

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Reports of Observers from International Organisations

FAO

12.1 The FAO Observer (Mr Shotton) drew the meeting's attention to his report (CCAMLR-XX/BG/33) which outlined FAO activities of interest to CCAMLR.

12.2 Of particular relevance to CCAMLR is the establishment of an international fisheries commission for the southern Indian Ocean, with a proposed southern boundary contiguous with that of CCAMLR. A major issue will be the management of deepwater high-seas stocks, notably ocean roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*). It is expected that many of the countries represented at CCAMLR will be members of the new commission and will have the responsibility of dealing with similar problems, including perhaps the need for a future catch documentation scheme for lower-latitude deepwater species.

12.3 The preparatory meetings for this commission will continue in forthcoming meeting in South Africa; a second ad hoc technical meeting is planned for May 2002 in Perth, Western Australia. The FAO Observer stressed that it had not yet been decided on whether this commission would be an FAO body – this decision would be taken by the commission.

12.4 A second topic of particular relevance is the proposed New Zealand/Australian FAO International Conference on the Management of Deepwater Fisheries Resources. Other fisheries organisations, including CCAMLR, will be invited to co-sponsor and help organise this conference. The program planning has just begun, but it is intended that the conference be comprehensive, and deal with issues ranging from governance of deep sea (and, thus, often high seas) fisheries through the evolving technology involved in these fisheries, and the marketing and processing of deepwater fish products. It will be a conference for industry as much as for governments and conservationists.

12.5 In closing, the FAO Observer drew the Commission's attention to the draft IPOA–IUU as adopted by the Second Technical Consultation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing held in February 2001. Details of the report are available at www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/003/y0220e/Y0220e01.htm#g.

12.6 The Commission highlighted the importance of the IPOA on IUU fishing activities which is a key area of focus of the Commission. In particular, the Commission noted that national plans would need to be developed in support of IPOA–IUU.

12.7 Dr Fanta stressed the need of a close collaboration between FAO and CCAMLR and that the IPOAs have been of great importance for the establishment of National Plans of Action to avoid or at least minimise the mortality of seabirds in fisheries outside the CCAMLR Convention Area. These Plans of Action will, hopefully, lead to actions, worldwide, in harmony with CCAMLR's conservation measures relating to this topic.

12.8 The European Community made the following statement:

‘The European Community is fully and deeply committed in the fight against IUU fishing in all fora where this key issue is discussed and addressed. It took active part in the development of FAO’s IPOA on IUU and has engaged in developing action at Community level in the relevant different fields – in this context: control of fishing activities, port control and trade in fish products from IUU fishing. As the discussions during this meeting have shown, its Member States share in this action and take important initiatives in line with the Community’s overall concern. It is therefore with pleasure and pride that it wishes to introduce a statement from Spain in relation to the efforts carried out by this Member in the fight against IUU fishing.’

12.9 Spain made the following statement:

‘Spain will take on the presidency of the European Community in the first half of 2002. Spain intends to encourage European Community Members to combat illegal fishing and the associated incidental catches of seabirds and marine mammals.

Moreover Spain, in cooperation with FAO, is finalising arrangements for conducting during the last quarter of 2002 an international conference aimed at promoting the development of National Plans of Action for combating IUU fishing and adopting common measures to eradicate IUU fishing.

This approach will allow full and thorough consideration of the question of the Flags of Convenience (FOC).

The aim is to establish the foundations, at an international level, for implementing a ban on all landings by vessels fishing under flags of convenience.

This is an ambitious project that requires international concerted actions to set criteria and procedures related to FOC and the subsequent adoption of measures at the level of regional fishery organisations.

It is therefore necessary to first identify the problems, and we believe that during this meeting many will arise. We therefore urge all Members interested in participating and cooperating in the development of this conference to contact the Spanish Delegation.’

12.10 Spain thanked all delegates for their efforts in addressing the issue of flags of convenience. It was noted that the common interest of protecting birds does not exclude the genuine concern for men at sea working under exploitative conditions on vessels sailing under flags of convenience. Undoubtedly, this is a subject with a complex history whose solution depends on the enhancement of the relationships between CCAMLR and non-Contracting Parties. In Spain’s opinion, progress on this matter hinges on the development of appropriate procedures. Finally, Spain again drew attention to the international conference identified above which is scheduled to be held in the last quarter

of 2002, and which will provide a useful opportunity to discuss this matter (paragraph 12.9).

ASOC

12.11 ASOC presented its report to the Commission (CCAMLR-XX/BG/23 Rev.1) and made the following statement:

‘ASOC reminds delegates that at the Nineteenth Meeting of CCAMLR we proposed a moratorium on all toothfish fishing as a temporary, emergency measure to stop IUU fishing and associated seabird by-catch.

