

OTHER BUSINESS

Rights and obligations of Acceding States

19.1 Chile and Argentina had expressed concern regarding the notification received by the Commission from Vanuatu of an intended fishery for 60 000 tonnes of krill in the 2004/05 season (paragraphs 4.25 and 4.26).

19.2 Chile pointed out that the Convention provision permitting the transition of a State from accession to the Convention to Membership of the Commission was related to a similar provision in the Antarctic Treaty (Article IX). A State could become a Member through appropriate proof of its activities.

19.3 The Commission recalled the discussions in SCIC with respect to the krill fishery by Vanuatu in 2003/04 (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.23 to 2.30), and the Commission's direction that the Executive Secretary communicate to Vanuatu the Commission's concerns in this regard (paragraph 8.21). The Commission decided that such communication would also convey the concerns with regard to the current notification for a similar fishery in 2004/05 and should encourage Vanuatu to become a Member of the Commission.

Membership of the Commission

19.4 The Commission recalled that it had recognised that growth in its membership would be of value and noted that in the near future a number of Acceding States may wish to seek membership of the Commission. In this respect, it recognised the conditions for such membership set out in Article VII.2(b) of the Convention and agreed to consider the matter further next year.

International Polar Year (IPY)

19.5 The Commission noted that it had included this item in order to review preparations for the conduct of the IPY in 2006/07 and 2007/08 (CCAMLR-XXII, paragraph 13.7), and that a number of activities had already been planned.

19.6 Australia drew the attention of the Commission to its initiative with regard to a Circum-Antarctic CoML. This would be supported by the Sloan Foundation, which has already been involved in such censuses in other marine areas. The proposal has already been tabled with the ATCM, SCAR and COMNAP, and there are now in excess of 15 vessels intending to participate in the exercise, which was expected to yield interesting and useful information on marine life in the Convention Area. Any other party interested in participating was encouraged to contact Australia.

19.7 Brazil welcomed the Australian proposal for the IPY, including the possibility that it gives to those Members that will not be able to provide vessels or ship time to participate in this activity a wider sense of international collaboration.

19.8 The Chair of the Scientific Committee recalled its advice to the Commission on this subject (SC-CAMLR-XXIII, paragraphs 15.4 to 15.7) and noted that a number of Members have programs associated with the IPY. In considering a possible program for itself, the Scientific Committee had considered that a synoptic survey in the South Atlantic, similar to that carried out in 2000, might be appropriate. Dr V. Siegel (European Community) has been appointed to head a steering committee for this initiative.

19.9 Chile drew the attention of the Commission to the work of SCAR, and, in particular, to the new trend in SCAR's strategies. With France's work on sub-Antarctic ecosystems with respect to land and marine animal interactions, and other programs on oceanographic work, there will be a valuable increase in the available knowledge of the Convention Area. The outcomes would be followed with great interest.

19.10 The SCAR Observer thanked Australia for the proposal and coordination of the CoML to be carried out during the IPY. Also at SCAR there will be intense activity of most of the national Antarctic programs. As previously mentioned (paragraph 13.15), the census during the IPY will provide an excellent opportunity for a joint effort of SCAR and CCAMLR to obtain more information on marine living resources and biodiversity in the Antarctic.

Other

19.11 With respect to incorrect references, such as those derived from CCAMLR-XXIII/BG/27, regarding the territorial status of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Argentina reiterated paragraphs 7.1 and 7.3 of the SCIC report. These apply to all documents as well as *inter alia*, report language, footnotes, statistic reporting, and bibliographies produced by, or submitted to, the Commission, the Scientific Committee and other bodies. Argentina reaffirmed its well-known legal position: the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and surrounding waters are an integral part of the Argentine national territory.

19.12 In response, the UK drew the Commission's attention to paragraph 14.8.

19.13 Argentina stated that it does not share the UK's views, rejected the UK statement and reiterated its legal position.