

ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING IN THE CONVENTION AREA

Information provided by Members in Accordance with Articles X and XXII of the Convention and the System of Inspection

5.1 The Commission considered the advice of the Standing Committee on Observation and Inspection (SCOI) on this matter (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.47).

5.2 In the 1998/99 season, Members reported sightings of 16 vessels in the Convention Area, possibly operating contrary to the objective of the Convention (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.6). Flags of identified vessels were Argentina (1), Belize (1) and Panama (1). France further reported (SCOI-99/14) that four vessels engaged in IUU fishing in the Kerguelen EEZ (two vessels from Chile, one from Argentina and one from Belize) had been subject to legal and administrative proceedings; two other vessels engaged in IUU fishing had been sighted. The sighted vessels were under flags of Cyprus (1) and Belize (1). The Commission noted that some details of sightings of vessels listed by France in SCOI-99/14 are absent, e.g. coordinates, vessel call signs and ports of registration. These details are usually required for CCAMLR Flag States to initiate investigations of sighting reports. France agreed to submit missing details via the Secretariat.

5.3 Argentina sought clarification of the UK statement included in paragraph 2.12 of the SCOI report (Annex 5). It was found that the comment of the UK questioned the upper limit of the estimated IUU catches in Subarea 48.3 by WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XVIII, Annex 5, paragraph 3.33) and not the validity of the information supplied by Argentina and used thereafter in this calculation.

5.4 The advice received from the Scientific Committee with respect to the evaluation of catches taken in IUU *Dissostichus* spp. fishing indicated that current IUU effort seems to be concentrated in the Indian Ocean in Area 58 (SC-CAMLR-XVIII, paragraphs 5.24 to 5.38). The Scientific Committee had expressed concern at the emergence of Division 58.4.4 (Ob and Lena Banks) over the past year as a site for IUU fishing. The Scientific Committee also advised that although estimates of IUU *Dissostichus* spp. catches have decreased (from 38 000 to 42 000 tonnes in 1996/97, 33 583 tonnes in 1997/98 to 10 773 tonnes in 1998/99), the difficulties in estimating such catches have increased. It drew to the attention of the Commission to the potential similarities between the implications for future sustainability of *Dissostichus* spp. stocks as a consequence of IUU fishing and the collapse of *Notothenia rossii* stocks due to overfishing in the late 1970s. It noted that, as was the case for previous years, the figures for IUU catches in 1998/99 should be viewed as minimum estimates only.

5.5 Based on advice received from SCOI and the Scientific Committee, the Commission concluded that the level of IUU fishing in the Convention Area continued to be unacceptable and the most stringent measures possible should be taken to deal with such activity. This should include adopting a Catch Documentation Scheme and an Action Plan that are to be developed during this meeting (see paragraphs 5.10 to 5.50 below).

5.6 The Commission endorsed the recommendation of SCOI on the standardisation of sighting reports and directed the Secretariat to develop and circulate the standard format to all Members for action (Annex 5, paragraph 2.10).

5.7 The Commission agreed with a proposal put forward by New Zealand and supported by the European Community that all Parties should seek opportunities to further the effective exchange of information in relation to all aspects of sightings and inspections of vessels in relation to IUU fishing. Such information could be exchanged in a number of ways, both formally through the Secretariat and informally between Parties.

Implementation and Effectiveness of Measures Adopted in 1998

5.8 The Commission considered the advice of SCOI on the implementation of enforcement-related measures adopted in 1998 (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.15 to 2.19).

5.9 The Commission noted that most Members with vessels fishing in the Convention Area have introduced VMS or are committed to introduce VMS in accordance with Conservation Measure 148/XVII, and that all licence details for fishing vessels were submitted to the Secretariat as required under Conservation Measure 119/XVII. However, the Commission encouraged Members to take necessary steps to actively implement the provisions of Conservation Measures 118/XVII and 147/XVII in respect to port inspections of vessels of non-Contracting and Contracting Parties respectively (Annex 5, paragraph 2.18).

