

PUBLICATIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PREPARATION OF MEETING DOCUMENTS

85. In discussing this item last year, the Commission noted that publications concerning the work of the Commission and Scientific Committee were currently being made freely available and agreed that this practice be reviewed by the Executive Secretary during the intersessional period and discussed at this meeting. A paper was distributed as CCAMLR-V/9.

86. The Secretariat had provided a complete dissection of the production and distribution costs of the Commission and Scientific Committee's publications and presented various options for a charge policy.

87. Some delegates expressed concern at the rising cost of publications and postage but there was a general view that it would be unwise to introduce any measures which would prevent the results of the Commission's deliberations from being widely known or would impede the dissemination of important scientific information.

88. It was agreed to continue the current policy of free distribution of Commission and Scientific Committee publications, but the Executive Secretary was encouraged to keep procedures under review and to take any opportunities to reduce costs in the production and distribution of documents.

89. The Commission noted that the English version of the FAO Species Identification Sheets for Fishery Purposes Southern Ocean had been completed in May 1986. The French version of this work is expected to be ready for distribution in early 1987. The Spanish version is expected to be completed by the end of 1987.

90. The Commission acknowledged the importance and value of the document as a reference for those actively involved in Antarctic marine activities and noted that demand for it was likely to be very high. In this situation a departure from the present policy of free availability may be necessary in order to ensure that the limited number of copies were made available to those who would benefit most.

91. It was agreed that no charge would be made for the Species Identification Sheets and, to ensure the most effective distribution, each Member would provide the Secretariat with the name and address of a person nominated by that Member to take responsibility for distribution to

organisations and individual scientists in his or her country. The number of sets of the volumes required would also be passed to the Secretariat.

Members' Activities Reports

92. Last year the Secretariat was asked by the Scientific Committee to develop more specific guidelines to assist Members in preparing their reports in a more standardised format.

93. In the process of preparing the new draft guidelines it became apparent that, in addition to the summaries of fishing and research activities which were currently being provided to the Scientific Committee in the Reports of Members' Activities, both the Commission and the Scientific Committee were in need of an arrangement that regularly provided them with information on the fulfilment of their recommendations and decisions.

94. These views were presented to the Commission in SC-CAMLR-V/7 and incorporated into the new guidelines for the preparation and submission of Reports of Members' Activities in the Convention Area.

95. The Commission acknowledged the value of the information sought in the Reports and the obligations of Members to report on steps taken to implement decisions of the Commission and Scientific Committee. The Commission endorsed the new guidelines for the preparation and submission of Members' Activities in the Convention Area.