

## COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### Reports of Observers from International Organisations

12.1 Observers from ASOC, CCSBT, FAO and IUCN attended the meeting.

12.2 The observer from FAO, Mr R. Shotton, in presenting FAO's report to the meeting (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/25), highlighted three areas of recent FAO activity of interest to the Commission. The first related to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, which articulates the requirements for responsible fishing. The objective of the Code is to promote institutional, political and technical change in a coherent and comprehensive manner. The Code is voluntary, though based on relevant rules of international law, and FAO expects its provisions to become binding at global, regional and national levels when adopted. The Code is ambitious and is at the heart of FAO's program, and provides a unifying framework for successive agreements from UNCLOS, in 1982, to the 1995 Straddling Stocks Agreement.

12.3 The second item of potential interest was the Technical Consultation on Seabird Mortality, planned for March 1998, in Japan. The objective of the Consultation is to produce a draft Plan of Action for implementing mitigation measures to reduce incidental catches of seabirds in longline fisheries, to be considered for adoption by the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 1999. FAO is aware of the competence of CCAMLR in this field, and should there be any specific suggestions on any form of future collaboration, FAO would be pleased to liaise with the appropriate bodies.

12.4 The Commission noted that CCAMLR had done a great deal of work in the area to be investigated by FAO at the Technical Consultation. It would be very appropriate and useful for experts within CCAMLR to be able to comment on the draft Guidelines and Plan of Action that would be developed during the Consultation. The Commission therefore agreed to ask FAO if it would be prepared, at the conclusion of the Technical Consultation, to provide the CCAMLR Secretariat with appropriate material. The Secretariat would arrange for comment from appropriate experts within WG-IMALF to be forwarded to FAO in time for consideration at the FAO Consultation in Rome in October 1998.

12.5 The Delegation of Spain noted that Members of CCAMLR who are also Members of FAO will have the opportunity for individual input into the Consultation.

12.6 The third matter raised by Mr Shotton was an FAO Fisheries Technical Paper, 'Krill Fisheries of the World', by Dr S. Nicol and Prof. Y. Endo, copies of which had been made available to libraries of all relevant institutions. An abstract of this paper is reproduced in CCAMLR-XVI/BG/25 (Appendix II).

12.7 Two other items of interest were also raised. One related to the issue of conservation of elasmobranchs; in this regard FAO has arranged case studies of about 20 elasmobranch fisheries to be published in 1998. In this connection, FAO noted that rays are included in some of the by-catches of fisheries in the Convention Area and it would welcome a case study documenting the experience with rays in the CCAMLR region; it offered to assist with securing funding, if a third party was needed to prepare the analysis.

12.8 Finally, the FAO Observer advised of a conference planned for November 1999, sponsored by FAO and the Fisheries Department of Western Australia, to examine the implications of Property Rights in Fisheries Management, that is, rights-based management

regimes. One of the supplementary sessions of the conference will deal with the issue of extension of property rights beyond EEZs using, for example, individual transferable quotas.

12.9 The observer from ASOC, Ms C. Mormorunni, in presenting her report (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/36) expressed ASOC's concerns that economic pressures for increased quotas and burgeoning illegal and unregulated catch of *D. eleginoides* threaten the Southern Ocean ecosystem and more broadly the international credibility of CCAMLR. Until illegal and unregulated fishing is brought under control, ASOC believes that Members have no choice but to set zero TACs. It believes that it makes no sense at all to be conducting 'legal' fishing when the real catch is already so far above what CCAMLR estimates as a precautionary level, and allowing any fishing while this situation is out of control only compounds the depletion.

12.10 The observer from IUCN, Ms J. Dalziell, in presenting her report (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/37) reminded the Commission of Resolutions adopted at the World Conservation Congress in 1996. Three Resolutions, *inter alia*, call for the establishment of a comprehensive network of protected areas; measures to protect the ecosystems of sub-Antarctic island ecosystems, for example by reducing the incidental mortality of seabirds; and a substantial reduction in all fisheries by-catch in the long-term interest of marine biodiversity conservation. IUCN also continues to be deeply concerned about the high levels of unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean.