Development of a Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp.

5.10 At last year's meeting the Commission endorsed the importance of developing a system which would establish a framework for tracking the landings and trade flows of *Dissostichus* spp. from the Convention Area through a Catch Documentation Scheme (CCAMLR-XVII, paragraphs 5.16 to 5.25).

5.11 At CCAMLR-XVII, the Commission considered two drafts of the scheme submitted by Australia and the USA. Work on the Catch Documentation Scheme continued at an ad hoc meeting of CCAMLR Members held in Brussels, Belgium, in April 1999, chaired by Dr D. Agnew (UK), at which the European Community presented a revised scheme. Further intersessional discussions resulted in a revised draft scheme, sponsored by the USA, European Community and Australia. It was submitted to the Commission for consideration as CCAMLR-XVIII/22.

5.12 On behalf of all co-sponsors, the USA presented the revised draft to the Commission and described its structure and content.

Members' Statements

5.13 In opening this item, the Chairman highlighted the importance of a Catch Documentation Scheme not only to CCAMLR but to the rest of the world. Urgent action was required by Members of CCAMLR to agree on a procedure to combat IUU fishing as this was undermining the effectiveness of CCAMLR. This conservation measure would complement the other measures already in place and he acknowledged the strong will of all Members to establish a Catch Documentation Scheme.

5.14 The Commission was addressed, on behalf of Australia, by Senator the Honourable Robert Hill, the Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage, who welcomed the opportunity to again address the Commission at a specially convened session.

Senator Hill emphasised the high priority that the Australian Government places on the work of the Commission in addressing the vital conservation challenges currently posed by IUU fishing in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic regions. Senator Hill commented that he was pleased that his fellow Environment Ministers from CCAMLR Contracting Parties as well as non-Contracting Parties had strongly supported measures, including a Catch Documentation Scheme, to address these issues. This support reinforced the Communiqué issued by those 23 Ministers and representatives who, at the invitation of the New Zealand Government, attended the 'Ministerial Meeting on Ice' at Scott Base in January 1999. Senator Hill stated that the XXIIIrd Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties in Lima, Peru, in May 1999 had also stressed the importance of addressing the IUU toothfish fishing issue and had urged CCAMLR to deal effectively with the issue at its eighteenth meeting.

Senator Hill stressed that failure to deal promptly and effectively with the IUU fishing issue by

the adoption of an effective Catch Documentation Scheme would not only have serious conservation consequences but would also damage the reputation of CCAMLR as an effective international conservation body, and emphasised that CCAMLR must introduce a scheme that would eliminate market access to all shipments of illegally caught and unreported fish. He urged all Parties to put aside any minor concerns they may have and adopt such a scheme at the current meeting.

5.15 Delegations of the European Community, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Japan and Russia made statements. These are presented in the following paragraphs.

5.16 The European Community:

The European Community stated that, in its view, there was now a commitment among Members to introduce an effective Catch Documentation Scheme. Since the 1998 annual meeting, one had witnessed that commitment at the intersessional meeting held in Brussels, Belgium, last April and in the work that has ensued.

For its part, the European Community and its Member States had continued their internal work on the scheme; a scheme which, once adopted, will be directly applicable in all fifteen Member States of the Community.

A pre-requisite to the successful implementation of the scheme is the introduction by CCAMLR Members of separate classification codes in trade statistics. From January 2000, the European Community would have such a system in place.

The scheme will not be a panacea for all the current problems relating to IUU fisheries. However, it will constitute an important additional element in the range of actions already taken by CCAMLR to combat this phenomenon.

CCAMLR must also engage non-Contracting Parties early in the implementation of the scheme.

Although further refinements were needed in the texts during this session, the Community is confident that an effective scheme will be adopted at this session.

5.17 New Zealand:

New Zealand referred to world attention having been focussed on illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean; its deployment of a Royal New Zealand Navy vessel to CCAMLR waters; its hosting of a 'Ministerial Meeting on Ice' for Ministers and officials from 24 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties to reflect on the problem; and to ATCM-XXIII's unanimous call for Treaty Parties to adopt measures at the CCAMLR meeting to deal effectively with the problem.

