

CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION

13.1 Chile presented CCAMLR-XX/BG/37 emphasising that the paper was not intended to address in detail issues which are considered by specific items on the Commission's agenda, but rather to give a consolidated, less fragmented focus to the more important matters currently facing the Commission, in the context of the objective of the Convention.

13.2 Chile highlighted significant recent initiatives of the Commission that it considered to be important in strengthening the institutional framework of the Convention. These included revision of the structure of SCOI, standardising the format of conservation measures, and development of a unified regulatory framework for fisheries to cover the entire lifespan of a fishery rather than just one year at a time. In addition, there were a number of additional measures which Chile believed had not yet been developed to their full potential. These included the use of VMS and the development of a list of Flags of Convenience.

13.3 The Commission has established an important regimen of cooperation with non-Contracting Parties, and this was an important step in the consolidation and harmonisation of the Commission's operations. However, Chile believed that it was important that this should not make Members lose sight of their own responsibilities under the Convention.

13.4 Finally, Chile drew to the attention of the Commission that future development of the conservation and management regime for the Southern Ocean could not happen independently of the wider context of world fisheries. In particular, Chile noted that fisheries in seas adjacent to the Convention Area must have appropriate conservation frameworks. Also, the development of other international conventions are increasingly important to the Commission. The signing of the ACAP for example, was an important step forward for conservation in the region.

13.5 Argentina stated that it found of great interest the document presented by Chile. However, while sharing some of the views contained in the document, it noted that there were other developments which might raise some concern. Since more time is needed to examine the document, Argentina reserved its right to express its position at a later stage after the CCAMLR meeting.

13.6 Other Members thanked Chile for once again presenting a useful summary of issues affecting the Commission which are otherwise only dealt with in terms of their practical implementation on a piecemeal basis. It was agreed that it was timely for the Commission to start to address more deeply some of the issues. As a matter of priority, three issues were identified for specific consideration:

- the Commission's relationship with other elements of the ATS;
- the development of a policy for cooperation with regional fisheries bodies; and

- restructuring the operations of SCOI to enable it to focus more effectively on IUU fishing.

13.7 It was recognised that adequate consideration of these issues would require more time than the Commission had available at the current meeting, so options for achieving more extensive consideration were discussed.

13.8 The European Community pointed out that work on the reorganisation of SCOI was under way, and that substantial progress had already been made at the current meeting.

13.9 The UK noted that CCAMLR-XX/BG/37 indicated a number of the Commission's strengths and weaknesses and referred particularly to the suggested lessening of importance of the System of Inspection. While the system was now supported by additional measures, such as the use of VMS, port inspections and notes on sightings from scientific observers, it was the belief of the UK that it is not the System of Inspection itself which is less effective, but rather insufficient implementation. This is unfortunate given the current high levels of IUU fishing.

13.10 Chile noted that the paper indicated trends only and did not provide final solutions, although it did refer to some which are already being developed by the Commission. Chile was pleased to be able to continue contributing to discussions on this agenda item, and had taken note of the general consensus that the context of the meeting did not provide sufficient opportunity for such open-ended discussions that the subject requires. The meeting considered that perhaps a symposium was needed to address the issues that had been identified.

13.11 Australia agreed that, however it is achieved, it was important that time be made available for discussion, and noted the actions that the Antarctic Treaty Parties had taken in similar circumstances. Australia was, therefore, consulting with Chile with a view to arranging an appropriate symposium to address the matters identified.