In the past year: IUU fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area has increased; the CDS continued to fail to distinguish legal and IUU toothfish; and CDS data indicated a surprisingly productive toothfish fishery in Area 51, just outside the CCAMLR Convention Area. ASOC agrees with the conclusion of the Scientific Committee that this toothfish is likely IUU catch from within the Convention Area. Mandatory VMS and independent observer verification of DCDs would close this loophole in the CDS.

Unless delegates can develop an alternative to a moratorium that will end IUU fishing and protect threatened seabirds, we will continue to urge CCAMLR to suspend all toothfish fishing. CCAMLR must stop expressing concern over IUU fishing and proceeding to approve higher TACs and welcome more and more boats into the fishery. Rather, CCAMLR ought to develop a plan to stop IUU fishing for toothfish.’

IUCN

12.12 IUCN presented its report to the Commission as contained in CCAMLR-XX/BG/28 and BG/29. It noted that, while the Commission would no doubt be aware of the work of IUCN, it may be less familiar with the work of the TRAFFIC Network on fisheries issues, the international wildlife monitoring network, established as a joint program of IUCN and the conservation organisation World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

12.13 IUCN submitted to CCAMLR two reports prepared by TRAFFIC: one on Patagonian toothfish and the other on Antarctic toothfish, as CCAMLR-XX/BG/28 and BG/29 respectively. These reports were considered by SCOI (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.78 to 2.81) and by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs 11.7 to 11.10).

12.14 In particular, IUCN drew the attention of the Commission to the following:

- (i) possibility that CCAMLR's reported and estimated catches of both Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish may be significantly lower than actual removals;
- (ii) concerns regarding the possibility of continuing high levels of IUU fishing activity in the Convention Area;
- (iii) disappointment that stronger action against the likely misreporting of catches taken in the Convention Area as having been taken in FAO Statistical Area 51 had not been agreed; and
- (iv) significant impacts of IUU fishing activities on by-catch species, in particular on seabirds.

12.15 IUCN noted that the TRAFFIC reports contained a number of specific recommendations, relevant to the work of the Commission, which had been brought to the attention of both SCOI and the Scientific Committee, and urged the Commission to consider these during its deliberations.

12.16 Further to the two reports already released, IUCN advised that TRAFFIC would be continuing its analyses of trade in toothfish.

12.17 The Commission noted that the reports received from ASOC and IUCN contain useful information which provide another view of the work of CCAMLR. The Commission also noted the comments by SCOI that the reports prepared by TRAFFIC contained a number of discrepancies which could be resolved bilaterally between the parties involved. It was also agreed that Members should consider and assess these reports, in particular, the recommendations contained therein, in detail during the intersessional period, possibly as part of the work of the CDS group.

12.18 Argentina expressed its appreciation to IUCN for having issued addenda to CCAMLR-XX/BG/28 and BG/29.

12.19 Uruguay noted that, with respect to the lack of trade codes for specific species, it has put forward a proposal to the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) forum to assign codes to *Dissostichus* spp. products, in order to facilitate their identification.

12.20 In general, the Commission also stressed the necessity of making CCAMLR data, in particular CDS data, more transparent and available to international organisations such as ASOC and IUCN for their work.

Reports of CCAMLR Observers at Meetings
of Other International Organisations

FAO/COFI

12.21 The Executive Secretary reported on the work of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (CCAMLR-XX/B/12 and BG/13). The meeting was preceded by the Second Meeting of the FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies or Arrangements (RFBs).

12.22 Key issues discussed at these meetings were progress on the implementation of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries, feasibility and practicability of harmonisation of catch certification schemes and the adoption of IPOA-IUU.

IWC

12.23 The CCAMLR Observer to the IWC (UK) and Prof. B. Fernholm (IWC Chair) presented reports to the Commission (CCAMLR-XX/BG/16 and BG/34), highlighting the following points of interest.

- (i) A review of whale sanctuaries, including the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, will be held in 2004. The IWC Scientific Committee recommended the establishment of an intersessional group to develop criteria/guidelines for this review.
- (ii) The Revised Management Scheme is still under development. Recent actions include the development of observation and inspection elements of the scheme. However very little progress has yet been achieved.

12.24 The IWC also focused its effort on the development of a more equitable scheme for financial contributions. The new scheme should reduce the financial burden of membership for small developing countries.

12.25 The Commission noted the report and highlighted the importance of continued cooperation with the IWC, especially on matters of research into the relationship between krill and whales in the Antarctic ecosystem.