New Zealand noted that during the meeting information had been received which indicated that vessels flagged by Contracting Parties may be involved in illegal fishing. In other cases New Zealand noted that nationals and companies from Contracting Parties were involved and using 'Flag State responsibility' as a shield. This was unacceptable. New Zealand emphasised that CCAMLR was at an important stage in its history despite having been conceived as a forward looking and innovative structure by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. New Zealand noted that the efforts of its own vessels demonstrated complete compliance with all CCAMLR measures and its industry had been ready to introduce a voluntary catch document scheme for some time. New Zealand emphasised that CCAMLR was a significant part of the Antarctic Treaty System and was not primarily a fisheries agency. The Treaty System needed to be responsive to the wider concerns of civil society who had themselves done much

to deal with the problem. New Zealand was confident, given the good progress made, that an effective Catch Documentation Scheme would be adopted.

New Zealand thanked Senator Hill (Australia) and Mr Tucker Scully (USA) for their personal efforts, regretting that the Honourable Simon Upton could not be present.

5.18 Norway:

Norway takes the problem of IUU fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area and the Southern Ocean very seriously. Norway has been a strong supporter of all new measures directed at the prevention of IUU fishing both by vessels flying the flags of CCAMLR Contracting Parties and those flying the flags of non-Contracting Parties, as well as measures relating to the role of Port States.

At last year's meeting a new approach was discussed, namely the introduction of a Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. It is important that such a scheme builds on the principle of Flag State responsibility, is easy to implement, is effective and conforms to international trade regulations. Following some intersessional work (both formally and informally) and constructive discussions here in Hobart, CCAMLR should now be in a position to adopt a scheme fulfilling these objectives at this meeting. Norway would also like to commend the co-sponsors for their constructive efforts. Norway believes that the introduction of the Catch Documentation Scheme is a strong signal to poachers and will be a valuable instrument to be used in combating IUU fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area. In this respect it is important that the measure is duly notified to the 'outside' world. The scheme should be implemented at national levels as soon as possible. In order to have a workable system, it is also crucial that all Contracting Parties establish specific fish codes for the identification of import and export of Patagonian toothfish.

At this meeting, Norway presented a paper describing an additional approach in order to counteract IUU fishing within areas under the responsibility of regional fisheries management organisations. Inspired by the recent developments in the international arena, like the adoption of the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the UN Implementing Agreement), the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (the FAO Compliance Agreement) and the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, Norway has established a measure that implies the denial of licences to vessels that have participated in fishing operations that contravene regulatory measures laid down by regional fisheries organisations such as CCAMLR. This implies that a given vessel may also be denied a fishing licence in Norwegian waters if it is operated by those who have not participated in IUU fishing. The measure is directed at the vessel itself, the physical vessel, which is the means used in undermining the effectiveness of conservation measures. Vessels which previously have taken part in an unregulated fishery in the northeast Atlantic have been denied a licence in Norwegian waters even after being flagged to another State. It should be noted that such vessels would also not be allowed to fly the Norwegian flag. The Norwegian experience so far is that these new measures have led to vessel owners thinking more than twice before engaging in unregulated fisheries on the high seas. Some vessel owners have already found that the second-hand value of their vessels in the northeast Atlantic has almost disappeared. This is due to the fact that ship brokers are aware of these vessels and advise potential buyers accordingly.

The situation for Patagonian toothfish is now so serious that it calls for additional regulatory measures at a national level. Unfortunately the Norwegian initiative has so far received a lukewarm reception in CCAMLR as only New Zealand spoke in favour of such an approach. Norway would ask all Contracting Parties to study the Norwegian paper carefully in order to be prepared for a more fruitful discussion at CCAMLR-XIX. Norway is also prepared to introduce such an approach when the Australian initiative aiming to address IUU fishing in FAO will be on the agenda in 2000. Norway also believes that the rejection of fishing licences is also a potentially effective measure against IUU fishing if enforced by all Contracting Parties of CCAMLR, and has adopted domestic regulations to that effect.

