(e) any member of the Commission that makes a notification under subparagraph (d) above shall specify whether the decision is inconsistent with the provisions of this Convention, the 1982 Convention or the 1995 Agreement, or unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against that member and, at the same time, provide a written explanation of the grounds for its position. The member must also adopt and implement alternative measures that are equivalent in effect to the decision to which it has objected and that have the same date of application;

(f) the Chairperson shall promptly circulate to all members of the Commission details of any notification and explanation received in accordance with subparagraphs (d) and (e) above;

(g) in the event that any member of the Commission invokes the procedure set out in subparagraphs (d) and (e) above, a Commission meeting shall take place at the request of any other member to review the decision to which the objection has been presented. The Commission shall, at its expense, invite to that meeting two or more experts who are nationals of non-members of the Commission and who have sufficient knowledge of international law related to fisheries and of the operation of regional fisheries management organizations to provide advice to the Commission on the matter in question. The selection and activities of these experts shall be in accordance with procedures to be adopted by the Commission;

(h) the Commission meeting shall consider whether the grounds specified for the objection presented by the member of the Commission are justified and whether the alternative measures adopted are equivalent in effect to the decision to which the objection has been presented;

(i) if the Commission finds that the decision to which objection has been presented does not discriminate in form or fact against the objecting member of the Commission and is not inconsistent with this Convention, the 1982 Convention or the 1995 Agreement, but that the alternative measures are equivalent in effect to the decision by the Commission and should be accepted as such by the Commission, the alternative measures shall be binding on the objecting member in substitution for the decision to which the objection has been presented; and

(j) if the Commission finds that the decision to which objection has been presented does not discriminate in form or in fact against the objecting member and is not inconsistent with this Convention, the 1982 Convention or the 1995 Agreement, but that the alternative measures are not equivalent in effect to the decision to which it has objected, the objecting member may:

(i) present different alternative measures to be considered by the Commission;

(ii) within forty-five (45) days implement the original decision to which it had presented an objection; or

(iii) institute dispute settlement proceedings pursuant to Article 19 or paragraph 4 of the Annex.

2. Any member of the Commission that invokes the right of objection set out in paragraph 1 may at any time withdraw its notification of objection and become bound by the decision immediately if it is already in effect or at such time as it may come into effect under this Article.

Article 10
Scientific Committee

1. The Scientific Committee shall provide scientific advice and recommendations in accordance with the terms of reference for the Committee to be adopted at the first regular meeting of the Commission and as may be amended from time to time.

2. The Scientific Committee shall meet, unless the Commission otherwise decides, at least once every two years, and prior to the regular meeting of the Commission.

3. The Scientific Committee shall make every effort to adopt its reports by consensus. If every effort to achieve consensus has failed, the report shall indicate the majority and minority views and may include the differing views of the representatives of the members on all or any part of the report.

4. The functions of the Scientific Committee shall be to:

(a) recommend to the Commission a research plan, including specific issues and items to be addressed by the scientific experts or by other organizations or individuals, as appropriate, and identify data needs and coordinate activities that meet those needs;

(b) regularly plan, conduct and review the scientific assessments of the status of fisheries resources in the Convention Area, identify actions required for their conservation and management, and provide advice and recommendations to the Commission;

(c) collect, analyze and disseminate relevant information;

(d) assess the impacts of fishing activities on fisheries resources and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks;

(e) develop a process to identify vulnerable marine ecosystems, including relevant criteria for doing so, and identify, based on the best scientific information available, areas or features where these ecosystems are known to occur, or are likely to occur, and the location of bottom fisheries in relation to these areas or features, taking due account of the need to protect confidential information;