

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

118. The Chairman reported that the Commission had been represented by Belgium at the XIVth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in Brazil in October 1987. A report of the observer had been distributed as CCAMLR-VI/BG/6.

119. The French delegate reported on the work of the XVII Session of FAO Fisheries Committee (Rome 17–22 May, 1987) in which he participated as CCAMLR observer. He briefly outlined the items which had been discussed: Review of the situation regarding worldwide fisheries, outcome of the 1984 'World Conference on Fisheries', issues related to trade in fishing products, and marking and identification of fishing vessels. As regards the protection of marine animals against entanglement in fishing nets and other debris, the observer pointed out the steps already taken by CCAMLR concerning this matter. The Committee had acknowledged the efforts made by CCAMLR and thought it valuable to pursue the campaign of awareness which should be conducted through international co-operation through the participation of several organisations including United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The FAO Secretariat had also informed the Committee on the state of international co-operation between its own institution and certain organisations outside FAO. Mention was made by the Secretariat of the close co-operation which had been established with CCAMLR.

120. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that he had attended, with the Chairman's agreement, the 1987 Meeting of the International Whaling Commission as the CCAMLR observer. The meeting was held in the United Kingdom in June 1987 and at that time the Executive Secretary was in Europe attending meetings related to the Scientific Committee. In his report, distributed as CCAMLR-VI/12, the Executive Secretary drew attention to two items of particular interest to CCAMLR, the proposal for a jointly sponsored Workshop on the Feeding Ecology of Southern Baleen Whales, a matter currently before the CCAMLR Scientific Committee, and the issue of special permits to take whales for scientific research. A similar matter was considered by the CCAMLR Commission at its last meeting. The Executive Secretary stressed the value in periodically being able to attend meetings of other international bodies. It provides a special opportunity to compare methods and procedures and to look for possible improvements in the services provided by the CCAMLR Secretariat. He informed the Commission that it was sometimes difficult to arrange for representation of the Commission at meetings, and asked the Commission during its meeting to nominate its observer to meetings which it was invited to attend in the following year. He advised the Commission that the 1988 Meeting of the International Whaling Commission would be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

121. The Commission took note of the Executive Secretary's comments and agreed that as far as practicable, arrangements should be made to have a member of a participating delegation act as its representative at meetings of other organisations. New Zealand agreed to the Commission's request to be the CCAMLR observer at the 1988 Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

122. The Observer of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) emphasised the particularly close and privileged relationships which bind SCAR to CCAMLR and especially to its Scientific Committee. Numerous studies carried out by the Working Groups and the SCAR Groups of Specialists have been used by the Scientific Committee of CCAMLR since its establishment, for example the review of Antarctic fish stock (BIOMASS Scientific Series No. 6) and the review (in press) on krill. SCAR has always responded favourably to the requests it has received from the Scientific Committee and wishes to continue to maintain a close scientific relationship with the Commission. A document has been submitted concerning data collected on early life stages of fish (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/25).

123. The Observer of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) pointed out that the BIOMASS program (the FIBEX and SIBEX cruise results of which are often mentioned in the work and discussions of the Scientific Committee) was set up by a group of specialists belonging to both SCAR and SCOR. This group has since been disbanded but another Group of Specialists on the Ecology of the Southern Ocean was set up in 1986 and has similarly been placed under the co-sponsorship of SCOR. SCOR has submitted a report on its XVIII General Assembly (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/37).

124. The Observer of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) conveyed to the Commission that the IOC wishes to continue being associated with the work of CCAMLR and recalled that an IOC/CCAMLR Scientific Seminar on the Variability of the Southern Ocean and its Influence on Marine living Resources, Particularly Krill, was held in Paris in June 1987 at UNESCO. Dr Sahrhage, the Convener of the Seminar and former Chairman of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee, submitted a report (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/3) to CCAMLR. The IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean met in Paris from 9 to 12 June 1987 and Dr Sahrhage, as Chairman, submitted a report to CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-VI/BG/7).

125. The Commission concluded the discussion by agreeing that the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) be invited to participate as observers in the 1988 Meeting of the Commission.

126. The Chairman reminded the Commission that following consideration at the last meeting of the application for observer status by the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), consultations had been held among Members but consensus had not been reached.

127. Several delegations expressed regret that it had not been possible to come to an agreement to invite ASOC to attend the Meeting as an observer, following the lengthy discussion on this matter at the last meeting. They indicated their belief that the participation of an appropriate umbrella organisation representing non-governmental conservation groups could assist in the work of the Commission. They also indicated that if ASOC indicated its intention to apply for observer status, they would seek to have an item included on the agenda for the next meeting. The Chairman was reminded of the possibility of intersessional action under Rule 31.

128. The Commission noted that it was the right of any Member to put forward items for inclusion on the agenda of a Commission meeting.