

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Provisional Agenda (CCAMLR-XXIII/1), which had been distributed prior to the meeting, was adopted without amendment; the Agenda is given in Annex 3.

2.2 The Chair referred Agenda Item 3 to the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF), and Agenda Items 5 and 8 to the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC). The reports of SCAF and SCIC are given in Annexes 4 and 5 respectively.

Report of the Chair

2.3 The Chair reported on intersessional activities. He informed the meeting that Mauritius had acceded to the Convention on 2 October 2004. The Commission now has 24 Members and eight other States are party to the Convention. He also reported that the Commission had not experienced the budgetary problems of recent years, which was largely attributable to the return to historic rates of exchange between the Australian and US dollar.

2.4 Two Scientific Committee working group meetings, along with associated subgroup meetings and workshops, had been held during the intersessional period; details of these meetings are elaborated under item 4.

2.5 For the 2003/04 season, 43 inspectors had been designated, in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Inspection, by Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Ten reports were received from CCAMLR-designated inspectors in 2003/04, all from the UK.

2.6 Under the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, observers were on board all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area (see paragraph 4.4 for further details).

2.7 During the 2003/04 season CCAMLR Members had actively participated in 10 fisheries in the Convention Area. In addition, four other managed fisheries were conducted in national EEZs within the Convention Area. Vessels fishing in fisheries managed under conservation measures in force in 2003/04 had reported, by 24 September 2004, a total of 87 133 tonnes of krill, 13 307 tonnes of toothfish and 2 737 tonnes of icefish; other species were taken as by-catch (CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/8).

2.8 The Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) has been operating since 2000 and now includes the participation of three non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR: the People's Republic of China, Seychelles and Singapore, and one Acceding State: Mauritius. The total number of catch documents (i.e. landing/transshipment, export and re-export documents) received and processed by the Secretariat (as at 24 September 2004) is well over 20 000.

2.9 In accordance with the Commission's request, the pilot program for an electronic CDS (E-CDS) has continued.

2.10 During the year, the Commission and the Scientific Committee had been represented by observers at a number of international meetings (sections 13 and 14; SC-CAMLR-XXIII, section 9).

2.11 There has been considerable progress in 2003/04 on securing new Secretariat premises which include a Commission meeting venue (see discussion in paragraphs 3.17 to 3.19).

Statement by Mauritius

2.12 The Delegate from Mauritius made the following statement in relation to Mauritius' accession to the Convention:

'The Delegation of Mauritius thanks the Secretary of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), for inviting Mauritius to attend the Twenty-third Meeting of CCAMLR as an Acceding State to the Convention.

I am thus very pleased to address CCAMLR today on behalf of the Delegation of Mauritius. We thank the Delegation of Australia and Members of the Commission for having extended a warm welcome to our delegation at the Commission meetings.

The Government of Mauritius is conscious of the concern the world over of the sustainable use of marine living resources and the need to combat IUU fishing.

Mauritius is already a member of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and has signed the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures for Fishing Vessels on the High Seas and subscribes to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Furthermore, we are actively participating in the setting up of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC) and the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

Mauritius has been collaborating as a non-Contracting Party with CCAMLR for a number of years and has sent observers to the Commission meetings since 1999. It has also been regularly submitting information on the transshipment of toothfish in Mauritius to the CCAMLR Secretariat. Thus, it has demonstrated in concrete terms its cooperation with CCAMLR all along.

In order to further consolidate its relationship with CCAMLR, Mauritius thus decided to accede to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and the Commission in June 2004, and deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Convention with the Depositary State, Australia, on 2 September 2004. Mauritius thus became a Party to the Convention on 2 October 2004.

In this connection, we are very grateful for the offer of the Government of Australia in providing further training to officials in Mauritius on the implementation of the Catch Documentation Scheme and look forward to the cooperation and collaboration of all the Members of the Commission in our full participation on this regional fisheries management organisation.'