2007/08 season.

Krill biomass

The Scientific Committee of CCAMLR agreed that the biomass estimate of 37.29 million tonnes of krill present in the Atlantic Ocean sector and the CV estimate of 21.20% (presented in WG-EMM-07/30 Rev. 1, available from the CCAMLR Secretariat) represent the best advice on the biomass estimate for krill in Area 48 (Atlantic Ocean sector, Figure 1) during the CCAMLR-2000 Survey. Although total allowable catches were set for Area 48 and Divisions in Area 58 (Indian Ocean sector) CCAMLR is still struggling with the further break down of these catches to Small Scale Management Units (SSMUs).

A new biomass estimate was produced for Division 58.4.2 (part of the Indian Ocean sector, Figure 1), using the new simplified SDWBA model for target strength and species identification of 28.75 million tonnes with a CV of 16.18% was presented (for further information see SC-CAMLR-XXVI/7 available from the CCAMLR Secretariat).

Scientific observers on krill vessels

One of the important means of collecting information on various topics from the commercial fishery is CCAMLR's Scheme of International Scientific Observation. The longline fishery on Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish has 100% observer coverage. While there is a strong plea from many CCAMLR members to increase observer coverage in the krill fishery scientific observers appointed under the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observers were deployed on only 5 cruises on vessels fishing for krill in the 2006/07 season. CCAMLR urged members again that the scientific observer coverage in the krill fishery needs to be increased substantially in order to collect adequate information on krill length frequency distributions and the by – catch of early life stages of Antarctic fish which may be substantial in certain areas.

CCAMLR-IPY Planning Meeting

The CCAMLR-IPY Planning Meeting was held in Cambridge, UK, in May 2007 (SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/3, available from the CCAMLR Secretariat).

The Planning Meeting noted that a coordinated survey of Antarctic krill would not be possible, but that various nations will be undertaking cruises in the Southern Ocean that will collect acoustic data, including:

- (i) a Norwegian survey in the northern part of Subarea 48.6 on *G.O. Sars* focusing on krill and the pelagic ecosystem, and a study of target strength of icefish and krill in Subareas 48.3 and 48.6;
- (ii) a German survey on the *Polarstern* in the southern region of Subarea 48.6, which will collect acoustic data and RMT samples;
- (iii) a New Zealand survey in the Ross Sea on the *Tangaroa*;
- (iv) a Japanese survey on the *Umitaka Maru* in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2;
- (v) UK surveys on the *James Clark Ross* in the Scotia Sea and western Antarctic Peninsula.

The USA will undertake a 30-day survey in the area of the South Orkneys that will include acoustic data collection. Ukraine will be unable to participate in the IPY Survey, but will be sending scientists on board krill fishing vessels to collect data.

The Scientific Committee recommended the following guidelines for archiving of CCAMLR-related data from IPY surveys

- (i) store data in internationally recognised data repositories;
- (ii) submit metadata records to CCAMLR and SCAR-MarBIN;
- (iii) CCAMLR is willing to store and archive acoustic, trawl, CTD and net data under specified data access requirements;
- (iv) data used for CCAMLR assessments must be held by CCAMLR – both in raw and processed form.

The Scientific Committee recommended that the Secretariat produce a summary of all IPY acoustic data and related metadata submitted to CCAMLR, and report to SG-ASAM by April 2009. The Scientific Committee further recommended that SG-ASAM should examine the available acoustic data and any analyses at its 2009 meeting and advise the Scientific Committee on their value for krill biomass estimation.

The Scientific Committee commended the Steering Group on its role in coordinating the CCAMLR-IPY initiative.

Joint CCAMLR-IWC Workshop

The progress and arrangements made in preparation for the CCAMLR-IWC Workshop are provided in SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/5 (see attachment).

The terms of reference for the workshop are to:

1. Consider the types of information needed for models on the Antarctic marine ecosystem that could be developed for providing management advice.
2. Consider how the information could be used in modelling the Antarctic marine ecosystem, the quality of the information, and key gaps needing to be resolved before such information might be used in the development of those models.
3. Consider metadata, rather than reviewing individual datasets and undertaking analyses to summarise the data, where the metadata would comprise information on the estimates of abundance, population trends and parameters, their data sources and methods used to estimate them.

The Scientific Committee discussed the budget for the workshop, and noted that the majority of the funds would be expended on invited experts who would provide expertise in ecological and environmental matters, including cetaceans, seals, flying birds, penguins, fish, squid, krill, plankton and sea-ice.

The partial cost of the joint workshop was approved in the Scientific Committee's budget for 2008. The Scientific Committee noted that, to the extent possible, the workshop Steering Committee will strive to reduce the overall cost of the workshop. In addition, the Scientific Committee encouraged Members to investigate alternative options for funding in order to reduce the costs incurred by the Scientific Committee.

The workshop is scheduled in August 2008 at the CCAMLR Headquarters, Hobart, Australia.

