

## ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

### Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Provisional Agenda (CCAMLR-XXV/1), had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Commission agreed to amend Item 18 to include election of a Vice-Chair. With this change, the Commission adopted its agenda which 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 7 to 9 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 that following the Cook Islands accession last year and the recent accession of the People's Republic of China, the Commission now had 24 Members and 10 other States party to the Convention.

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 in SC-CAMLR-XXV, paragraph 1.9. In addition, a meeting of the Joint Assessment Group (JAG) was held in conjunction with the meeting of the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM).

2.5 For the 2005/06 season, 46 inspectors had been designated, in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Inspection, by Australia, Chile, New Zealand and the UK. Four inspectors were reported deployed and 14 inspection reports were received from CCAMLR-designated inspectors – one from Australia and 13 from the UK.

2.6 CCAMLR-designated scientific observers were on board all vessels in all finfish fisheries in the Convention Area (see paragraph 10.1 for further details).

2.7 During the 2005/06 season CCAMLR Members had actively participated in 13 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 2005/06 had reported, by 5 October 2006, a total of 105 084 tonnes of krill, 13 704 tonnes of toothfish and 2 434 tonnes of icefish. A number of other species were taken as by-catch.

2.8 The Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) has been operating since 2000 and now includes the participation of two non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR: Seychelles and Singapore; along with four Acceding States: Canada, People's Republic of China, Mauritius and Peru. The total number of catch documents (i.e. landing/transshipment, export and re-export documents) received and processed by the Secretariat to date is well over 30 000.

2.9 In accordance with the Commission's request, the Secretariat continues the development of the electronic web-based CDS (E-CDS) documentation.

2.10 The Centralised Vessel Monitoring System (C-VMS) continues to be implemented under Conservation Measure 10-04. Thirty vessels have been monitored in nine subareas or divisions, as well as voluntarily outside the Convention Area.

2.11 During the year, the Commission and the Scientific Committee had been represented by observers at a number of international meetings (sections 15 and 16; SC-CAMLR-XXV, section 9).

2.12 On a sad note, the Chair informed the Commission of the sad passing in the past year of three esteemed colleagues, each of whom had contributed greatly to CCAMLR's history, as well as to the effective international governance of Antarctica.

2.13 Prof. Sayed El-Sayed was an esteemed oceanographer and the convener of the international BIOMASS program from which evolved much of the science CCAMLR's Scientific Committee is involved with today. Sayed will always be remembered for his infectious enthusiasm, spirit and dedication to Antarctic matters.

2.14 Dr John Heap led the UK Delegation to CCAMLR in its early years and had much to do with drafting its Convention. He was also a key international figure in polar policy in both the Arctic and Antarctic for nearly three decades. A quiet diplomat, John engendered great trust and respect.

2.15 Dr Geoff Kirkwood served CCAMLR, the IWC, IOTC and a number of other important intergovernmental organisations involved with the sustainable management of oceanic resources. His exemplary scientific standing, great intellect and enduring involvement served to make Geoff a highly respected marine scientist of international repute.

2.16 The Chair conveyed the Commission's condolences to the families of Prof. El-Sayed and Drs Heap and Kirkwood, and asked all delegates to stand for a minute's silence in memory of these men and in respect of their unique contributions.