

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

11.1 During the intersessional period, CCAMLR, as a member of the Coordinating Working Party of Fishery Statistics (CWP), had been asked by CWP Secretary to comment on applications received from SPC and IWC to join CWP. No Member had objected to IWC joining CWP, but Japan had expressed a reservation with respect to SPC's application.

11.2 The Delegation of Japan explained its reservations to the meeting. Japan had no doubts about the competence of SPC on statistical work and would welcome its being involved with the work of CWP as an observer. However, only the regional island states were members of the SPC and Japan, as a long-distance fishing nation, was not eligible for membership of SPC. It had special arrangements with SPC for providing data, but such provision was made in accordance with specific arrangements as to the use of the data.

11.3 Further, Japan believed that consultations would be taking place which would establish a new organisation covering regional island nations and nations fishing in the area, and it was of the view that such an organisation would be more appropriate as a member of CWP.

11.4 As there was no consensus agreeing to the membership of SPC, the Commission was unable to support the application of SPC to become a member of CWP.

Reports of Observers from Other International Organisations

11.5 Observers from ASOC, CCSBT, IOC and IUCN attended the meeting and were invited to present their reports.

11.6 The observer from ASOC, Dr M. De Poorter, presented ASOC's report to the Fifteenth Meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR-XV/BG/32). She stated that several issues challenge CCAMLR as a credible conservation and fisheries management regime. ASOC expressed support for the principle of harmonisation of *Dissostichus* spp. fisheries management throughout Antarctic waters. ASOC expressed concern about the high catch levels proposed for these new fisheries and stated that, in its opinion, such catch limits as a transition should be an order of magnitude below existing TACs for areas with established commercial catches. ASOC further mentioned the issues of illegal fishing, particularly in the longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. and its expansion throughout the Southern Ocean, and the continued high incidence of daylight setting of longlines in contravention of Conservation Measure 29/XIV. ASOC expressed the hope that CCAMLR would be able to achieve meaningful enforcement of and compliance with its conservation measures.

11.7 The observer from the CCSBT, Mr N. Hermes, said that the third annual meeting of the CCSBT was held in Canberra, Australia, from 23 to 27 September 1996. The meeting had not concluded although, from the sessions held, there were a number of issues of interest to CCAMLR. When the full report was available, it would be sent to CCAMLR.

11.8 Mr Hermes reported that the Secretariat of the CCSBT had been established, it was headquartered in Canberra, Australia, and an Acting Executive Secretary and staff had been appointed. Mr Hermes, on behalf of the CCSBT, thanked the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR and his staff for their assistance in setting up the new Commission.

11.9 The CCSBT recognised the importance of establishing strong links with other organisations, especially CCAMLR. Mr Hermes pointed to the Scientific Committee's acknowledgment of the very helpful information provided by the report of the Ecologically Related Species (ERS) Working Group of the CCSBT.

11.10 The Observer from IOC, Prof. P. Quilty, said IOC welcomed the opportunity to contribute to CCAMLR-XV. The most relevant IOC activity since last year's meeting had been the First Southern Ocean Forum, held in Bremerhaven, Germany, from 9 to 11 September 1996, which addressed issues directly relevant to the interests of CCAMLR.

11.11 CCAMLR-XV/BG/21 (SC-CAMLR-XV/BG/17 also refers) summarised the results of that meeting and also the later responses to the recommendations from the Forum. The Sixth Session of the Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean met immediately following the Forum and reviewed the conclusions and recommendations from the Forum. The Twenty-ninth Session of the Executive Council of IOC met shortly afterwards and approved the recommendations. Prof. Quilty said this paper was one of the most important contributions the IOC had been able to make to CCAMLR. There was clear evidence in the reports of the importance that IOC placed on communication and cooperation with a variety of organisations, including CCAMLR. The IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean would be pursuing these issues intersessionally.

11.12 While welcoming the continuing cooperation with IOC, the Commission took note of the concerns of the Scientific Committee with respect to some of the proposed developments of the IOC and endorsed the Scientific Committee's comments, as set out in paragraphs 11.18 and 11.19 of the Scientific Committee's report.

