

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Vice-Chair referred Agenda Items 3 and 15 to the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF), and Agenda Items 5 and 8 to the Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection (SCOI).

2.2 The Provisional Agenda (CCAMLR-XIX/1) was adopted without amendment; the Agenda is given in Annex 3.

Accession to the Convention

2.3 The Chair informed all Members that Namibia had acceded to the Convention in June 2000. The Commission welcomed Namibia's accession.

2.4 The Honourable A. Naruseb, Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Namibia, stated:

‘Allow me to reiterate Namibia's unwavering commitment and support to the management and conservation of marine living resources including resources of the Antarctic within the CCAMLR Convention Area.

During the regular Commission meeting in 1998, our delegate informed a similar gathering about our intentions to amend our fisheries laws to be consistent with the UN Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Agreement as well as with the FAO Compliance Agreement. The process was longer than expected, as we have to consult all stakeholders. Today the new Marine Resources Bill is under discussion by the Parliament and expected to be passed during the current session. When the Bill becomes law it will give the Government legal framework to control its vessels outside our EEZ.

As we have informed you during the last Commission meeting, Namibia has acceded to the Convention of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in line with Articles XXVII and XXIX of the CCAMLR Convention. The Namibian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Broadcasting and Information is currently processing our application for full membership to the Commission in accordance with Article VII, paragraph 2(b). The Australian Government as depositary will soon receive our submission in this regard. We are hopeful to receive a favourable response to our application for full membership of the Commission.

During the last two years or so we have fully cooperated with the CCAMLR Secretariat by providing it with landings of toothfish at our ports and by participating in the Commission's regular meetings. Our Fisheries

Inspectors have been provided with forms of the Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. and henceforth landing information will be reported to the Secretariat in accordance with CCAMLR Conservation Measures 170/XVIII. Since May 2000, however, after the Catch Documentation Scheme was introduced, two foreign toothfish vessels off-loaded toothfish in the port of Walvis Bay, Namibia, on 26 and 27 October 2000.

Mr Chairman, in closing, allow me, once more to emphasise Namibia's commitment to the conservation of the Antarctic marine living resources, including the *Dissostichus* fish species, I want to assure of Namibia's full cooperation in and support of all measures to attain CCAMLR's aims and objectives.'

Statement by New Zealand

2.5 New Zealand made a statement to the Commission:

'This year sees the implementation of CDS, an innovative means of addressing IUU fishing in the Convention Area and we call on all Parties to implement their CDS obligations and on Parties to take effective measures against nationals and companies involved in IUU fishing within CCAMLR waters.

The New Zealand Government is concerned to ensure the effective conservation of the resources of the Southern Ocean, in particular, we have a long association with the Ross Sea region and a commitment to ensuring the preservation of its ecosystem and biodiversity. The New Zealand Government has recently committed substantial funding to long-term biodiversity research in the Ross Sea and looks forward to the adoption at this meeting of an extended Specially Protected Area around the Balleny Islands, an area of outstanding biodiversity, and within a larger area in which only exploratory fishing, with substantial research, had taken place in recent years.

The New Zealand Government has given careful consideration to the quantities of continued toothfish fishing in the Ross Sea and confirmed that it cannot support proposals for any increase in effort in Subarea 88.1 over existing precautionary levels and that the strictest environmental standards must continue to be applied. In this regard, New Zealand legislation requires that any vessels seeking to use New Zealand ports to undertake Southern Ocean fishing must comply with our environmental standards and EIA obligations.'