

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

20.1 The report of the Twenty-third Meeting was adopted.

### CLOSE OF THE MEETING

21.1 Before closing, the Chair spoke of ending the meeting with a sense of achievement, noting among many other things, the dramatic reduction in IUU catches during the past year. As Chair, Mr Yonezawa congratulated all delegates for what had been achieved during the past two weeks. He had returned to the Commission after 10 years and was very pleased to witness the progress made in terms of a sense of togetherness with the promotion of the common objectives of the Commission.

21.2 On behalf of the Commission, Mr Yonezawa expressed his most sincere gratitude to those who deserve admiration for their invaluable contribution and most efficient execution of the most demanding duties – Dr R. Holt (USA) and members of the Scientific Committee, Dr H. Pott (Germany) and associates in SCAF, Ms R. Tuttle (USA) and colleagues in SCIC, and Dr D. Agnew (UK) and members of the Conservation Measure Drafting Group.

21.3 Mr Yonezawa also expressed his deepest gratitude to Dr Miller and the Secretariat staff and interpreters. On behalf of the Commission, he paid tribute especially to the translators who had worked almost to their limit with such efficiency.

21.4 Finally, Mr Yonezawa thanked delegates and Secretariat staff for their support and guidance during his two-year term as Chair of the Commission. In finishing his duty, he wished the Commission and his successor from the Republic of Korea much success.

21.5 On behalf of the Commission, Dr Press thanked Mr Yonezawa for the way he had guided Members through their work over the last two years.

21.6 Ambassador S.-H. Cho (Republic of Korea) thanked the Chair for his excellent leadership. He also thanked Mr Yonezawa for his good wishes to Korea for its chairmanship over the next two years, and said that Korea looked forward to the cooperation of Members during its time in the chair.

21.7 As a token of the Commission's appreciation, Dr Miller then presented Mr Yonezawa with the customary gavel.

21.8 Dr Miller informed Members that it was the last meeting for the Secretariat's Administration/Finance Officer, Mr Jim Rossiter, who had served the Commission admirably. He had provided support, tolerant guidance and very good advice to all. Dr Miller personally greatly appreciated all that Mr Rossiter had done for the Secretariat and was sure that Members of the Commission also appreciated his untiring support. On behalf of the Commission, Dr Miller presented to Mr Rossiter, in recognition of his long and dedicated service, a Gyotaku artwork by Boshu Nagase, a world leader in the ancient Japanese art form.

21.9 During his years with the Secretariat, Mr Rossiter said that he had realised it was an honour to work with the Commission and the Scientific Committee whose work is a good example of the sum of parts being greater than the individual parts. The Secretariat itself is much more than the individual parts. He wished to leave Members with one final thought –

when reviewing the Commission's work at the symposium next year, consider that all the parts together can continue to improve as long as the Secretariat is allowed to do the work which it likes to do and that is to support the Commission and the Scientific Committee to the greatest extent possible.

21.10 The Chair of the Commission then closed the Twenty-third Meeting.