

NEXT MEETING

Invitation of Observers to the Next Meeting

17.1 The Commission invited the following States to attend the Twenty-first Meeting of the Commission as observers:

- Acceding States – Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Peru and Vanuatu; and
- non-Contracting Parties involved in trade of toothfish – the People's Republic of China, Mauritius, Seychelles and Singapore as States participating in the CDS, and Columbia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines and Thailand, who are not participating in the scheme.

17.2 It was also agreed to invite Belize, Panama, Sao Tome and Principe, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Togo as Flag States for vessels operating in the Convention Area, and Angola, Madagascar and Mozambique as Port States possibly involved in landings of toothfish.

17.3 The following international organisations were also invited: ASOC, CCSBT, CEP, CPPS, FAO, FFA, IATTC, ICCAT, IOC, IUCN, IWC, SCAR, SCOR, SPC and UNEP.

17.4 Australia noted that observers to the meetings are permitted to participate in all sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies unless a Member objects to their presence at discussions of a particular agenda item. To avoid having to consider such objections during the sessions of the meeting, Australia suggested that any Member intending to raise such an objection should do so before the meeting, and preferably during the meeting before.

Date and Location of the Next Meeting

17.5 Noting the advice of SCAF that the current location was the only one available in Hobart for 2002, Members agreed that the Twenty-first Meeting of the Commission and Scientific Committee would be held in Hobart, Australia, during the period 21 October to 1 November 2002. Heads of Delegation were requested to be in Hobart for a meeting on 20 October 2002.

17.6 The Commission requested that the new Executive Secretary, with the support of Australia, as offered in SCAF, give priority to ascertaining the best possible location for future meetings.

17.7 The Commission endorsed the comments of the SCAF Chair that it was not appropriate for cost-saving measures to be taken to excess in terms of meeting services. In particular, adequate computing, copying and internet facilities should be made available to rapporteurs and the various Chairs, and that suitable meeting rooms must be provided for all subsidiary bodies and work groups.

17.8 Consideration was given to the necessity for groups to meet concurrently, particularly SCOI and SCAF, both of whom had expressed concern that they needed additional time to give proper attention to the matters which the Commission had referred to them. It was recognised that this would present further difficulties to those Members who are represented by small delegations, but no alternative could be identified.

17.9 The Commission also took note of the suggestion by Brazil that such smaller delegations could fulfil their responsibilities better if ways could be found to improve the communication of meeting arrangements and papers during the meeting.