

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

11.1 At the 44th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which was held in June-July 1992 (Glasgow, Scotland), CCAMLR was represented by the USA. In presenting his report (CCAMLR-XI/BG/13), the Delegate of the USA briefly described results of the meeting relating to the following subjects of interest to CCAMLR: comprehensive assessment of whale stocks, whale sanctuaries, research on the environment and whale stocks in Antarctica, scientific whaling, infractions and the Second International Decade of Cetacean Research. The Commission took note of this report.

11.2 At the Meeting of the IWC (June 1992) France submitted a proposal to establish a “Whale Sanctuary” in the Southern Ocean. The IWC passed a Resolution to give full consideration to the proposal at its next meeting in light of detailed advice from its Scientific Committee. This advice is to take into account invited comments from CCAMLR and other relevant organisations.

11.3 The following documents were available to the Commission with regard to the matter: CCAMLR-XI/BG/13, SC-CAMLR-XI/12, 14, 15 and SC-CAMLR-XI/BG/12, 17 and 18. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had considered the IWC request to comment on the scientific matters raised in this proposal. The comments of the Scientific Committee are found in paragraphs 10.5 to 10.7 of its report. The Commission agreed that these comments would constitute the CCAMLR response to the IWC. Those comments were as follows:

- (i) The Scientific Committee considered the request of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to comment on the scientific matters raised in a proposal by the government of France that the IWC designate all waters south of 40° south latitude as a whale sanctuary (SC-CAMLR-XI/12). It was also aware of an IWC resolution on the need for research on the environment and whale stocks in the Antarctic region, which calls for exchange of information between the IWC and CCAMLR (SC-CAMLR-XI/14).
- (ii) The Scientific Committee recognised that the IWC is the global international organisation with authority for the management of whales. Accordingly, the Scientific Committee agreed that it should confine its discussion to scientific

aspects of the proposal. There was a range of views on the scientific basis of the proposal and its relationship to the IWC's Revised Management Procedure, but no advice could be offered that had not already been reflected in the discussions of this topic by the Scientific Committee of IWC. However, the CCAMLR Scientific Committee welcomed further cooperation with the IWC Scientific Committee in investigating the role of whales in the Southern Ocean ecosystem.

- (iii) The Scientific Committee noted that the minke whale was one of the original indicator species proposed under CEMP and that the results of substantial directed research into potential monitoring parameters had been reported to WG-CEMP. The minke whale no longer appeared on the list of indicator species simply because no specific proposals, including methods for monitoring had been received. The Scientific Committee considered that it was desirable for any IWC program of research and monitoring on minke whales to include the development of methods addressing parameters of relevance to CEMP. The Scientific Committee would be happy to assist in these endeavours.

11.4 The next meeting of the IWC will be held in Kyoto (Japan). It was proposed that CCAMLR should be represented as an observer at the meeting by Japan, the host country of the meeting. The Delegation of Japan agreed to represent CCAMLR at the meeting.

11.5 CCAMLR was represented at a "Technical Consultation on High Seas Fishing" organised by FAO and the UN and held in Rome from 7 to 15 September 1992. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee had been nominated to represent CCAMLR but, in the event, was not able to attend and Mr S. Olsen (Norway) acted as observer on his behalf. The Chairman of the Scientific Committee presented Mr Olsen's report (CCAMLR-XI/BG/12). The report was also considered at the meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XI, paragraph 10.23). The Technical Consultation was held upon the recommendation of FAO. The Commission noted that FAO had undertaken to draft a "code of conduct" on responsible fishing practices in consultation with other international organisations. The Commission agreed that CCAMLR should follow closely the development of the "code of conduct" and participate as necessary in the preparation of documents for the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference as decided by UNCED.

11.6 The Chairman of the Scientific Committee observed that the papers prepared for the Technical Consultation demonstrated the very limited level of awareness of CCAMLR. The Commission agreed that the Executive Secretary should write to the FAO to inform it of the objectives of the CCAMLR Convention and the work of the Commission and its Scientific Committee.

11.7 The observer from ASOC (Dr M. De Poorter) urged the Commission to communicate to the Parties of the Montreal Protocol CCAMLR's concern with regard to the effects of ozone depletion on the Southern Ocean ecosystem and to request them to take all possible measures to achieve the fastest reduction of stratospheric chlorine loading on the Antarctic.

11.8 The Chairman of the Commission stated that concern for the ozone layer depletion ranked high within the Agenda 21 of UNCED, as he had reported (CCAMLR-XI/BG/20); that several information papers had been submitted on the effects of UV-B, the biologically damaging wave-lengths of ultraviolet radiations on the Antarctic marine environment, to the present meeting of the Commission; but that the proper course was to reflect these concerns in the report rather than addressing the Parties to another international instrument - an action that, in the past, had been more adequately taken by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative meetings.

11.9 The Commission expressed concern at the potential impact of ozone depletion on the marine environment of the Southern Ocean and noted that substantial efforts were being made within SCAR's International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) to investigate this matter. Members felt that close liaison with SCAR on this issue should be maintained.