

OTHER BUSINESS

Statements by Argentina and the UK

18.1 Argentina made the following statement:

‘With regard to incorrect references to the legal territorial status of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, for example those contained in document WG-EMM-10/P7, Argentina recalls that the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, are an integral part of the Argentine national territory and are being illegally occupied by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Those territories are the object of a sovereignty dispute between both countries, acknowledged by the United Nations, which has requested both Governments to resume negotiations with the view to achieving, as soon as possible, a just, peaceful and permanent solution to the controversy.

Argentina therefore rejects any reference to these archipelagos as separate entities from the Argentine national territory and/or which may attribute them an international status they do not have.

In light of the above, Argentina reiterates that in Statistical Subareas 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 only the multilateral scheme of the Convention is legally applicable.

Moreover, Argentina recalls that the following actions are illegal and consequently, invalid:

- those actions carried out in the CCAMLR area by vessels based in, or operating out of, the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, or flagged to alleged British authorities thereof which Argentina does not recognise; as well as
- port inspections and inspections at sea;
- the issuance, as well as the clearing of catch documents by such alleged authorities;
- the imposition by them of fishing licences;
- the imposition of either British scientific observers or of observers designated with British conformity on other Member vessels operating in the CCAMLR area;
- as well as any other unilateral action taken by the abovementioned colonial authorities in those territories.’

18.2 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 the UK has 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 CM 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 Systems of Observation and Inspection of CCAMLR and its record of doing so is clearly apparent in this Commission.

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

18.3 Argentina rejected the UK's intervention and reiterated its legal position which is well known to all Members.

30th Anniversary of the CAMLR Convention

18.4 With respect to the 30th anniversary on 7 April 2011 of the signing of the CAMLR Convention, Australia informed the Commission that it is considering ways of commemorating the occasion and would advise Members of the outcome.