Finally, Norway mentioned a topic which is of some concern to it. The UN Implementing Agreement was signed in New York in August 1995. This is an important instrument which could be used in CCAMLR's effort to counteract IUU fishing on the high seas. More than four years have now passed and major players have so far not ratified the agreement. This includes most of the Parties sitting around this table. At this stage six more ratifications are needed before the agreement enters into force. Norway urged all Members of CCAMLR to ratify the UN Implementing Agreement as soon as possible.

5.19 South Africa:

During the course of this year's meetings, the Delegation of South Africa has noted with deep concern that the problem of IUU fishing for toothfish in the Convention Area continues to persist.

Information now available, such as historical records of landings of toothfish at ports of Namibia and Mauritius and import figures for the USA and Japan, clearly confirms earlier reports presented by South Africa, of very high levels of such fishing in the Indian Ocean sector of the Convention Area. The permanent damage that this has already caused, for example in the South African EEZ around the Prince Edward Islands where catch rates have fallen to about 10% of their initial levels, regrettably now only bears testimony to CCAMLR's collective inability to effectively address this serious problem, both as individual States and as a Commission.

South Africa is most appreciative of the constructive approach and the various measures taken by the Commission towards combating this problem in recent years, but fears that, as before, the Commission's best efforts may in retrospect appear to be a case of too little too late. South Africa's distress is aggravated by a continuation of intelligence reports that illegal fishing in the South African EEZ is continuing as this meeting takes place. South Africa is also concerned about new trends in IUU fishing such as transshipment at sea, the using of new landing sites such as Mozambican ports and growing exports to new markets in non-Contracting Party States such as China. These new developments, clearly driven by a growing consumer demand and rising prices for toothfish products, present new challenges to the Commission and its Member States which need to be faced.

The situation in South Africa's view demands the highest possible level of cooperation between Members of this Commission, first to see to it that their citizens do not participate in such irresponsible fishing practices, and second, to agree on effective and decisive action at this meeting to combat the problem. For this reason, South Africa lends its strong support towards speedy implementation of the proposed Catch Documentation Scheme.

South Africa also believes that more needs to be done to promote efficiency in the identification of vessels that may be participating in IUU fishing. In his evaluation of illegal fishing activities in the Kerguelen region, the distinguished representative from France reported difficulties concerning this aspect. South Africa believed that expansion of the data bank of the Commission concerning vessels active in the Convention Area through adding appropriate photographic images and by not limiting information to only include details about vessels permitted to fish in the Convention Area, could greatly assist towards better identification of vessels fishing in contravention of conservation measures.

Finally, the Delegation of South Africa also wished to take this opportunity to thank in particular its CCAMLR neighbours in the Indian Ocean sector of the Convention Area for the close cooperation already established in their collective efforts towards combating IUU fishing for toothfish in their part of the world. South Africa looked forward towards even closer and more effective cooperation in time to come. It believed that such efforts will ultimately be successful in protecting toothfish stocks elsewhere in the Convention Area from a fate similar to that of the Prince Edward Islands resources.

5.20 Brazil:

Brazil commended Senator Hill for the high political profile and importance he has attributed in recent times to the issue of IUU fishing in the Convention Area and stated that this was proof of the very prominent position which Australia has taken in the conservation of the world environment. IUU fishing in the Convention Area poses a serious threat not only to the future of one species, but to the very credibility of CCAMLR and the Antarctic Treaty System as a whole. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, by its very title, is intended to conserve Antarctic marine resources and should take care not to be seen as an organisation which accepts IUU fishing by a few countries while others simply look on passively. It is high time that fishing states and importing nations assume their responsibilities in the rational management, not only of these species, but of all the marine living resources available to mankind. History should not be allowed to repeat itself to the point where yet another fish stock is completely depleted. Brazil commends the efforts of the nations who have taken the lead in drafting the proposed Catch Documentation Scheme and hopes that this will be an important step forward towards the conservation of marine living resources in Antarctica.

