

UNEXPLOITED AND UNDER-EXPLOITED FISHERY RESOURCES

9.1 The Commission considered the Scientific Committee's response to the questions on new fisheries that had been posed at the 1989 Meeting (CCAMLR-VIII, paragraph 123) after the issue had been raised by WG-DAC (CCAMLR-VIII, Annex E). The Scientific Committee's response is to be found in paragraph 3.102 of its report (SC-CAMLR-IX) and paragraphs 282 to 294 of Annex 5 of its report.

9.2 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee recommended that the approach to new and developing fisheries suggested by WG-FSA should be taken into account in the management of those fisheries (SC-CAMLR-IX, paragraph 8.7).

9.3 The Commission agreed with the principle that the development of a new fishery should be directly linked with the process of elaborating scientific advice and management in respect of the fishery. This is to ensure that such development does not outpace the ability of the Commission to achieve the objectives of Article II.

9.4 The Scientific Committee had listed information (SC-CAMLR-IX, Annex 5, paragraph 289) that would be important for assessing the potential yield of a new fishery. This information should be considered before a new fishery begins to develop so that the Commission can be satisfied that the development of the fishery will proceed in accordance with the objectives in Article II.

9.5 It was emphasised that the development of measures directed at informing the Commission of the intention to conduct a fishery in the Convention Area was of importance in assisting the Commission in implementing Articles II and IX of the Convention.

9.6 The Swedish Delegation put forward a proposal for a measure that would require Members who intended developing new fisheries in the Convention Area to notify the Commission in advance of a new fishery being started in order for the Scientific Committee and the Commission to consider the matter prior to the fishery's inception.

9.7 All delegations welcomed a measure of this kind as being necessary for the work of the Commission. However, reservations were expressed by some delegations concerning the legal implications of the measure, and appropriate definitions of new and developing fisheries.

9.8 The Commission agreed that during the intersessional period, until this issue has been considered at its 1991 Meeting, Members should conform to the basic idea of advance notification of any new fishery.

9.9 It was agreed that the Commission should consider a conservation measure aimed at new and developing fisheries at its meeting in 1991. In the meantime, the Executive Secretary was requested to contact Members and management organisations concerning appropriate definitions of 'new and developing fisheries' and prepare a working document for the next meeting of the Commission.

9.10 Chile emphasised that an important component of the Scientific Committee's advice to the Commission on a new fishery is the specification of the data required for the formulation of future advice. They also drew attention to the importance of obtaining full fisheries and scientific information during the development of a new fishery. In this regard, the Commission agreed that it is particularly important that Members promptly fulfil their obligation under Article XX to provide statistical, biological and other information.