Draft joint Russia-USA proposal on rules of procedure for the Annual Conference and Subsidiary Bodies

Rule 8 (suggested). Representatives of non-party states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations may, in accordance with the procedures in Appendix I, participate as observers in plenary sessions of the Annual Conference and meetings of the Scientific and Technical Committee, including meetings of any subsidiary bodies, pursuant to the terms and conditions of Appendix I.

Appendix I

OBSERVERS

Annual Conference and Subsidiary Bodies

1. The Annual Conference may request that the Party hosting an Annual Conference invite:

   -Intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with the Parties as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to the purposes of the Convention.

   -Non-contracting parties with an interest in fishery resources in the Convention Area.

2. All non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that support the general objectives of the Convention and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of the Convention should be eligible to participate as observers in the meetings of the Annual Conference, except meetings held in executive session or meetings of Heads of Delegations. Unless expressly determined otherwise, NGO's may also participate in meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Annual Conference.

3. Any NGO desiring to participate as an observer in a meeting of the Annual Conference or its subsidiary bodies shall notify the Parties of its desire to participate at least 90 days in advance of the meeting. This application must include:

   -Name, address, telephone, fax number of the organization and the person(s) proposed to represent the organization;
   -Address of all its national/regional offices;
   -Aims and purposes of the organization and a statement that the NGO generally supports the objectives of the Convention, i.e. optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the pollock resources of the Convention Area;
   -Information on the organization's total number of members, its decision-making process and its funding;
   -A brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;

-Representative papers or other similar resources produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the convention applies;
-A history of Annual Conference observer status granted/revoked;
-Information or input that the organization plans to present at the meeting in question and that it would wish to be circulated by the Party hosting the annual Conference prior to the meeting, supplied in sufficient quantity for such distribution.

4. The Party hosting the Annual Conference shall review all applications received within the prescribed time, and , at least 60 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGO's having fulfilled the requirements stipulated in Rule 8. With respect to plenary meetings of the Annual Conference, if one or more of the Contracting Parties objects, giving in writing its reasons within 10 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applications will then be considered as accepted unless a majority of Contracting parties objects in writing at least 30~~n~~ days prior to the meeting. The Party hosting the Annual Conference shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their votes on this matter. With respect to meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Annual Conference, such NGO's shall be granted observer status unless one of the Contracting Parties objects, giving in writing its reasons. The Contracting Party hosting the Annual Conference shall also circulate any reasons given in such an objection.

5. Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the Annual Conference may:

   -Attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
   -Make oral statements during the meeting, upon the invitation of the Chairman;
   -Distribute documents at meetings through the secretariat established by the Contracting Party hosting the Annual Conference;
   -Engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the Chairman.

   Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the Annual Conference may not use films, videos, tape-recording devices, etc. to record meeting proceedings.

6. Observers will be required to pay a fee, which will cover the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Annual Conference.

7. The Party hosting the Annual Conference will determine whether, due to conference room capacity, seating limitations require that a limited number of observers per NGO may be present at any meetings. The Party hosting the Annual Conference will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation sent to each participating NGO.

8. All observers admitted to a meeting shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except

those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party, which must notify the Party hosting the Annual conference of that determination.

9. All observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that the Parties may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of observer status.

10. These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate, at the Fifth Annual Conference (2001). The adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary, amendments shall be adopted in light of the need of the annual Conference to function effectively when conducting its business.