



CCAMLR

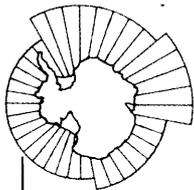
COMM CIRC 02/76
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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE, SCOI, WG-FSA AND AD HOC WG-IMAF

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2 December 2002

Electronic Observation and Monitoring for Commercial Fisheries

A key, and very interesting, development highlighted at the recent Second International Fishers' Forum (IFF2) uses video technology to monitor fishing activities during demersal longlining. This system provides a remote and electronic monitoring capability to address data collection issues associated with catch and by-catch assessment, as well as seabird incidental mortality resulting from fishing.

A number of the participants at IFF2, with experience in CCAMLR's Scheme of International Scientific Observation, immediately saw the potential of the system as a means of augmenting the scheme's capability, especially in providing for direct observation of every hook during longline recovery. In addition to this potential, it also offers an objective way of investigating such issues as the utility of the current levels of observer coverage, ground truthing of observer data and prioritisation of observer tasks. It may also provide a cheaper alternative to the at-sea deployment of observers.

It is suggested that future discussion of electronic observation, particularly by ad hoc WG-IMAF, will benefit from some field experience. Therefore, Members who may be interested in the system for themselves are directed to contact the company concerned. The contact details are:

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Information on the system will also be placed on the CCAMLR website in the near future.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary