

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Reports of Observers from Other International Organisations

11.1 Observers from FAO, SCOR, IWC, IOC, CCSBT, ASOC and IUCN attended the meeting and were invited to present their reports.

11.2 The FAO Observer, Dr R. Shotton, referred to his earlier comments documented in the report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Scientific Committee and stressed FAO's interest in both the successes and problems of CCAMLR as a fisheries management organisation. These were of interest in that both lessons and experiences may be gained which are of relevance to the activities of the Fisheries Department of FAO, and to client countries and organisations that FAO serves.

11.3 FAO regretted that it had been unable to observe the sessions of the Standing Committees of the Fourteenth Meeting. FAO would be particularly interested in questions of management problems, and especially their solutions, in the CCAMLR region that were addressed by these committees. FAO will correspond with CCAMLR in the intersessional period to explore these problems.

11.4 The SCOR Observer, Dr I. Everson, expressed his thanks to the Commission for its invitation to attend CCAMLR-XIV. He noted that SCOR had active programs on sea-ice ecology (SCOR WG-86), global ocean flux (JGOFS) and Southern Ocean - Global Ocean Ecosystems Dynamics (SO-GLOBEC). Components of these programs have relevance to the work of the Scientific Committee and consequently he looked forward to continued collaboration between CCAMLR and SCOR.

11.5 The observer from IWC, Mr J. Bannister, referred to a number of current or future projects involving cooperation between CCAMLR and IWC, as detailed in the report of the Scientific Committee. They include scientific participation in a steering group meeting on research related to the conservation of large baleen whales earlier in the year (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 11.15), the involvement of CCAMLR scientists in a symposium/workshop on the effects of climate change on cetaceans to be held in March 1996 (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 11.16), and CCAMLR's request to IWC for ongoing information on interactions between cetaceans and fisheries (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 11.23), as well as for updated estimates of whale stock sizes (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraph 3.69). He expressed the view that IWC would be interested in receiving further information on the planned symposium on the biology of krill (SC-CCAMLR-XIV, paragraphs 4.23 and 4.24).

11.6 The observer from IOC, Prof. P. Quilty, when presenting his report (SC-CAMLR-XIV/BG/19), noted that there were many IOC programs in the Southern Ocean in which CCAMLR has a clear interest. When reviewing programs proposed, IOC takes into account programs of other organisations. Professor Quilty was pleased to see that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee would be attending the First Southern Ocean Forum to be held at Bremerhaven, Germany, from 9 to 13 September 1996.

11.7 On behalf of the Chairman of CCSBT, the observer from CCSBT, Mr N. Hermes, expressed gratitude to the Commission for taking the initiative to establish links between the organisations. He expressed assurance that these links would lead to close collaboration in the future.

11.8 The observer from ASOC presented CCAMLR-XIV/BG/30. ASOC continues to place a high priority on CCAMLR, and encourages its work towards developing an operational application of the precautionary approach. ASOC believes that developments to date put CCAMLR, in theory at least, in the forefront of fisheries management. However, ASOC expressed concern about CCAMLR's progress in practice. In particular, problems with the enforcement of conservation measures and continued mortality of sea birds in longline fisheries were highlighted. ASOC also urged a reconsideration of CCAMLR's budget given recent increases in fisheries, particularly those of high value. In conclusion, ASOC expressed its desire to continue to participate in and contribute to the work of the Commission.

11.9 The IUCN Observer, Mr A. Graham, noted problems CCAMLR is having curbing illegal fishing and enforcing conservation measures, and commented that this would threaten CCAMLR's status as a model fisheries agreement. The Commission was urged to address these problems intersessionally and to be determined to adopt adequate measures to solve them at its next meeting.

11.10 Concern was also expressed by the IUCN Observer that some Commission Members considered that CCAMLR was not a fisheries agreement and that the UNCLOS Agreement was thus not relevant to the CCAMLR Convention Area or to the Commission's work. IUCN wished to emphasise its view that CCAMLR is very much a fisheries agreement - albeit a special one, but not an exceptional one.

11.11 At the time of the adoption of the report, the Delegations of Chile and Argentina expressed their disagreement and concern that some observers had exceeded their role and were interfering in political matters under discussion in the Commission.

Reports of CCAMLR Representatives at Meetings of Other International Organisations

11.12 During the intersessional period, CCAMLR was represented at the following meetings;

- UN Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;
- Twenty-first Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI);
- Sixteenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP);
- FFA's Fifth Technical Consultation on Fishing Vessel Monitoring Systems;
- Forty-seventh Annual Meeting of IWC;
- Ninth Special Meeting of ICCAT;
- Second Meeting of CCSBT;
- Twenty-sixth Meeting of FFA;
- Multilateral High Level Conference on South Pacific Tuna Fisheries; and
- Thirty-fifth South Pacific Conference (SPC).

11.13 The Commission was represented as an observer at the UN Conference on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks by Argentina. In presenting the report on this Conference (CCAMLR-XIV/BG/20), the Representative of Argentina pointed out that the Conference had put much effort into ensuring that agreements were reached on this important matter.

11.14 The observer to COFI, the Executive Secretary, reported that he had informed COFI of measures taken by the Commission to assess and minimise the incidental mortality of seabirds resulting from longline fishing, and requested information from COFI on measures that have been taken by others. The Executive Secretary noted that, to support the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and UNCED, COFI has developed a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

11.15 The Executive Secretary also represented the Commission at the Sixteenth session of CWP. At this meeting revised proposed statutes were presented. These had already been approved by Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and require endorsement by other participants in CWP. The proposed statutes were presented to the Commission in CCAMLR-XIV/7 and the Commission agreed to endorse them as presented.

11.16 Australia stated that it had not had time to consider fully the implications of the new CWP statutes prior to their adoption by the Commission. It was principally concerned that the very high standard currently set by CCAMLR for its fishery statistics should not be compromised by the decisions of the CWP.

11.17 The Executive Secretary re-assured Members that CCAMLR would not need to adopt any recommendations of the CWP that were not in CCAMLR's interests of maintaining the quality of its statistics.

11.18 In accordance with last year's decision of SCOI, the Science Officer attended the Fifth Consultation on Vessel Monitoring convened by FFA. The meeting agreed that the Inmarsat-C/GPS-based system was the most effective and efficient method for monitoring vessels in the high seas areas. Methods have been developed to assign a 'signature' to individual vessels to assist identification and it is hoped that this will provide a legal basis for proving that vessels are, for example, improperly operating in an area closed for fishing. Unfortunately this has yet to be tested in the courts. Comments of technical experts who participated in the meeting were taken into account in the preparation of a draft configuration of a CCAMLR Fishing Monitoring Centre (FMC) (CCAMLR-XIV/14).

11.19 The observer to IWC, UK, indicated that its report of the plenary meeting (CCAMLR-XIV/BG/21) contained no matters of relevance to CCAMLR that had not already been addressed in the discussion of this item by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XIV, paragraphs 11.14 to 11.23). The observer to ICCAT (Spain) advised that there were no other matters than those already reflected in its report (CCAMLR-XIV/BG/6) which would require additional attention of the meeting.

11.20 The observer to the Second Meeting of CCSBT presented his report (CCAMLR-XIV/BG/29) and noted that CCSBT had established a working group on ecologically related species, whose terms of reference are directed to the investigation of relationships between the fishery, its target species and species interacting with these, including seabirds. This is of particular interest to CCAMLR because the area covered by CCSBT is adjacent to the Convention Area.

Future Cooperation

11.21 The following observers were nominated for meetings during the 1995/96 intersessional period:

- Thirty-second Executive Committee Meeting of SCOR, November 1995, Cape Town, South Africa - South Africa;
- Fourteenth Meeting of ICCAT, November 1995, Madrid, Spain - Spain;
- XX ATCM, April/May 1996, Netherlands - Executive Secretary;
- FFA Annual Meeting, May 1996 - New Zealand;
- Forty-eighth Annual Meeting of IWC, June 1996, Aberdeen, UK - UK;
- ICCAT Tuna Symposium, June/July 1996, San Miguel Is, Portugal - Spain (subject to confirmation);
- Third CCSBT, July 1996, Canberra, Australia - New Zealand;
- XXIV SCAR meetings, August 1996, Cambridge, UK - UK;
- XXIII General Meeting of SCOR, September 1996, Southampton, UK - UK; and
- SPC, Noumea, ? 1996 - France.