

Data Handling and Management

34. The Commission noted the importance placed in the report of the Scientific Committee upon the collection and reporting of data, including catch and effort statistics from the commercial fisheries, in a form and frequency to permit detailed stock assessments. The Commission fully endorsed this view.

35. On this subject, several delegations expressed concern that the Scientific Committee had been unable to agree on the spatial and temporal scales on which catch and effort data for commercial operations would be based, noting the relationship of this point to the implementation of Article XX of the Convention. It was also pointed out that a large amount of data was involved and that its compilation and submission would require a great deal of work and time.

36. The Commission was in agreement that it was essential that the studies and work necessary be undertaken to complete definition of the spatial and temporal scales both to promote urgent stock assessment requirements as well as the longer term work of the Commission. In this regard, the Commission noted that the appropriate vehicles for necessary progress on this issue were the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment and the Workshop on Krill which the Scientific Committee recommended be held prior to the 1985 meeting.