

Cooperation with Other Organisations

50. The Commission noted that the question of the attendance of appropriate international organisations at regular Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings was discussed at ATCM XII in Canberra in September, 1983.

51. The Commission noted that the Preparatory Meeting for ATCM XIII in 1985 would consider the question of the attendance of appropriate international organisations for relevant items on the agenda for the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. It was agreed that any approach to CCAMLR to attend as an observer would be responded to at the time by the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman.

52. Reports by CCAMLR observers at the 1984 Meetings of the International Whaling Commission and of its Scientific Committee were circulated and noted.

53. The Report by the Executive Secretary on his attendance at the FAO World Fisheries Conference in Rome was circulated and noted.

54. At its previous meeting the Commission, in response to two requests from non-government organisations, Greenpeace International and the Antarctic and Southern Oceans Coalition (ASOC), for observer status at CCAMLR meetings, had agreed that the Executive Secretary write to both organisations requesting information as to their ability to contribute to the objectives of the Convention. Replies from Greenpeace International and ASOC were considered at this meeting.

55. The Commission took the view that it would prefer, at this stage, to entertain further only ASOC's request for observer status on the grounds that it purported to be a representative organisation composed of a number of component bodies.

56. The Commission noted that in response to the Executive Secretary's letter of enquiry dated 12 October 1983, ASOC was not able to predict the contribution it could make to the work of CCAMLR. The Commission therefore found itself unable to reach a determination that ASOC's request for observer status fell within the scope of paragraph 3 of Article XXIII. The Commission nevertheless felt that it would be to the benefit of the Commission to establish a two-way channel for informed communication between the non-governmental community of organisations with an interest in the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and the inter-governmental institution devoted to the same end.

57. The Commission therefore turned to consideration of whether ASOC's request might fall within the scope of the first sentence of paragraph 4 of Article XXIII which reads, in the relevant part, as follows: 'The Commission may enter into agreements ... with other organisations as may be appropriate.' In considering how best to pursue the possibility of the request in this context, two questions arose which it was agreed to put to the organisation.

58. The first related to the overall attitude of ASOC to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. It was agreed that the Commission would not wish to conclude an agreement to accord observer status to an organisation which was not willing to accord the same degree of support for the principles and objectives of the Convention as is inherent in membership of the Commission or accession to the Convention. The Executive Secretary was therefore requested to ask whether ASOC and its constituent bodies were in a position to state unequivocally that they support the principles and objectives of the Convention as set out in Article II.

59. The Commission saw the potential value of an agreement between it and a body such as ASOC as lying in the establishment of a two-way channel for informed communication between the Commission and the constituent bodies of ASOC. In this connection the question arose as to the constitutional relationship between ASOC and its constituent bodies. The Commission therefore agreed to seek a copy of ASOC's constitution, more particularly as it related to the relationship between ASOC and its constituent bodies and information regarding the mechanisms for eliciting views from the constituent bodies and their transmission to ASOC.

60. If ASOC and its constituent bodies were able to state unequivocally that they support the principles and objectives as set out in Article II, the Commission would then go on to consider whether, on the basis of the constitution of ASOC and the mechanisms referred to above, there was a basis for expecting that a negotiation of an agreement with ASOC in accordance with Article XXIII(4) would be likely to provide for an effective, two-way channel for informed communication which the Commission desires.

61. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary would write to ASOC seeking clarification on these matters, for report back at the next meeting of the Commission.