

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

1. I am pleased to report to the Third Meeting of the CCAMLR Commission. Following a period in which the Commission has been preoccupied with its organisational arrangements, we are now commencing a phase in which principles may be established and machinery put in place to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

2. There are indications that there may be further accessions to the Convention and perhaps some applications for membership of the Commission. All of the original signatories to the Convention are now members of the Commission. In addition, Sweden and Spain have acceded to the Convention and Brazil has indicated its firm intention to do so. I am delighted to welcome these three countries to our meeting as observers, together with those international organisations which have regularly attended CCAMLR meetings in that capacity.

3. It is satisfying to note that work has commenced to establish the basic knowledge which will be necessary for the Commission to take decisions affecting the utilisation of the living marine resources of the Antarctic. We must give our support to this work.

4. Developments in the Antarctic have come to attract the attention of a wider section of the international community. The living marine resources of the Antarctic will not be overlooked by a world community which is going through a period of population growth and dwindling fish stocks in traditional regions.

5. A measure of this interest is reflected in recent developments in the United Nations and members of the Commission will be aware that the United Nations Secretary General has undertaken a study of Antarctica. This follows the adoption of a resolution at the last session of the United Nations General Assembly. As indicated in correspondence earlier this year, CCAMLR has contributed to the study with information about the Convention area, the objectives of the Convention and the activities of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat.

6. We must hope that the United Nations study will recognise the primary role of CCAMLR in the conservation and rational utilisation of living marine resources in the Antarctic. I should also note that our organisation has well established and valued contacts with United Nations organs, in particular the FAO.

7. It is desirable that this close and mutually beneficial co-operation should continue and be augmented. At the same time we would hope that countries and bodies which are not yet associated with CCAMLR will recognise the merits of the Convention and the desirability of supporting the regime it will establish. We must continue to encourage participation in our work by all countries which are interested or active in Antarctic marine resources.

8. Since the organisational aspects of the Commission and Scientific Committee have now largely been resolved, I hope this meeting will make substantial progress towards the establishment of the regime envisaged by the Convention. I am pleased that our agenda provides not only for housekeeping matters such as the annual budget, but also will take the Commission into practical questions affecting the harvesting of Antarctic marine resources and the role of the organisation and its members in monitoring these activities.

9. In particular, the Scientific Committee must be enabled to press ahead to overcome the limitations on our knowledge of the Antarctic ecosystem, the interrelationships between species and the impact of harvesting.

10. The Convention sets out for us, guidelines as to the functions and activities of the Commission, including the acquisition, compilation, analysis and publication of data, the identification of conservation needs, and the formulation of conservation measures. The Commission should begin to address these matters, based on sound scientific advice from the Scientific Committee. At this meeting we should set for ourselves the objective of demonstrating the commitment of members to provide necessary data in a format established by the Scientific Committee taking account of discussions at last year's meeting and at Woods Hole. We should also make some progress towards the establishment of research programs to increase our knowledge of the various species and their inter-actions in Antarctica.