

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION

15.1 Chile referred to the advice at the previous meeting that Australia and Chile proposed to organise a symposium in August 2003 in Valdivia, Chile. Unfortunately, it had not been possible to hold it at that time, so it has now been rescheduled for April 2005. Chile presented CCAMLR-XXII/BG/49, which outlined the subjects intended to be addressed by the symposium, which would form a part of the preparations of the International Polar Year and the celebration of 25 years of CCAMLR.

15.2 Chile noted that the extended notice being provided would assist Members in preparing for the symposium, as well as providing an opportunity for further contributions to its content. In particular, it would enable planning and financing for participation by the Executive Secretary to be arranged.

15.3 Members welcomed the initiative and expressed support for the proposed direction of the symposium as outlined in CCAMLR-XXII/BG/49. It was considered that this would be a much needed and valuable opportunity for the consideration of broad issues which have to be addressed by the Commission, particularly given the pressing issues currently facing the Commission. The heavy workload during the annual meetings has prevented the Commission from being able to devote sufficient time to these. Experience gained at similar functions organised in relation to the ATCM has shown that these can be useful in focusing Members' attention on important issues needing to be addressed.

15.4 Chile thanked all Members which expressed support for the Australian-Chilean initiative and noted that the objective of the Convention was also being advanced by the establishment of new RFMOs bordering the Southern Ocean, as mentioned in the report by the CPPS Observer (CCAMLR-XXII/BG/45).

15.5 With regard to the proposals that the Commission allocate fishing effort, Argentina noted that at the time of entering into force of the Convention, Antarctic marine living resources were the target of open-access fisheries. CCAMLR has succeeded in adopting itself as an important element of the Antarctic Treaty System upon the moral authority afforded by its strictly conservative approach. If this approach were to be abandoned to start a process of effort and quota allocation, CCAMLR will be viewed, at least by non-Contracting Parties, as an interest-driven organisation losing its standing.

15.6 Argentina noted that, from a practical point of view, any fishing company whose vessels have been denied access to the fishery, might, by simply reflagging to a non-Contracting Party, gain legal access to the fishery while further undermining thus the objectives of the Convention.