

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS
(arising from ScC-SC2)

BYCATCH
UNEP/CMS/COP12/DOC.24.4.4

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

- It was acknowledged that the draft resolution addresses important matters related to legal fishing activities. The problem of bycatch in illegal fishing is not addressed, however. Tackling this issue requires international cooperation with respect to identifying and policing illegal fishing operations. The resolution should call for such cooperation.
- The use of electronic monitoring to tackle the issue of illegal dumping of non-quota fish should be encouraged.
- A stronger focus should be placed on monitoring of fisheries in the High Seas.
- A decision outlining the steps to be taken in the next intersessional period, including tasks for the Bycatch Working Group, should be added.
- Throughout the document, terminology should be harmonized to refer consistently to “aquatic mammals” rather than “marine mammals”.

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC SECTIONS/ INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR TEXT REVISION

- Page 8, paragraph 11
 - Change “accidentally” to “incidentally” to avoid misunderstandings
- Page 9, paragraph 14
 - Text should be added to refer to innovative gear modifications, for example by building escape hatches similar to turtle excluder devices also for other species.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COP12

- Recommended for adoption.