

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION

6.1 Resolution 9/XI requires the Scientific Committee, in consultation with its Working Groups, to develop standardised guidelines and formats for Members to submit research plans for use of commercial fishing or support vessels of a similar capacity to conduct fishing for research purposes when the estimated catch may exceed 50 tonnes. The Scientific Committee endorsed the suggestion by WG-FSA that the format proposed in WG-FSA-93/12 is suitable for attachment to this resolution.

6.2 At CCAMLR-XI the Commission decided to review the status of the Register of Permanent Research Vessels, which was adopted in 1986 as part of the Scientific Research Exemptions (CCAMLR-V, paragraph 60). The Chairman introduced CCAMLR-XII/13 which outlines possible definitions of permanent research vessels. The Scientific Committee agreed that no distinction need be drawn between different categories of vessels. Any plans for research fishing are required to be notified and provided in prescribed detail when the estimated catch may exceed 50 tonnes. (This corresponds to Option 3 presented in the paper).

6.3 However, the Scientific Committee noted that a system of notification is required for designating research vessels in those cases where the expected catch is likely to be less than 50 tonnes, but where research catching would not comply with other Conservation Measures, for example, mesh regulations, prohibition of bottom trawling and closed areas and seasons.