

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

XX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

10.1 The XX Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) was held in Utrecht, Netherlands, from 29 April to 10 May 1996. CCAMLR had been invited to attend the meeting as an observer and was represented by its Executive Secretary, Mr E. de Salas, as was agreed at last year's meeting (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraph 10.5). The statement of the Executive Secretary at the ATCM was tabled as CCAMLR-XV/BG/7.

10.2 The Executive Secretary highlighted the following matters covered in his statement: fishing in the Convention Area in the 1994/95 season: fisheries open in the Convention Area in the 1995/96 season, their respective TACs and the conservation measures applicable; the more generic elements of the science of Antarctic resource management; the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation; prevention of incidental mortality of seabirds during fishing operations; marine debris; the CCAMLR System of Inspection; and cooperation between CCAMLR and other elements of the Antarctic Treaty System. The response of last year's meeting on the draft Annex on Liability to the Protocol on Environmental Protection (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraph 10.9) was sent by the Chairman to the host government of ATCM XX and was copied as an attachment to the Executive Secretary's statement.

10.3 The Executive Secretary's report to the Commission summarised those matters discussed at the ATCM which could be of interest to Members of CCAMLR. His report can be found in CCAMLR-XV/BG/8.

10.4 The XXI Antarctic Consultative Party Meeting will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from 19 to 30 May 1997. An invitation has been received from the host government, New Zealand, to attend ATCM XXI and it was agreed that the Executive Secretary should represent the Commission at this meeting.

10.5 As host government to the next ATCM, New Zealand presented a paper explaining the change in status of Specially Protected Areas (SPAs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which would come about with the entry into force of Annex V of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (CCAMLR-XV/14). In particular, Annex V required that approval of a site which included a marine area required the prior agreement of CCAMLR. The paper pointed out that in this respect there was not yet any precise definition of a 'marine area'. The Commission decided that it should await the ATCM's advice as to the definition of a marine area.

Cooperation with SCAR

10.6 Reports from observers at the meetings of XXIV SCAR had been presented to the Scientific Committee and are summarised in SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4. In reviewing the numerous items of interest to CCAMLR, the Scientific Committee had identified two issues of concern. The first was that the disbanding of the SCAR/SCOR Group of Specialists on Southern Ocean Ecology could substantially reduce the scope for collaborative work between SCAR scientists and WG-EMM (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 11.5); the Commission endorsed this view.

10.7 The second issue of concern was that SCAR had agreed to consult CCAMLR, among others, with a view to providing a proposal to the XXI ATCM on how to prepare a report on the state of the Antarctic environment. The Commission endorsed the view of the Scientific Committee that this would entail a substantial amount of work for CCAMLR scientists and the Secretariat (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 11.7). The Commission therefore agreed that no action on this matter should be taken until it had been clarified by the ATCM.