Cetacean – fisheries interactions

Several reports on cetaceans – fisheries interactions were submitted to CCAMLR in 2007. A report summarizing these reports was presented as SC60/BC/ ? to the Sub-Committee on By-catch and Other Human-induced Mortality of SC-IWC in 2008.

Appendix C

Observer Report of the 16th Annual Meeting of PICES*Observer: Hidehiro Kato (Japan)*

The PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization) is an inter-governmental organization among Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Russia and US. It has four committees, Biological Oceanography Committee (*BIO*), Fisheries Science Committee (*FIS*), Marine Environmental Quality Committee (*MEQ*), Physical Oceanography and Climate Committee (*POC*), one technical committee for data exchange (*TCODE*) and one major research project program *PICES-GLOBEC CCCC* (Climate Change and Carrying Capacity) under the Science Board of PICES. PICES met regularly once a year having regular business meetings and associated symposium, number of participants is sometimes over 400 people. PICES has had interests on marine birds and mammals since 1997 as ecosystem components from ecosystem and environment view points through having a special working group to assess feeding impact by marine birds and mammals to ecosystem (WG11 chaired by Hunt and Kato; 1997 - 99) and MBM advisory panel (*MBM/AP*) to understanding coupled climate-ecosystem fluctuations in the North Pacific Ocean in collaboration with other study areas (co-chaired by Kato and Sydeman, 2000 – current) under auspices of *BIO*.

The 16th annual meeting of PICES (PICES XVI) was held at Victoria Conference Center, Victoria, Canada in October 26 – 5 November, 2007. Kato attended the meeting as an IWC observer.

MBM/AP met afternoon on 30 October, 2005 and following discussions raised during regular session.

- (a) AP-MBM urges member nations to increase support for delegates and participation in general for scientists to attend annual PICES meetings. The PICES community would benefit greatly from this effort.
- (b) AP-MBM reiterate to draw attention on the precocious report by WG11, reported on prey consumption by marine birds and mammals in the PICES region (Hunt et al., 2000) and agreed to try to make new report by 2010, with incorporating new data sets on both populations and diet that could be brought to the report to improve estimates of prey consumption.
- (c) There has been good participation from There has been good participation from USA, Canada, Japan in the AP - MBM. Korea provided one scientist on behalf of its member, Dr. Kim. China has not provided delegates to AP-MBM. AP-MBM asks that China provide delegates and also that Canada and Korea provide seabird experts.
- (d) AP-MBM recommends continuation of the project and hope that existing and new funders can be found.
- (e) As in many previous years, AP-MBM nominated Dr Kato to serve as the PICES liaison to the IWC. Dr. Kato participated as the PICES representative to the IWC at its 2007 meeting in Anchorage earlier this year.(see Appendix)

In addition, MBM/AP reviewed the topic session (S11) “*Phenology and climate in the North Pacific; Implication of variability in the timing of zooplankton production to fish, seabirds, marine mammals and fisheries*” was held on 2 November, 2007. The session as designed is multi-disciplinary, including presentations on phytoplankton, zooplankton, fish and birds, and was co-convened by AP-MBM/BIO/FIS/POC. The two days sessions were well subscribed, with 17 oral presentations and 2 poster presentations. The topic session was viewed as completely successful.

For PICES XVII, *MBM/AP* proposed to have a full day topic session “*Seabirds and marine mammals as environmental indicators*”. Conveners: Andrew Trites (Canada), Rolf Ream (USA), Hidehiro Kato (Japan).

The next PICES annual meeting (PICES XVII) will be held at Dalian, China October 23 – November 2, 2008.

**Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
The Hague, 3-15, June, 2007**

Bill Hogarth, Chair of the Commission, had planned to attend the 14th Conference of the Parties of CITES held in the Hague from 3-15 June 2007 on behalf of the Commission. Circumstances prevented him from doing so and after consultation with the Secretariat and Advisory Committee, he decided to submit the statement below to CITES.

*Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am very sorry not to be able to be present in person to address the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in relation to IWC Resolution 2007-4 adopted at the 59th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

The 59th annual meeting was held May 28-31, 2007, in Anchorage, Alaska. I am privileged to serve as the Chairman of the IWC.

At the 59th meeting, the IWC, through Resolution 2007-4, reaffirmed the important role of CITES in supporting the IWC's management decisions with regard to the conservation of whale stocks and the importance of continued cooperation between CITES and IWC.

As you are aware, the IWC implemented a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986. Since then, the IWC has continued to work on developing a management plan, the Revised Management Scheme (RMS), that should be in place if commercial whaling is resumed. At the moment, discussions on the RMS are at an impasse, but at this year's annual meeting, the Commission agreed to hold an intersessional meeting to discuss the future of the IWC. It is my hope as IWC Chair, that the RMS will be part of the discussion at the intersessional meeting. In the meantime, the IWC welcomes continued coordination of CITES with the management measures enforced by IWC.

I am pleased to attach a full copy of the text of the Resolution for your information.

Thank you for your time.

