

**COMMUNICATION POLICY TO NON-MEMBER STATES
RELATED TO IRREGULAR FISHING WITH
REGARD TO CCAMLR RULES**

**COMMUNICATION POLICY TO NON-MEMBER STATES
RELATED TO IRREGULAR FISHING WITH
REGARD TO CCAMLR RULES**

Dear Minister,

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, signed in Canberra in 1980, established a Commission whose aims include ensuring that fishing activities are carried out in a responsible manner in the extensive area surrounding the Antarctic continent and that its dependent and associated ecosystems are protected. At present there are 23 Members of the Commission (a list of Members and a map of the Convention Area are attached to this letter). Six other States have acceded to the Convention without, however, wishing at this stage to become Members of the Commission.

Each year the Commission adopts conservation measures which, *inter alia*, set catch limits consistent with sustainable harvesting of fisheries resources. You will no doubt be aware that eventually overfishing will severely or totally deplete these resources. It is therefore important that these limits should be respected.

A vessel, [name and registration number], flying the [country] flag has been sighted undertaking fishing activities at [geographical coordinates] within the CCAMLR Convention Area on [date]. The Commission considers that this activity will undermine the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the Southern Ocean.

It is vital that all States whose vessels undertake fishing operations in the CCAMLR Convention Area agree to protect marine living resources, and to ensure that management measures are respected by their fishermen. I would inform you that all States whose vessels undertake fishing operations in the CCAMLR Convention Area or which take an interest in the conservation of the living resources in that area may accede to the Convention. Therefore, on behalf of the Commission, I hereby invite you to take steps to ensure that your flag vessels do not continue to act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention and to consider acceding to the Convention under the provision of Article XXIX (1) which states: 'This Convention shall be open for accession by any State interested in research or harvesting activities in relation to the marine living resources to which this Convention applies.'

In accordance with the Commission's decision, I will have the honour of conveying your response to this letter to its Members and Acceding States. Thanking you for your reply, I wish to take this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

Chairman of the Commission

cc: Parties to the Convention

Encl.: Basic Documents