11.13 The observer from IUCN, Ms J. Dalziell, in presenting her report (CCAMLR-XV/BG/31), informed the Commission of three resolutions of interest to CCAMLR that were adopted at the

recent World Conservation Congress held in Montreal in October 1996. She noted that the Congress has called upon parties active in Antarctica to pay particular attention to establishing and safeguarding a network of protected areas. In this respect, and noting with concern the explosion in interest in *Dissostichus* spp. fisheries in CCAMLR waters, IUCN believes it is timely for CCAMLR to consider developing a system of marine protected areas in order to ensure the preservation of representative areas of the principal habitats and biodiversity of the Antarctic region.

11.14 The Delegation of Chile reminded the Commission of the reservations Chile had expressed at the previous meeting in respect of the involvement of some invited observers at the Commission meetings (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraph 11.11). Chile no longer retained these reservations while the observers limited their involvement to that appropriate to invited observers.

Reports of CCAMLR Representatives at Meetings of Other International Organisations

11.15 During the intersessional period, CCAMLR was represented at the following meetings:

- Thirty-fifth South Pacific Conference - France;
- Fourteenth Annual Meeting of ICCAT - Spain;
- Thirty-second Executive Committee Meeting of SCOR - South Africa;
- Twenty-third General Meeting of SCOR - UK;
- Twenty-ninth Forum Fisheries Committee Meeting - New Zealand;
- Forty-eighth Meeting of IWC - UK; and
- Third Annual Meeting of CCSBT - New Zealand.

11.16 The CCAMLR Observer to the 35th South Pacific Conference (France) had presented to the Conference a summary of the initiatives of the Commission, with particular regard to the incidental mortality of seabirds. The observer noted that some of the SPC members were taking initiatives to reduce incidental mortality of seabirds during longline operations and suggested to CCAMLR that its participation as an observer to the SPC's 1997 Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries could be worthwhile (CCAMLR-XV/BG/3).

11.17 Following discussion about this suggestion, it was agreed that CCAMLR be represented at the SPC 1997 Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries, and at subsequent biennial meetings of this Committee. It was further agreed that, in alternate years, CCAMLR be represented at meetings of the South Pacific Conference.

11.18 The Delegation of the UK drew attention to the report of the CCAMLR Observer to the IWC (CCAMLR-XV/BG/9) which contained items of interest to the Commission. With respect to the IWC, the Commission noted paragraphs 11.11 to 11.15 of the Scientific Committee's report, particularly the view of the Scientific Committee that the proposed establishment of a joint CCAMLR/IWC working group to consider collaborative work in the Southern Ocean was premature but that an appropriate representative of IWC should be invited to WG-EMM.

11.19 The Commission noted the reports of the CCAMLR Observers to the 14th Annual Meeting of ICCAT (CCAMLR-XV/BG/14 - Spain), the 32nd Executive Meeting of SCOR (SC-CAMLR-XV/BG/30 - South Africa), and the 23rd General Meeting of SCOR (SC-CAMLR-XV/BG/18 - UK).

11.20 In respect of SCOR, the Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 11.10) concerning Secretariat actions to improve links.

Future Cooperation

11.21 The following observers were nominated to represent CCAMLR at intersessional meetings:

- Tenth Special Meeting of ICCAT, 22 to 29 November 1996, San Sebastian, Spain - Spain;
- Committee on Fisheries (COFI) of FAO, 17 to 21 March 1997, Rome, Italy - Executive Secretary;
- XXI ATCM, 19 to 30 May 1997, Christchurch, New Zealand - Executive Secretary;
- Forum Fisheries Committee Annual Meeting, May, 1997, Tuvalu - New Zealand;
- SPC Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries, August 1997, Noumea, New Caledonia - France;
- Fourth Annual Meeting of CCSBT, September 1997, Canberra, Australia - Australia; and
- Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of IWC, 20 to 24 October 1997, Monaco - UK.

Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action

11.22 The Delegation of Japan brought to the attention of the Commission the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security, adopted in Kyoto in December 1995. The Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action had been adopted by consensus by the 95 States participating in the Kyoto Conference. In this regard, it was noted that when the Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted, four CCAMLR Parties had made a joint statement clarifying the basis on which they participated in the consensus.

11.23 The Commission considered endorsement of the Declaration and Plan of Action, which was supported by many Members. After discussion, the Commission decided to welcome the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action in so far as their provisions are relevant to CCAMLR.