5.21 Chile:

Chile thanked the Chairman for his guidance in this discussion and Minister Hill for the importance, scope and quality of his intervention. Important steps had been taken by the Commission to deter IUU fishing, but the current session of CCAMLR should succeed in adopting the Catch Documentation Scheme, and improving on the effectiveness of the current measures, through, *inter alia*, the strengthening of a policy intended to seek cooperation from non-Contracting Parties whose flag vessels should refrain from undermining the CCAMLR conservation regime, and through other activities which would be outlined during discussion of Item 13.

5.22 Japan:

Japan fully understands the problems caused by so-called IUU fishing in the Convention Area in light of the conservation of resources.

Japan is proud of its contribution to the work dealing with the problems of IUU fishing within CCAMLR waters in a constructive manner for years.

As a responsible country which had introduced the custom code for *Dissostichus* spp., Japan believes that trade information provided by Japan has been helpful to this complicated work, including development of a Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. in order to cope with IUU fishing.

However, with respect to the scheme, Japan's basic position on this matter was as follows. Firstly, the scheme should not be a trade restriction measure. Secondly, implementation of the scheme should not discriminate against non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR. Thirdly, the scheme should be effective and not be problematic to Member States in regard to its implementation.

On the basis of this position, Japan will continue to contribute to the work of developing the scheme in a constructive manner and would like to emphasise that it is essential for Member States to cooperate with each other on this matter.

5.23 Russia:

The Russian Federation has already voiced its deep concern regarding the increase in the level of IUU fishing for toothfish in the CCAMLR Convention Area and believes that the Catch Documentation System currently being developed must be adopted at this meeting.

This conservation measure would be a keystone in CCAMLR's efforts to guarantee the conservation and rational exploitation of Antarctic marine living resources on a scientific basis.

Unfortunately, IUU fishing is now also occurring in other parts of the World Ocean and trade in IUU-caught fish has become widespread.

Russia believes that the Catch Documentation Scheme must be adopted in a form acceptable to all CCAMLR Members and that it would be an example to the world fishing community of an effective way to stop IUU fishing.

Moreover, in addition to steps taken by CCAMLR, it would also be appropriate to establish bilateral or trilateral cooperation between CCAMLR Members as well as with third parties who could be encouraged to take part in activities aimed at fulfilling the aims and objectives of the Convention.

5.24 France:

France would sincerely like to thank the chairman of the working group for the difficult work he has accomplished in drafting this most valuable text, which is being adopted with hope, and concerning which France has of course no reservations.

5.25 The Commission established an informal task group under the chairmanship of Dr Agnew which prepared during the meeting a final draft of a conservation measure on a Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) together with an Explanatory Memorandum on its introduction and a policy to enhance cooperation between CCAMLR and non-Contracting Parties.

5.26 The Commission adopted Conservation Measure 170/XVIII 'Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp.' (Annex 6). In accordance with Article IX.6(c) of the Convention, Conservation Measure 170/XVIII will come into force on 4 May 2000*.

5.27 The European Community suggested that it would be desirable if Members could introduce the scheme as soon as possible and preferably before 4 May 2000*, i.e. before the date on which Conservation Measure 170/XVIII becomes binding under the Convention. It would also require that the Secretariat prepare and circulate as early as possible, the required letters to all non-Contracting Parties concerned regarding the introduction of the scheme.

5.28 The Commission agreed that the date on which the conservation measure becomes binding under the Convention could not be changed. Nevertheless, Members are urged to implement the measure as soon as possible, and preferably before the start of the next fishing season for *Dissostichus* spp.

5.29 The Commission adopted an Explanatory Memorandum on the Introduction of the Catch Documentation Scheme for Toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) (Annex 7). The memorandum sets out the rationale for the adoption of the scheme and an explanation of its action.

