

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

47. Reports by the CCAMLR observers at the International Whaling Commission, reports on the XVIII Meeting of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, on the joint International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research Symposium on Scientific Requirements for Antarctic Conservation and on the 72nd Meeting of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea were circulated and noted.

48. The Commission considered a letter that had been received from the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) in response to the Commission's decision at its last meeting (CCAMLR-III, paragraphs 54–61). The Commission took the view that there remained some room for doubt as to the adherence of the member organisations of ASOC to the principles and purposes of the Convention, in particular those contained in Article II, and, in view of ASOC having no constitution, its durability as an organisation, the relationship of its representatives with member organisations and, therefore, exactly how communication between the Commission and the member organisations of ASOC would work in practice.

49. The Commission therefore decided to draw these points to the attention of ASOC and seek its further views. The Commission also agreed, without commitment on its part, to let ASOC know of the sorts of conditions the Commission had in mind which should apply to a representative organisation such as ASOC in the event that the Commission decided to enter into an agreement with such an organisation.

50. It was agreed that the Executive Secretary should write to ASOC accordingly.

51. The Commission also had before it, a renewed request for observer status from Greenpeace International. The Commission noted that Greenpeace International was a member organisation of ASOC and was of the view that it was preferable for the time being to continue to investigate the possibility of establishing an appropriate channel for informed two-way communication between the Commission and interested non-governmental organisations through a representative umbrella organisation.