12.26 Dr Fanta stressed the importance of collaboration, at the scientific level, between CCAMLR and IWC and that joint activities, such as surveys which would allow a better understanding of the interactions between whales and krill, and other elements of the ecosystem, should be encouraged.

CCSBT

12.27 The CCAMLR Observer to CCSBT (New Zealand) submitted its report as contained in CCAMLR-XX/BG/6.

12.28 Three meetings of CCSBT have been held since CCAMLR-XIX: a Special Meeting in November 2000, CCSBT-7 in April 2001 and CCSBT-8 in October 2001. All three meetings continued progress on two of the key issues facing the Commission: the development of a Scientific Research Program (SRP) and the participation of non-members. CCSBT-8 advanced the SRP, focusing on characterisation of catch, catch-per-unit-effort modelling, tagging (initially on dissemination of 10–15 000 tags on juvenile fish in Australia's surface fishery), and an observer program.

12.29 The Republic of Korea presented its instrument of accession during CCSBT-8 and was welcomed as a new member. Taiwan expressed its intention to join the Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna before 31 December 2001.

12.30 The Ecologically Related Species Working Group (ERSWG) will meet in Japan at the end of November to consider a number of issues concerning ecologically related species including mitigation of seabird by-catch. CCSBT-9 will be held in Australia in early November 2002.

ICCAT

12.31 The CCAMLR Observer at ICCAT (European Community) presented a report on the annual meeting of ICCAT which took place in Marrakesh, Morocco, in November 2000.

12.32 The difficulties ICCAT is facing at this time are becoming very evident. These are mainly due to the poor state of the regulated stocks, together with an increasing demand by Members who have not so far participated in the key fisheries to be allocated a fishing quota. For this reason unfortunately, ICCAT was unable to agree on allocation in relation to two very important species, bluefin tuna and South Atlantic swordfish. This places the ICCAT Working Group on Allocation at the forefront of ICCAT's main challenges in the near future. In terms of control of fishing activities, ICCAT adopted a resolution establishing a working group mandated to develop an integrated control scheme.

12.33 ICCAT is very active in combatting IUU fishing. In Marrakesh, the organisation adopted trade sanctions, consisting of an import ban for bigeye tuna, to five new countries (Belize, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras and St Vincent and the Grenadines), and several others were identified as fishing for bigeye tuna and swordfish without quotas. Also, and very much in line with the line taken by CCAMLR, ICCAT is addressing trade control issues, such as the establishment of statistical documents to control the trade of illegally caught bigeye tuna and swordfish.

SPC

12.34 France presented the recommendations adopted by the second Conference of Fishery Officers of SPC, which was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 23 to 27 July 2001 (CCAMLR-XX/BG/30). These recommendations dealt with the future work of SPC, concerning the pricing of fisheries products, management of coastal fisheries, aquaculture and fishing communities. Of interest to CCAMLR is the fact that the fishery officers recognise the extent of the problems caused by by-catches, and agree that it will be necessary to redouble their efforts to collect data and to extend the current observation program, particularly on the high seas.

CMS

12.35 South Africa reported that the final negotiation session for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), was held in January–February 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa (SC-CAMLR-XX/BG/17). Australia reported on further progress of the ACAP (SC-CAMLR-XX/BG/20). The Scientific Committee and its working group, ad hoc WG-IMALF, had considered the reports in detail.

12.36 The Cape Town meeting was attended by 23 Range States of Southern Hemisphere albatrosses and petrels. The ACAP was adopted by consensus. In its role as interim Secretariat, Australia arranged for the agreement to be open for signature on 19 June 2001; seven states have already signed. Australia has already ratified the ACAP. New Zealand announced that it had ratified the agreement as of 1 November 2001. Brazil, Chile, South Africa and UK advised that they intend to ratify the ACAP in the near future but relevant legislative processes are still under way. The agreement will enter into force after three more states have ratified.

12.37 The Commission noted that the ACAP is of importance to CCAMLR as it includes issues of direct concern to the Commission and the Scientific Committee. The Commission urged CCAMLR Members to ratify the agreement as soon as possible.

SEAFO

12.38 Namibia, the depositary, reported on the adoption of the convention establishing the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO).

12.39 The Commission noted that SEAFO would have a joint boundary with the CCAMLR Convention Area in the Atlantic Ocean sector of the Southern Ocean. At present there are nine signatories to the convention, including Namibia.

12.40 The Commission welcomed these reports from its observers at meetings of international organisations. It noted the importance of developing closer collaboration with organisations with responsibility for the management of marine areas contiguous with and/or adjacent to the Convention Area, particularly in relation to issues of IUU fishing and incidental mortality of seabirds from the Convention Area. It agreed to develop closer links with the relevant regional fisheries organisations involved (e.g. CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, SEAFO, SPC etc.), and requested Commission Members which are also members of these organisations to facilitate this.

