Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCAMLR Contribution on the topic of “Sustainable fisheries management in
the face of climate change” to the seventeenth round of informal consultations
pursuant to paragraph 72 of UNGA resolution 78/68
March 2024
The Convention on the

In 2022, the Scientific Committee revised its strategic workplan including the terms of reference for
all five of its scientific working groups (Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management
(WG-EMM), Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA), Working Group on Statistics,
Assessments and Modelling (WG-SAM), Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with
Fishing (WG-IMAF), and Working Group on Acoustic Survey and Analysis Methods (WG-ASAM).
The terms of reference for each working group now explicitly include the mandate to consider the
effects of climate change in the development of their advice to the Scientific Committee on managing
marine resources in the Convention Area.

In 2023, CCAMLR held a climate change workshop (WS-CC-2023), which examined how CCAMLR
currently accounts for climate change in its management, how the effects of climate change could be
monitored and how CCAMLR might respond to climate change in the future. Workshop discussions
included the importance of considering a) different life history stages to better understand climate
change effects on species; b) appropriate climate variables and metrics to monitor in assessing the
status of Antarctic marine living resources; c) potential range shifts and changing commercial
interests due to climate change. Approaches from other regions were highlighted and the need to
communicate with other bodies on issues of mutual relevance was acknowledged.

The Scientific Committee considered the workshop recommendations and identified a number of
short-, medium- and long-term actions to continue to progress this work (SC-CAMLR-42 Tables 6a-c), including specific actions for its Working Groups. For example, to integrate climate change
considerations into toothfish stock assessments, a list of parameters and processes was developed
(including growth, mortality, stock structure) which may be influenced by environmental variability
or climate change, together with a workplan to monitor and evaluate these for change (WG-FSA-2023
Table 5). Furthermore, the Scientific Committee recommended a similar action for all its fisheries.
Updates on progress will be discussed at the 2024 meetings of the Working Groups and Scientific
Committee.