

## CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION

13.1 The Commission considered a paper submitted by the UK on the subject of CCAMLR's application of the precautionary approach (CCAMLR-XVII/BG/32). The Chairman of the Scientific Committee noted that the paper addressed many of the issues intended to be included in the synopsis of *Understanding CCAMLR's Approach to Management*, which is to be produced in 1999. Chile highlighted the intrinsic value of this paper in the context of a unified framework for the development of new and exploratory fisheries, and recalled that in paragraph 13.2 of CCAMLR-XVI the Delegation of Chile had underlined the importance of the ecosystem management approach to the fulfilment of the objective of the Convention.

13.2 The Commission encouraged the UK to ensure that the paper be published in a prominent journal to assist in the wider dissemination of such information concerning this aspect of CCAMLR's work. The UK indicated its willingness to do this.

13.3 Australia noted that the paper also addressed the issue of management under uncertainty. In this respect, Australia recalled that, in assessing stocks of *D. eleginoides*, the Scientific Committee uses estimates of recruitments. In the light of the high level of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, the status of the spawning stocks of *D. eleginoides* needs to be addressed in some areas. Currently this can only be reviewed using fisheries catch data. Australia suggested that the Commission ask the Scientific Committee to investigate methods for monitoring spawning stocks of *D. eleginoides*.

13.4 The Representative of Chile expanded on some of the elements outlined in paragraph 13.2 of CCAMLR-XVI. Several delegations expressed an interest that the Chilean statement be circulated intersessionally to allow for its further consideration at the next meeting of the Commission.

## ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

14.1 In accordance with the agreed procedure, set down in the footnote to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission agreed that India shall provide the Chairman from the end of the 1998 meeting until the end of the 2000 meeting.

14.2 In accepting the nomination, Mr Ravindranathan (India) conveyed to the Commission that the Government of India considered it a great privilege and honour to be elected to the Chair. It assured Members that it would spare no efforts in ensuring the continuation of the fine traditions of previous chairmen in furthering the best interests of the Commission.

## NEXT MEETING

### Invitation of Observers to Next Meeting

15.1 The Commission decided that the following states: Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Netherlands and Peru and the following intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations: ASOC, CCSBT, FAO, FFA, IATTC, ICCAT, IOC, IOFC, IUCN, IWC, SCAR, SCOR and SPC be invited to attend CCAMLR-XVIII as observers.

15.2 The Commission recognised the valuable contribution made by the Governments of Mauritius and Namibia to the work of the Commission at CCAMLR-XVII and it was agreed that they should again be invited to attend CCAMLR-XVIII as observers, although it was hoped that they would accede to the Convention and consequently might participate instead as

Contracting Parties.

#### Date and Location of Next Meeting

15.3 Members agreed that the 1999 meeting of the Commission and the Scientific Committee be held at the Wrest Point Hotel in Hobart, Australia, during the period 25 October to 5 November 1999. Heads of Delegation were requested to be in Hobart for a Heads of Delegation meeting on 24 October 1999.