

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Provisional Agenda (CCAMLR-XX/1) had been distributed prior to the meeting. Following a proposal by Japan, the Commission added a subitem to its agenda: 'Announcement by Japan of an International Conference/Workshop on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Living Resources in the Antarctic, organised by the Government of Japan, in 2002 or 2003' (Subitem 18(ii)). With this addition, the Commission adopted its agenda as attached to this report in Annex 3.

2.2 The 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).

Report of the Chair

2.3 The Chair reported on intersessional activities. He informed the meeting that Namibia had become a full Member of the Commission on 5 February 2001 and Vanuatu had acceded to the Convention on 20 June 2001. There are now 31 Contracting Parties of CCAMLR, of which 24 are Members of the Commission.

2.4 There had been six CCAMLR meetings held during the intersessional period (paragraph 4.2).

2.5 For the 2000/01 season, 56 inspectors from six Member countries had been designated under the CCAMLR System of Inspection. Eight reports were received from CCAMLR-designated inspectors, all from the UK. Under the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, as was the case last year, international scientific observers were on board all vessels fishing for toothfish. A number of observers were also deployed on vessels fishing for other finfish.

2.6 During the 2000/01 season, 14 CCAMLR Members had actively participated in nine fisheries in the Convention Area. Vessels fishing in fisheries managed under conservation measures in force in 2000/01 had reported a total of 95 919 tonnes of krill, 6 771 tonnes of toothfish, 2 365 tonnes of icefish and 2 tonnes of squid; other species were taken as by-catch.

2.7 The CDS had been in operation for over 16 months and now included the participation of four non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR: the People's Republic of China, Mauritius, Seychelles and Singapore. Over 7 800 export and re-export catch documents had been received and processed by the Secretariat.

2.8 During the year, the Commission and the Scientific Committee had been represented by observers at a number of international meetings (sections 11 and 12; SC-CAMLR-XX, section 11).

Statement by Namibia

2.9 On behalf of the Commission, the Chair welcomed Namibia to the meeting as a full Member of the Commission. Mr P. Schivuté, as the Representative of Namibia, addressed the meeting.

2.10 Mr Schivuté stated that it was a great honour to represent his country at CCAMLR-XX; the first time Namibia had attended since becoming a full Member. Namibia's accession had further consolidated its unwavering commitment to the management and conservation of marine living resources, including those found in the Antarctic within the CCAMLR Convention Area. He was pleased to advise that the Namibian Government had now enacted new fisheries legislation which gave Namibia a legal framework to control its vessels outside the EEZ.

2.11 On behalf of Namibia, Mr Schivuté expressed gratitude and appreciation to those Member States who had assisted Namibia with training in completion of catch documentation forms. Specifically, the Australian Fisheries Management Authority had provided two experts who had conducted a training course for 16 officials.

2.12 Mr Schivuté advised that Namibia had fully cooperated with CCAMLR since it began attending Commission meetings. During the last three years, Namibia had provided the Secretariat with data on toothfish which had been landed in its ports. In addition, its fisheries inspectors were in constant contact with the Secretariat for advice. For example, through the assistance of the Secretariat and other Contracting Parties, Namibia had succeeded in turning away two foreign-flagged vessels which had attempted to land toothfish at its ports in violation of CCAMLR requirements.

2.13 In conclusion, Mr Schivuté emphasised Namibia's unwavering commitment to the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, including *Dissostichus* spp., and assured the Commission of its full cooperation and support of all measures to attain the Commission's aims and objectives.