

REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION PROVISIONS

59. The Commission, in considering this item, took account of the views of the Scientific Committee expressed in paragraphs 14.9–14.11 of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Committee. It also considered information and views contained in papers presented by the Secretariat (CCAMLR-V/7), Poland (CCAMLR-V/13) and the United Kingdom (CCAMLR-V/18). It noted that in order to reliably assess and monitor the status of Antarctic marine living resources it will be necessary from time to time to conduct fishing for research purposes in areas and at times when fishing has been prohibited. Such fishing may involve the take of protected species and size classes, and the use of prohibited fishing gear and techniques. It may be done by permanent research vessels or by vessels normally engaged in commercial fishing or fishery support activities that are employed or chartered for research purposes.

60. The Commission noted that fishing for research purposes, while essential, could interfere with efforts to encourage recovery of depleted species and populations and could constitute wasteful use of both living resources and committed ship support if the survey effort or design were inadequate to provide statistically valid data. It concluded that fishing for research purposes should be designed and carried out so as to minimise possible adverse effects on protected species and populations while providing for timely acquisition of information needed for essential assessment and monitoring purposes. Towards this end, the Commission agreed that:

- (a) prior to the next meeting of the Commission, the Secretariat would compile a Registry of Permanent Research Vessels operated by Parties and that may engage in fishing for research purposes in the Convention Area;
- (b) to expedite compilation of this Registry, Members would provide to the Executive Secretary the following information for all permanent research vessels that may engage in fishing for research purposes in the Convention Area:
 - (i) name of vessel;
 - (ii) name of vessel owner and address;
 - (iii) port of registration, registration number and radio call sign;
 - (iv) vessel type, size, fish processing and storage capacity; and
 - (v) gear type and fishing capacity.
- (c) any Member planning to use commercial fishing or fishery support vessels to conduct fishing for research purposes in closed areas or seasons, or likely to involve the catching of protected species or size classes, or the use of prohibited gear or fishing

techniques, shall notify and provide the opportunity for other Members to review and comment on their research plans. Except in unusual circumstances, plans for such research shall be provided to the Secretariat for distribution to Members at least six months in advance of the planned starting date.

- (d) such plans for research fishing using commercial fishing or fishery support vessels shall include:
 - (i) a statement of the planned research objectives;
 - (ii) a description of when, where, and what activities are planned including the number and duration of hauls being planned;
 - iii) the name(s) of the chief scientist(s) responsible for planning and co-ordinating the research, and the number of scientists and crew expected to be aboard the vessel(s); and
 - (iv) the name, type, size, registration number, and radio call sign of the vessel(s).
- (e) a summary of the results of such research fishing shall be provided to the Scientific Committee no later than 30 September of the year following completion of the research. A full report shall be provided as soon as possible.

Development of a Conservation Strategy for Antarctic Marine Living Resources

61. The Commission noted the paper submitted by the Australian delegation on the development of a conservation strategy for Antarctic marine living resources (Doc. CCAMLR-V/11), and that it had been discussed in an *ad hoc* working group.

62. The Commission acknowledged its responsibility for the conservation and rational use of Antarctic marine living resources and affirmed that any fishery or related activity within the Convention area must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. The Commission noted the limitations of existing knowledge of the Antarctic ecosystem, and, in this connection, the role of the Scientific Committee as a centre for consultations and co-operation in the areas of collection, exchange and study of information about Antarctic marine living resources. It

stressed the need to ensure that no long-term irreversible damage is done to these resources while comprehensive conservation measures are being further developed.

63. The Commission recognised the importance of developing a process for defining a strategy for the progressive achievement of the objectives of the Convention, as set out in Article II.

64. The Commission therefore decided:

to establish a working group to be convened by Australia to carry forward the development of possible conservation approaches for achieving the objectives of the Convention, as set out in Article II, by the application of the conservation measures specified in Article IX;

to invite members to forward relevant submissions to the Secretariat as early as possible in the intersessional period;

to request the Secretariat to collate submissions and circulate them not less than three months prior to the next annual meeting of the Commission; and

that a meeting of the working group will be convened in conjunction with the next annual meeting of the Commission for the purpose of preparing for a discussion of this matter under a specific agenda item.