

OTHER BUSINESS

International Polar Year

20.1 The Commission noted the progress made by the Scientific Committee and the CCAMLR-IPY Steering Committee in planning CCAMLR-related activities during the IPY (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 2.23 to 2.31; SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/3), including:

- (i) a Norwegian survey in the northern part of Subarea 48.6 on the *G.O. Sars* focusing on krill and the pelagic ecosystem, and a study of target strength of icefish and krill in Subareas 48.3 and 48.6;
- (ii) a German survey on the *Polarstern* in the southern region of Subarea 48.6, which will collect acoustic data and research midwater trawl (RMT) samples;
- (iii) a New Zealand survey in the Ross Sea on the *Tangaroa*;
- (iv) a Japanese survey on the *Umitaka Maru* in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2;
- (v) UK surveys on the *James Clark Ross* in the Scotia Sea and western Antarctic Peninsula (including Subareas 48.1 and 48.3).

20.2 The Commission also noted that:

- (i) the USA will undertake a 30-day survey in the area of the South Orkney Islands that will include acoustic data collection;
- (ii) some Members, who were not able to contribute ship-time for IPY surveys, will be participating on board vessels listed above.

20.3 The Commission urged Members involved with CCAMLR-related work during the IPY to consult the CCAMLR-2000 Survey protocols and information on krill sex and maturity stages which are available in a public IPY-related area of the CCAMLR website.

20.4 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendations for archiving of CCAMLR-related data from IPY surveys (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 2.29 and 2.30).

20.5 The Commission joined the Scientific Committee in congratulating the Steering Committee on its role in coordinating the CCAMLR-IPY initiative.

20.6 The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's advice concerning CCAMLR-IPY projects and activities (SC-CAMLR-XXVI, paragraphs 2.23 to 2.31 and 14.15). It was recognised that a number of Members have committed to extensive scientific research during the IPY.

20.7 New Zealand noted the important role that international polar years have played, with the last in 1957–1959 (International Geophysical Year) providing the impetus for development of the Antarctic Treaty and the attached Antarctic Treaty System of which CCAMLR is an integral part. New Zealand indicated that given this importance, it had tabled a resolution together with Australia on acknowledging the IPY and encouraging the participation of CCAMLR Members in relevant activities such as CAML.

20.8 Australia supported New Zealand and encouraged Members to adopt the proposed resolution. It also thanked Members for their contribution of 17 vessels to the important IPY-sponsored CAML. The census will take place primarily in the 2007/08 austral summer and will include the involvement of tourist vessels under the banner of IAATO. Further information on CAML is available from the Australian Antarctic Division which serves as the international CAML coordination centre.

20.9 Spain supported both the New Zealand and Australian statements and noted that the IPY is a clear demonstration of polar cooperation. It is also important to the study of global climate change effects at both poles.

20.10 The Commission adopted Resolution 26/XXVI 'International Polar Year/Census of Antarctic Marine Life' (CCAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 13.78).

20.11 The Commission congratulated the Executive Secretary on being awarded the WWF Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal by Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace on 17 October 2007. Several Members noted that this was an extremely prestigious global award that not only reflected Dr Miller's long-standing involvement with CCAMLR but also recognised CCAMLR's many notable achievements. For such an acknowledgement to have been made during the IPY was doubly meaningful. Australia, Chile, New Zealand, UK and the USA indicated that the Commission was extremely proud of Dr Miller's award.

Other

20.12 The representative from Vanuatu provided information on that Contracting Party's intention with regards to krill fishing, and its ultimate intent to becoming a full Member of the Commission. He noted that Vanuatu had withdrawn its notification to fish for krill in the coming season, and that no fishing had been undertaken by Vanuatu-flagged vessels in 2006/07 (CCAMLR-XXVI/BG/8).

20.13 The Vanuatuan representative also confirmed the Party's continued interest in fishing for krill in CCAMLR waters as well as its commitment to abiding by all the conservation measures established by the Commission. To this end, Vanuatu will not authorise any fishing in the CAMLR Convention Area until the Commission is satisfied that the information provided and the control measures implemented by Vanuatu are appropriate and sufficient. It was noted that the Government of Vanuatu is currently preparing legal instruments to apply for Commission membership in the near future.

20.14 While Vanuatu has taken steps to ensure that it exercises effective Flag State control over the fishing vessels on its register, it is also relevant to note that the vessels identified in the withdrawn 2007/08 krill notifications have been on the Vanuatu register for 15 years and have been engaged in the South Pacific jack mackerel fishery for the last five years. If, as anticipated, there is a notification from Vanuatu to fish for krill in the 2008/09 season, it will be for these same vessels.

20.15 The Commission noted this information with interest.

20.16 Argentina made the following statement:

‘With regard to incorrect references to the territorial status of the Malvinas Islands (Falkland), South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands made in documents produced by the Secretariat and other bodies such as SC-CAMLR-XXVI/BG/31 and BG/2, Argentina rejects any reference to those islands as a separate entity of its territory giving them an international status that they do not have. In addition, Argentina recalled that actions carried out in the CCAMLR area by vessels based in or operating out of the Malvinas Islands (Falkland), South Georgias and the South Sandwich Islands, or flagged to the alleged authorities thereof which Argentina does not recognise, as well as port inspections, the illegal imposition of fishing licences to other Member vessels operating in the CCAMLR area, and further unilateral actions by the UK, are all invalid.

The Malvinas Islands (Falkland), South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the Argentine national territory which are subject to the illegitimate occupation of the UK.

Argentina recalled once again that only the multilateral scheme of the Convention is legally applicable in Statistical Subareas 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4.’

20.17 The UK made the following statement:

‘In response to Argentina’s statement the UK reiterates that it has no doubts about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and their surrounding maritime areas, as is well known to all delegates.

In that regard, the UK has no doubt about the right of the Government of the Falkland Islands to operate a shipping register for UK-flagged vessels. As we have stated on previous occasions, the port inspections undertaken by the Port authorities of the respective governments of the UK’s Overseas Territories of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the Falkland Islands were conducted pursuant to the UK’s obligations under CCAMLR Conservation Measure 10-03 and were reported to the Commission as such.

Furthermore the UK has the right to undertake inspections within those of its jurisdictional waters that lie within Subareas 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 in the way that it sees fit. In addition, the UK remains committed to the implementation of the System of Observation and Inspection of CCAMLR and our record of doing so is clearly apparent in this Commission.

The UK would reiterate its views expressed previously that we remain wholly committed to the principles and objectives of CCAMLR. We intend to ensure that the highest standards of fisheries management will be implemented in our jurisdictional waters – through licensing and inspections, and also through the imposition of tough measures that are in line with, and back up, the provisions of CCAMLR.’

20.18 In response to the statement made by the UK, Argentina rejected it and reiterated its well known legal position.