

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Census of Antarctic Marine Life

18.1 Australia drew the Commission's attention to the proposed census of Antarctic marine life as presented in CCAMLR-XXII/BG/46 'A Census of Antarctic Marine Life'. Noting that Japan, France and New Zealand had already agreed to join Australia in participating in the census, Australia encouraged other Members to consider their own possible participation.

18.2 The UK welcomed the proposal presented by Australia and noted that potentially complementary initiatives under the Census of Marine Life (CoML) project, relating particularly to programs analogous to the existing CoML-Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP) program, and also directed towards the opportunities provided by the 'International Polar Year' (IPY), are under preparation by scientists from, *inter alia*, USA, France and the UK. The UK encouraged appropriate collaboration to develop a suite of programs to provide opportunities for a major input to IPY by the relevant marine biological research communities. It noted that SCAR was also apparently commencing marine biodiversity activities potentially related to CoML (SC-CAMLR-XXII, paragraph 9.4(iv)). Furthermore, many of the objectives set out in CCAMLR-XXII/BG/46 were as relevant to the work of SCAR as to CCAMLR. The UK suggested that there would be merit in forwarding fully developed program proposals for consideration by both SCAR and CCAMLR.

18.3 Germany welcomed Australia's interesting initiative. It believed that the IPY is an excellent opportunity to conduct an intensive international study on the marine life of the Antarctic. Germany will undertake every effort to participate in major research activities during the IPY.

18.4 Supported by the USA, Germany suggested that the Commission encourage the Scientific Committee and its working groups to develop plans for a potential research program during the IPY which meets the objectives of CCAMLR and contributes to the initiatives described above. It noted that such an exercise would provide an excellent opportunity for wider recognition of CCAMLR's role in the research of the Antarctic marine ecosystem and the rational use of its marine living resources.

### Flag State Authority on the High Seas

18.5 Norway drew the attention of the Commission to the table presented in CCAMLR-XXII/BG/33. This table identifies the States and regional economic integration organisations that have deposited instruments for the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement. It was noted that only five Members of the Commission have deposited instruments for both agreements.

18.6 A number of Members noted that they had ratified one of the agreements and were actively pursuing the ratification of the other. Other Members noted that, notwithstanding the fact that they had not ratified the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, they were complying with its terms.

18.7 Norway encouraged all Members to ratify both agreements as soon as possible.

Other

18.8 Argentina stated that with regard to the legal texts agreed on and adopted at CCAMLR-XXII, it reserves its legal position as to its sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding waters and recalls that Argentina does not recognise the UK as a Coastal State either in the Southwest Atlantic or in the Convention Area.

18.9 The UK noted Argentina's statements relating to references in SC-CAMLR-XXII, Annex 5, and elsewhere. The UK's position on this issue is well known: the UK has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

18.10 Argentina rejected the UK's views and reiterated its legal position.

## REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

19.1 The report of the Twenty-second meeting was adopted.

## CLOSE OF THE MEETING

20.1 In closing the meeting, the Chair expressed his sincere appreciation, on behalf of the Commission, to Dr Miller and his Secretariat staff, interpreters and other supporting staff members, Dr Holt and Scientific Committee members, Mr H. Pott (Germany) and SCAF members, Mr Becouarn and SCIC members, and Dr Agnew and the Conservation Measures Drafting Group, for their most valuable contributions through their hard work. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to all delegates for their support and assistance in guiding him through the two weeks without major procedural hitches.

20.2 Dr Miller thanked the Secretariat staff for their dedication, professional approach and hard work.

20.3 On behalf of the Commission, Dr Press thanked Mr Yonezawa for his excellent job in chairing what had been a very difficult meeting. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Mr Yonezawa for his guidance of the meeting.

20.4 The Chair of the Commission then closed the Twenty-second Meeting.