

OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION

6.1 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection (SCOI) Ambassador J. Arvesen (Norway) introduced the report of the Committee. The Committee had considered two agenda items referred to it by the Commission, Item 6 “Observation and Inspection” and Item 7 “Compliance with Conservation Measures in Force”. A copy of the SCOI report is appended as Annex 5.

Reports of Inspection

6.2 During the 1991/92 season Inspectors operating under the CCAMLR System of Inspection and designated by the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and USA carried out inspections on 18 vessels in the Convention Area. The United Kingdom also submitted a report of an attempted inspection in which the team of inspectors was not able to board the vessel because of bad weather and sea conditions.

6.3 An inspection on board a Chilean vessel indicated a problem in interpreting the text of Conservation Measure 29/X, “Minimisation of the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in the Course of Longline Fishing or Longline Fishing Research in the Convention Area”. It was recommended that the Commission clarify the text of the conservation measure in order to avoid any ambiguity in its interpretation.

6.4 It was noted in the inspection reports that captains of Ukrainian and Russian vessels were well aware of CCAMLR regulations and the operation of the System of Inspection. It was also noted that Chile had undertaken an extensive education program to ensure that Chilean captains understood the role of CCAMLR in Antarctic fisheries and were familiar with CCAMLR regulations.

6.5 A detailed procedure for processing reports of inspection was discussed by SCOI and is appended to the SCOI Report (Annex 5, Appendix I).

Development of a Scheme of International Scientific Observation

6.6 The Chairman of SCOI reported with some satisfaction that the text of a Scheme of International Scientific Observation had been agreed by the Committee. The Scheme incorporates a list of functions and tasks of international scientific observers.

6.7 Attention was drawn to paragraph 22 of the SCOI Report in which the Committee noted that, while acknowledging that the Scheme applied equally to harvesting vessels and research vessels, it was likely that in the early stages of its implementation, observations would primarily be carried out on board harvesting vessels. It was also recognised there would almost certainly be need for review of the Scheme as experience in its operation was attained.

6.8 Possible limitations in application of the Scheme had been noted by SCOI. While fully supporting the adoption of the Scheme and strongly recommending its immediate implementation, France and South Africa expressed their regret at having to reserve their positions on the Scheme's application in their respective Exclusive Economic Zones around Kerguelen and Crozet Islands and around the Prince Edward Islands. It was explained that such reservation had as its objective the establishment, in all cases, of a direct bilateral agreement between the designating Member and the coastal state involved. It was also emphasised that such reservation was in no way intended to restrict the collection of appropriate scientific information within these zones.

6.9 The Committee noted that paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Statement by the Chairman of the Conference on the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources on 19 May, 1980, apply to the proposed Scheme of International Scientific Observation.

6.10 The Committee recommended that the Commission adopt the agreed text of the Scheme (Annex 5, Appendix 2).

6.11 The Commission adopted the SCOI Report with all its recommendations, including the text of the Scheme of International Scientific Observation and the Procedure for Processing Reports of Inspection. The Commission expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved and its gratitude to the Chairman of the Committee.

6.12 The Delegation of the USA informed Members that the US Government had allocated funds for placing US-designated scientific observers on board vessels operating in the Convention Area. The money had been deposited in a special fund established for the purpose, in accordance with the CCAMLR Financial Regulations.