

CONSIDERATION OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

36. The Commission devoted detailed attention to the Report of the Scientific Committee and agreed upon the following protection measures:

CONSERVATION MEASURE 3/IV

Prohibition of Directed Fishery on *Notothenia rossii*
around South Georgia (Statistical Subarea 48.3)

The Commission hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Article IX of the Convention:

Directed fishing on *N. rossii* around South Georgia (Statistical Subarea 48.3) is prohibited.

By-catches of *N. rossii* in fisheries directed to other species shall be kept to the level allowing the optimum recruitment to the stock.

RESOLUTION 1/IV

Protection of *Notothenia rossii* around
South Georgia (Statistical Subarea 48.3)

The Commission took note of the request made at its last meeting to all parties to refrain from a directed fishery for *N. rossii* and to ensure that the by-catch of *N. rossii* in fishing for other species be avoided. To ensure the continuity of the conservation measures the Commission requests all parties to the Convention:

- (1) To refrain from a directed fishery for *N. rossii* in the 1985/86 season;
- (2) For the 1985/86 season, and pending analysis of data to be made available, the total by-catch is not to exceed 300 tonnes of *N. rossii* in the area around South Georgia (Statistical Subarea 48.3).

RESOLUTION 2/IV

Protection of *Notothenia rossii* in the Peninsula Area (Statistical Subarea 48.1) and around South Orkneys (Statistical Subarea 48.2)

The Commission recognised that it was important that fishing mortality on *N. rossii* should as a precautionary measure be minimised. To this end the Commission requests all parties to the Convention to keep the catch of *N. rossii* in the Peninsular Area (Statistical Subarea 48.1), and around South Orkneys (Statistical Subarea 48.2), in the season 1985/86 to the lowest possible level.

To this end the Commission requests all parties to the Convention in the 1985/86 season:

- (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.

RESOLUTION 3/IV

Protection of *Notothenia rossii* around the Kerguelen Islands (Statistical Subarea 58.5)

The Commission, taking into account the data and analyses presented by the French Delegation to the Fourth Meeting of CCAMLR, requests that directed fishing on the stocks of *N. rossii* in Statistical Subarea 58.5 around the Kerguelen Islands be prohibited.

37. With respect to Conservation Measure 3/IV, there was a widespread view that in the light of the Scientific Committee's assessment of the status of the stock of *N. rossii* in Statistical Subarea 48.3 the level of by-catch allowing the optimum recruitment of the stock would be the level allowing maximum recruitment. This was seen as a reason for recommending a specific by-catch limit for the 1985/86 season. It was also noted that if this limit, designed to ensure necessary selectivity in other directed fisheries were to be reached, all fishing activities in the area would need to cease. The intention expressed by the states engaged in fisheries in this area to provide analyses of by-catch composition from trawl hauls in this area was noted. These data, as well as the detailed data identified by the Scientific Committee, would be essential for the further assessment of fish stocks in Statistical Subarea 48.3 called for prior to the 1986 annual meeting.

38. With respect to Statistical Subareas 48.1 and 48.2, attention was drawn to the Scientific Committee's view regarding the 'urgent need to make assessments of the finfish resources in the vicinity of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Orkney Islands'. The recommendation relating to *N. rossii* in these areas for 1985/86 as an initial precautionary measure reflects concern for these stocks.

39. The Commission agreed, as recommended by the Scientific Committee, that the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment meet during the intersessional period to give particular attention to the finfish stocks in Statistical Subareas 48.1 and 48.2, as well as in 48.3. The Scientific Committee's view was noted that it is essential that the Working Group have full information concerning past fishing activities in these subareas, including length and age composition data, and detailed catch and effort statistics. The Scientific Committee's further view was noted that the Working Group meeting would be unproductive and should not be held if adequate data were not made available.

40. In the context of the discussion of Subareas 48.1 and 48.2, it was noted that the Scientific Committee had recommended that 'to prevent over-exploitation it would be desirable to establish measures limiting fisheries activities in such areas until such time as data are sufficient to estimate fishery productivity in these areas'. In the view of many members, should sufficient data not be forthcoming for adequate estimates of fishery productivity in these areas, this would necessitate consideration of further precautionary measures pending availability of such data.

41. It was noted that the Scientific Committee had reported that 'despite repeated requests, finfish fishery data either have not been supplied, arrived too late, or were inadequate for stock assessment'. It was urged that all parties to the Convention should ensure that finfish fishery data are supplied in a timely and complete form.

42. The delegation of Australia expressed particular concern at the way in which it believed that, in adopting present conservation measures, the Commission was diverging from the unique ecosystem approach on which the Convention was based. That delegation formally proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the fifth session of the Commission an item structured towards defining a conservation and management strategy for Antarctic marine living resources. Australia proposed to submit a paper on this issue for the fifth meeting and invited other members of the Commission to do the same.

43. The delegation of New Zealand associated itself with the concern expressed by the delegation of Australia.