Observers' report on the 15th meeting of the advisory committee to the agreement on small cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS)

Bonn, Germany, 31 March – 3 April 2008

Observer: Meike Scheidat (The Netherlands)

The 15th meeting of the Advisor Committee (AC) to the Agreement on Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), was held in Bonn, 31 March – 3 April 2008. The administrative session was chaired by Paulus Tak (Belgium), the scientific session was chaired by Stefan Bräger (Germany).

The main topics at the AC meeting, as far as relevant to the IWC, were:

1. Workshops and meetings held in conjunction with ASCOBANS in 2007/2008:

- ECS/ASCOBANS workshop (April 2007): “Offshore Wind Farms” and “Selection Criteria for Marine Protected Areas for Cetaceans”
- HELCOM/ASCOBANS workshop (October 2007): “Small Cetacean Population Structure in the ASCOBANS Area” and “Genetics and Population Structure of the Harbour Porpoise in the Baltic Sea”
- Preliminary workshops in Sweden and Finland for the SAMBAH (Static acoustic monitoring of Baltic Harbour porpoises) project
- Jastarnia group fourth meeting (February 2008) in Sweden.

2. Jastarnia Plan:

- ASCOBANS reviewed the status of EC Law and how it relates to the conservation of the Baltic Harbour Porpoise.
- Within the Jastarnia 4th meeting the EC Regulation 812/2004, the impact of part-time and recreational fisheries, as well as the use and development of safer fishing gear and more effective acoustic deterrents were discussed.

3. ASCOBANS Conservation Plan for Harbour Porpoises in the North Sea:

- The Conservation Plan (several of the authors of which are members of the IWC Scientific Committee) is expected to be finalized by 2008 and adopted in 2009.

4. Review of new information on pollution, underwater sound and disturbance

- A questionnaire about high speed ferries in the member states of ASCOBANS had been distributed. As IWC, IMO and ACCOBAMS were also concerned with ship strikes, it was proposed that ASCOBANS should liaise closely with these organizations.
- The issue of the controlled detonation of unexploded ordnance in German waters and its potential danger to small cetaceans and other animals was discussed. Disposal of munitions not only raised noise issues but also caused the release of chemicals and for this reason retrieval of munitions from the sea for disposal on land was preferable.
- An inter-sessional working group on acoustic disturbance will work through email correspondence and present its findings to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee.

5. Accession and agreement amendments

- The Secretariat reported that no new range states had acceded, although efforts for recruiting new Parties (Estonia, Ireland, Russia, Spain) were being made. The westward extension of the agreement area into the Irish Sea and Atlantic has been confirmed, although not all Parties have ratified this yet.
- The possible inclusion of all cetacean species in the agreement area and the implications for the work of ASCOBANS were discussed, however, parties did not agree on this issue.

The full report as well as all related working documents are available via <http://www.ascobans.org/>.

Report of the activities of ACCOBAMS

Observer: Greg Donovan (IWC Secretariat)

Donovan, the IWC Observer, reported on the considerable co-operation with ACCOBAMS that had occurred during the past year. ACCOBAMS held its Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties from 22-25 October 2007 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The meeting was chaired by Ana Strbenac from Croatia. The full report can be downloaded from www.accobams.org. A number of resolutions were passed related to cetacean conservation in the region. These included: the ACCOBAMS wide abundance survey; the Conservation Plan for Black Sea cetaceans; the conservation of the Mediterranean common dolphin; further work on marine protected areas; bycatch, competitive interactions and acoustic devices; ship strikes on large whales in the Mediterranean Sea, guidelines for tissue banks establishment; guidelines on the release of cetaceans into the wild; establishment of a joint sightings database; towards a label for whalewatching; guidelines on co-ordinated stranding response; guidelines to address the impact of anthropogenic noise. Many of these resolutions had their origins in the work of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee.

The most recent ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee meeting was held in Rome from the 17-19 April 2008. Its report will soon become available on the ACCOBAMS website. A number of the important issues addressed by the Scientific Committee are also relevant to the IWC Scientific Committee and have been presented in documents to the meeting and/or considered by sub-committees. These include progress with the major abundance survey in the ACCOBAMS region (SC/60/O16) already endorsed by the IWC Scientific Committee; progress with work on ship strikes (SC/60/BC7) for which there is already considerable collaboration; work on population structure and genetic analysis relevant to Working Group on Stock Definition; the holding of a regional workshop on cetacean bycatch (part of the BYCBAMS project on the assessment and mitigation of the adverse impacts of interactions between cetaceans and fishing activities in the ACCOBAMS area); MPAs; anthropogenic noise etc.

Finally, Donovan reported on the meeting held to further the practical plans for the ACCOBAMS survey (SC/60/O16) held in Monaco from 15-17 May 2008. This was a successful meeting for a very ambitious project and his Chair's report will shortly be available on the ACCOBAMS website.

He concluded that the co-operation with ACCOBAMS is important and of mutual benefit to both IWC and ACCOBAMS. The next meeting of the ACCOBAMS Scientific Committee will be in December 2009.