12.11 The IUCN observer also presented a paper entitled 'Marine Protection in the Southern Ocean' (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/40). This paper sets out the benefits to conservation of the establishment of a comprehensive system of protected areas in the Southern Ocean. It suggests that CCAMLR assess how this potential management tool might be applied to meet the objectives of the Convention, and develop criteria for the identification of areas that might be appropriate for setting aside as marine reserves. Such criteria could include spawning areas or the foraging ranges of predators.

#### Reports of CCAMLR Representatives at Meetings of Other International Organisations

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

- Tenth Special Meeting of ICCAT – Spain;
- Seventeenth Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) – Convener of WG-FSA and Secretariat;
- COFI of FAO – Executive Secretary;
- Forty-ninth Meeting of IWC – UK; and
- Fourth Annual Meeting of CCSBT – Australia.

12.13 The Executive Secretary drew attention to items of interest to the Commission in the report of his attendance at the COFI meeting (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/9). They included: COFI's endorsement of a proposal to hold an FAO Technical Consultation on the Management of Fishing Capacity, to be hosted by the United States in 1998; its endorsement of an offer by

Australia to organise a Technical Consultation on Indicators of Sustainability in relation to Fishing; and, as a follow up to the Kyoto Conference, Canada's intention to organise, with FAO, a consultation between experts on the technologies and practices of sustainable harvesting which relate to the reduction of discards and of incidental captures.

12.14 The Executive Secretary also mentioned COFI's discussions on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, referring, in particular, to the importance the Committee placed on the Code's central role in guiding and promoting measures to deal with the problems of world fishing. He also reported that he had taken the opportunity at the COFI meeting to distribute copies, in all official CCAMLR languages, of the CCAMLR publication *Fish the Sea Not the Sky*.

12.15 The Delegation of Spain presented the report of the CCAMLR Observer to the Tenth Special Meeting of ICCAT (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/14), highlighting the adoption by ICCAT of two recommendations seeking the prohibition of imports of Atlantic bluefin tuna from countries whose fishing vessels undermine the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures: Panama, Honduras and Belize. Matters raised at intersessional meetings concerning compliance with measures, in particular, implementation of VMS and port control, would be discussed at the ICCAT meeting to be held in Madrid shortly after CCAMLR-XVI and would be reported to next year's meeting.

12.16 In response to the UK, following up the inquiries started two years ago about measures used by other organisations, including ICCAT, to mitigate by-catch in longline fisheries, Spain indicated that information was not yet available but the issue would be raised at the next ICCAT meeting and be submitted to next year's Commission meeting.

12.17 The Delegation of the UK drew attention to the report of the CCAMLR Observer to the Forty-ninth Annual Meeting of IWC (CCAMLR-XVI/BG/32) which highlighted the Resolutions adopted at that meeting. He also drew the attention of the Commission to paragraphs 11.11 to 11.13 of the Scientific Committee's report (SC-CAMLR-XVI), in particular to its endorsement of terms of reference proposed by WG-EMM for a small liaison group with SC-IWC to further the collaboration between the two organisations.

12.18 The Executive Secretary reported on the meeting of the CWP hosted by the Secretariat in March 1997 (SC-CAMLR-XVI/BG/12), which contained matters of interest to the Commission, and especially its Secretariat in understanding how other organisations manage fisheries statistics. It was the first meeting of CWP since it had adopted new statutes and the first time it had met in the southern hemisphere. He particularly recorded appreciation for the participation in the meeting of the Convener of WG-FSA (Dr W. de la Mare).

12.19 Regarding the specific request from CCSBT for data on longline fishing effort in the Convention Area, the Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that this be supplied (SC-CAMLR-XVI, paragraph 11.16).

12.20 In accordance with the continuing cooperation with CCSBT, the Commission agreed that it was important to provide to CCSBT a summary of the information on incidental mortality contained in the report of WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XVI, Annex 5).

## Future Cooperation

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

- Fifteenth Regular Meeting of ICCAT, 14 to 21 November 1997, Madrid, Spain – Spain;
- XXII ATCM, 25 May to 5 June 1998, Tromsø, Norway – Executive Secretary;
- I-ATTC, June 1998, La Jolla, USA – USA;
- Fifth Annual Meeting of CCSBT, September 1998, Japan – Japan;
- Fiftieth Meeting of IWC, 16 to 20 May 1998, Muscat, Oman – Sweden (Prof B. Fernholm); and
- South Pacific Commission – France.