5.30 The Commission agreed that the text of Conservation Measure 170/XVIII and the Memorandum should be communicated immediately to all interested States. Importing Parties should ensure that States exporting *Dissostichus* spp. to them are aware of the requirements of the conservation measure, and should, *inter alia*, communicate to the exporting States the conservation measure, the memorandum and the policy to enhance cooperation between CCAMLR and non-Contracting Parties (see paragraphs 5.49 and 5.50).

5.31 The Commission agreed that for the scheme to be effective, all the information on the *Dissostichus* spp. catch documents submitted to the Secretariat under paragraph 13 of Conservation Measure 170/XVIII and paragraphs A7 and A10 of the annex to the measure, could be available to Contracting Parties. However, acknowledging that some of the information on the *Dissostichus* spp. catch documents is commercially confidential, only designated officials of each Contracting Party will have access to the confidential information related to the scheme, which is compiled by the Secretariat.

5.32 Notwithstanding the need to prevent distribution of CDS data that are commercially sensitive, the Commission agreed that the Scientific Committee and its subsidiary bodies needed access to the CDS data and noted that the present Rules of Access and Use of CCAMLR Data may not be suitable to balance these potentially conflicting requirements. As an interim measure, the Commission agreed to apply the present Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data to the CDS data for one year; to request the Scientific Committee and SCOI to provide advice to the next meeting of the Commission about what the subsequent rules of access to CDS data should be; and to include this matter as an agenda item for further discussion at CCAMLR-XIX.

5.33 It also agreed that it is the responsibility of each Contracting Party to properly protect such information, including the establishment of procedures that enable import authorities to investigate *Dissostichus* spp. catch documents without unnecessary distribution of confidential information.

5.34 The Commission expressed its appreciation for the constructive approach that had been taken by all Parties to negotiate the scheme, and thanked especially the chairman of the drafting group, Dr Agnew, and those countries and individuals who had put a great effort into constructing this scheme.

5.35 The Commission also extended its congratulations to those Members who had initiated work on the scheme and who had worked actively on its drafting and the preparation of its final version for adoption at this meeting.

5.36 Chile considered that the adoption of the scheme was a very welcome step towards applying pressure in order to deter IUU fishing, and the proliferation of trade in the illegally caught product. Chile has pledged to assist this process by voluntarily agreeing to extend the

effect of the measure to its jurisdictional maritime areas, while reserving the right to require additional verification of catch documents, including, *inter alia*, the use of VMS in relation to catches of *Dissostichus* spp. taken by its flag vessels within the territorial waters and EEZ of Chile. Chile rejoices in this achievement and will continue to support an integrated set of measures, including a CCAMLR vessel register and a comprehensive policy to deter non-Contracting Parties from undermining the CCAMLR conservation measures.

5.37 Argentina stated that with respect to the application of Conservation Measures 147/XVIII and 170/XVIII which Argentina strongly supports, it expressly reserves its sovereignty rights over the Falklands/Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and its surrounding waters. In this regard the Argentine Government reserves its right to expand this declaration further at a later stage. This statement applies also to the explanatory memorandum. This has no mandatory character and is not to be used for any interpretation of objectives.

5.38 New Zealand also advised that it has agreed, on a voluntary basis, to extend the application of the conservation measure to waters within its EEZ without prejudice to its rights under international law.

5.39 South Africa stated that the adoption of the scheme is the most important step that the Commission has taken in relation to combating the continuing problem of IUU fishing. South Africa has repeatedly expressed its concern with this problem, especially in relation to the EEZ around Prince Edward Islands and neighbouring waters inside the Convention Area. Like Chile and New Zealand, South Africa would like to emphasise that it is not reserving its position to protect sovereignty rights in the adoption of this conservation measure as it usually does with respect to other conservation measures. It should not be interpreted as compromising these rights in any way. Instead, this should be seen as a reflection of the importance with which South Africa views the full and unrestricted implementation of this conservation measure.

