

Fish Stock Assessment

37. The Commission, having regard to the report of the Scientific Committee, recognised that there was an urgent need for conservation measures for the fish stocks around South Georgia. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had indicated that there should be particular concern over the state of the stock of *Notothenia rossii*.

38. The Commission recognised that it was important that fishing mortality on this species should be minimised. To this end the Commission requested all parties to the Convention in the season 1984/85 for statistical area 48.3:

- (1) to refrain from a directed fishery for *N. rossii*,
- (2) to ensure that by-catch of *N. rossii* in directed fishing for other species be avoided.

39. This matter would be reviewed in the light of further scientific advice at the next meeting.

40. For other species the Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had recommended further conservation measures. The conservation measures adopted by the Commission in response to some of these recommendations are contained in paragraph 47 below. In addition the Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific Committee to convene an ad hoc Working Group meeting with a view to receiving detailed scientific advice at its next meeting on the further conservation measures that are required. The Commission also endorsed the agreement expressed in the Scientific Committee's Report that it was essential that detailed catch and effort data as well as additional biological data be available at the ad hoc meeting.

41. In this connection, the Commission welcomed the intention of the USSR and the FRG to conduct fishery research surveys in the Atlantic Sector in the 1984/85 season.

42. The Commission noted that minimum mesh sizes and fish size limits had been in force with regard to Soviet fishing operations in the Convention Area outside waters around Kerguelen Islands since 1980, and that in addition Soviet vessels have refrained from fishing within 12 miles of South Georgia. The Commission accepted the Scientific Committee's recommendations relating to mesh size and closure of waters adjacent to South Georgia and that these measures should be continued and applied to all fishing fleets in the area. The Commission therefore proceeded to formulate and adopt the first CCAMLR conservation measures in accordance with Article IX(1)(f) of the Convention, as set out below.

43. In relation to the fish size limits the Commission, having regard to the advice of the Scientific Committee, and recognising the urgent need for further measures, requests all parties to the Convention to set appropriate minimum size regulations along the lines of those already in operation within the Convention Area.

44. The Commission recognised the importance of minimum size measures and the need for the formal adoption of appropriate measures in the near future. Noting that the purpose of these types of measures is to ensure that the take of young fish is minimised and that the practical implementation of such measures will involve regulations that ensure that fishing operations which are taking young fish in significant numbers are stopped, the Commission requests the Scientific Committee to examine all aspects of minimum size conservation measures with a view to providing detailed advice to the Commission at its next meeting.

45. The Commission also noted and welcomed the wide range of management measures imposed on the Kerguelen fishery by French authorities, as set out in the Report, and the Scientific Committee's conclusion that it did not believe further conservation measures were necessary for these stocks at present.

46. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee was unable to give any advice on other South Atlantic stocks in the Convention area as there was insufficient data, and it accepted the Committee's recommendation that all available historical data on these stocks be collated and that additional new research data be collected.