



LONDON

Agenda Item 6

ANT/IX/73

Date: 29 September 1977

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DRAFT INTERIM VOLUNTARY MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

(Submitted by Norway and the United Kingdom)

The Representatives,

Recognizing their prime responsibility for Antarctic matters;

Recalling Article IX, paragraph 1(F) of the Antarctic Treaty;

Recalling Recommendations VIII-10, VIII-13, IX- [encouragemen
of scientific research] and IX- [future steps towards a definitive
conservation regime];

Bearing in mind that Antarctic whales and seals are the
subject of existing regulatory agreements;

Recognizing that the other living resources of the Antarctic
seas are of potential value and require a binding international
agreement for their effective conservation;

Recognizing that some demersal fish stocks have been exploited
and that little is known of their population dynamics;

Recognizing that in order to improve scientific knowledge
and so place exploitation on a rational basis, every effort should
be made to gain information from the statistics of future Antarctic
fishing operations;

Desiring to promote and achieve the objectives of conservation
and scientific study of these resources;

Recommend to their Government that each Government should
voluntarily take account of the following Interim Voluntary
Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
until such time as a binding international agreement enters into
force:

1. They should exercise restraint so that exploitation of Antarctic marine living resources, particularly of lower trophic levels, shall not jeopardise the Antarctic ecosystem as a whole.
2. They should exercise greater restraint in relation to demersal fish stocks which have been exploited pending further scientific investigation.
3. They should provide to FAO, to the SCAR/SCOR Group of Specialists on living resources of the Southern Ocean and make available on request catch and effort statistics in accordance with the Annex to this Recommendation.
4. They should provide to the other consultative Parties information on any steps it has taken in accordance with these Interim Voluntary Measures.
5. They should urge Governments which are not Consultative Parties and which engage in activities involving the exploitation of Antarctic marine living resources to take account of these Interim Voluntary Measures.
6. When it appears to any Consultative Party that exploitation of Antarctic marine living resources is significantly disturbing the Antarctic ecosystem as a whole, or any part thereof, that Party may propose through diplomatic channels that a Special Consultative Meeting be convened under Article IX of the Antarctic Treaty. If all Consultative Parties so agree, such a Meeting shall be convened as soon as possible to consider the situation and the steps it may be necessary to take.