World Summit on Sustainable Development

12.41 South Africa drew the Commission's attention to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (Rio+10) to be held in South Africa from 4 to 11 September 2002.

12.42 The WSSD is scheduled to be the largest forum to date in which to discuss a wide range of issues related to the management of environmental protection and sustainable use of resources.

12.43 The Commission agreed that the WSSD offered a unique opportunity to present CCAMLR's many and significant achievements in the conservation and rational use of Antarctic marine living resources.

12.44 The Commission also agreed that it would be appropriate for the Chair of the Scientific Committee (and/or the Chair of the Commission) and the Executive Secretary to attend the WSSD if possible, given the summit's undisputed importance. In addition, the declaration of the Commission on its 20th Anniversary (paragraphs 14.1 to 14.4) as well as other documents, such as *Understanding CCAMLR's Approach to Management*, should be tabled at the appropriate WSSD sessions.

12.45 The Commission noted that there may be a clash between the scheduled dates of the WSSD and ATCM-XXV/CEP-V. Should this clash remain, it was agreed that South Africa (paragraph 12.50) would serve as the CCAMLR Observer at the WSSD.

Nomination of Observers to 2001/02 Meetings of International Organisations

12.46 The Commission reviewed the existing practice of nominating observers to international organisations. Two main tasks of representing CCAMLR were identified: to report to international organisations on the work of CCAMLR and to report back on activities of international organisations which are of particular interest to CCAMLR. It was agreed that when CCAMLR is being represented by the Secretariat, both tasks would be undertaken. Observers being provided by CCAMLR Members would be expected mainly to fulfil the second task.

12.47 However, depending on the meeting and its importance to CCAMLR, the Commission could also identify additional specific tasks. For example, for the past several years there was a specific request to CCAMLR observers at meetings of international commissions responsible for the management of various tuna species in respect of measures applied by these commissions to reduce by-catch of seabirds. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had amplified that request this year and had requested the Secretariat to supply additional material to CCAMLR Members and observers, as appropriate, in order to improve interactions and information exchange at the meetings of these bodies and other relevant regional fisheries organisations.

12.48 The second specific task identified by the Commission this year for CCAMLR observers is to report back to the Commission on all international initiatives on the elimination of IUU fishing and, in particular, on IUU fishing under 'flags of convenience'.

12.49 It was decided that the Secretariat should annually prepare a standard set of documents for CCAMLR observers. It should include a summary of the most important activities of CCAMLR during the past year, similar to reports submitted by CCAMLR to the ATCM. The Secretariat should also coordinate or prepare, as appropriate, documents for observers relating to specific requests or responsibilities assigned to them by the Scientific Committee or Commission.

12.50 Taking into account the abovementioned revision, the following observers were nominated to represent CCAMLR at meetings of international organisations in 2001/02:

- Annual Meeting of ICCAT, November 2001, Murcia, Spain – European Community.
- Sixth Session of IOTC, 10 to 14 December 2001, Seychelles – no nomination.
- FAO Consultation on the Development of Model Uniform Catch Documentation and Reporting Measures, 9 to 11 January 2002, La Jolla, California, USA – CCAMLR Secretariat.
- Eighth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, 12 to 16 February 2002, Bremen, Germany – Germany.
- First Meeting of the Pacific Rim Debris Commission, March 2002, Hawaii, USA – no nomination.
- 54th Annual Meeting of IWC, 20 to 24 May 2002, Shimonoseki, Japan – Japan.
- WTO meetings, March and June 2002 – New Zealand.
- 2002 Annual Meetings of IATTC, 25 to 28 June 2002, Mexico – USA.

- XXVII SCAR Meeting, 15 to 26 July 2002, Shanghai, China – Dr E. Fanta (Brazil).
- World Summit and Sustainable Development (Rio+10 Conference), early September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa – Chair of the Scientific Committee (and/or Chair of the Commission) and the Executive Secretary (alternatively South Africa) (see paragraphs 12.41 to 12.45).
- ATCM-XXV, 3 to 14 September 2002, Warsaw, Poland – Executive Secretary.
- CEP-V – Antarctic Treaty, 3 to 14 September 2002, Warsaw, Poland – Chair, Scientific Committee.
- 12th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of CITES, 4 to 15 November 2002, Santiago, Chile – Prof. D. Torres (Chile).
- CCSBT-IX Annual Commission Meeting, early November 2002, Australia – Australia.
- Fourth Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, 21 to 23 November 2002, Montreal, Canada – USA.