5.40 Australia noted the importance of accurate information on the origins of catches of *Dissostichus* spp., including from outside the Convention Area. Australia urged all Parties to implement VMS as soon as possible on all their flag vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. on the high seas outside the Convention Area.

5.41 France advised that it has no reservation with respect to the scheme.

5.42 Russia suggested that information on the adoption of the scheme be passed on to other international fisheries organisations in order to assist them with their fight against IUU fishing in their waters.

5.43 The Chairman of the Commission congratulated all Members on the adoption of the scheme and emphasised that the new era, which has just begun for the Commission, has also placed new responsibilities on its Members and the Secretariat to achieve the objectives of the new conservation measure.

Examination of Additional Measures

Collection of Landings and Trade Statistics for *Dissostichus* spp.

5.44 As requested by the Commission (CCAMLR-XVII, paragraph 5.30), a number of Members, including the USA, European Community and Norway reported to SCOI on the introduction of new classification codes in trade statistics for *Dissostichus* spp. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of SCOI on the matter as contained in paragraphs 2.22 and 2.23 of Annex 5, and reinforced the importance for all Parties to introduce classification codes in trade statistics – an important pre-requisite for the effective implementation of the proposed Catch Documentation Scheme. It also endorsed the

Committee's suggestion to direct the Secretariat to write to Canada and Peru as Acceding States, requesting the submission of trade statistics for *Dissostichus* spp. (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.21 and 2.23).

5.45 Following last year's request by the Commission to non-Contracting Parties, Namibia and Mauritius had provided the Commission with information on landings of *Dissostichus* spp. in their ports (Annex 5, paragraph 2.25). The information provided by Namibia and Mauritius was used by the Scientific Committee in its evaluation of the level of IUU fishing in the Convention Area (see paragraph 5.4).

5.46 The Commission welcomed the cooperation being developed with both States and thanked them for the information provided. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of SCOI that non-Contracting Parties be invited to submit the required information on landings in a standard format, whenever possible (Annex 5, paragraph 2.35). This would optimise the utilisation of such information by Members.

5.47 Both Namibia and Mauritius indicated their willingness to take into account details required by the Commission. Namibia noted that with the coming into force in early 2000 of its new fisheries legislation, this task would be easier to accomplish. The Secretariat was requested to circulate the list of details required to all non-Contracting Parties concerned.

5.48 The Commission agreed to implement a procedure recommended by SCOI for the processing of information on landings received by the Secretariat and its distribution to Contracting Parties for comment and later for reference (Annex 5, paragraphs 2.36 to 2.38).

Development of an Action Plan

5.49 A proposal for an action policy to enhance cooperation between CCAMLR and non-Contracting Parties was discussed at CCAMLR-XVII. Following discussions intersessionally, including at the CDS meeting in Brussels (Belgium), Australia submitted a revised draft policy as CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/51. Additional revisions were submitted by the European Community in CCAMLR-XVIII/BG/52. Further discussions during the Commission meeting with the Catch Documentation Scheme group resulted in the text in Annex 8 being adopted by the Commission.

5.50 The Commission noted that it would be helpful if Contracting Parties were to include, as part of their annual Member's Activities Report, information on significant demarches they have made to non-Contracting Parties.

CCAMLR Vessel Register

5.51 The Commission agreed that both need and merits of the establishment of a Vessel Register be further considered at the next meeting. Following a proposal from New Zealand, supported by Australia and South Africa, the Commission reminded Members of the decision taken at CCAMLR-XVII (paragraph 5.56) to submit photographs of their vessels to be stored in the vessel database currently maintained by the Secretariat (Annex 5, paragraph 2.41).

Other Actions

5.52 The Commission noted that a proposal of Norway for additional measures to counteract activities of non-Contracting Parties would be considered at the next meeting (Annex 5, paragraph 2.46).

* A formal notification to Members of conservation measures adopted at CCAMLR-XVIII was issued on 9 November 1999 (COMM CIRC 99/107). Therefore, subject to provisions of Article IX.6(b) of the

Convention, the conservation measures will become binding on all Members on 7 May 2000.