

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO THE
35th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
(17 Oct 2016 to 28 Oct 2016, Hobart, Tasmania)**

CCSBT Observer (Australia)

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35th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The thirty-fifth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXXV) was held in Hobart, Tasmania from 17 October to 28 October 2016.
2. The following Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, People's Republic of China (China), European Union (EU), France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation (Russia), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom (UK), United States of America (USA) and Uruguay. Apologies were received from Brazil.
3. Finland and the Netherlands attended as Contracting Parties with observer status and Singapore attended as a non-Contracting Party observer.
4. The Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), The South East Antarctic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) attended as observers from international organisations. The Association of Responsible Krill Fishing Companies (ARK), the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO) and Oceanites Inc., attended as invited NGO observers.
5. The meeting adopted the Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area (MPA) proposed by the United States of America and New Zealand. This MPA proposal had been under consideration by the Commission since 2012 and now stands as the world's second largest MPA at 1.55 million square kilometres.
6. Australia and, the EU and its Member States introduced a revised proposal to establish a representative system of MPAs in the East Antarctica planning domain (CCAMLR-XXXV/15 Rev. 2). Despite receiving the support of most Members, consensus could not be reached on the proposal however the proponents noted that they will continue to work with members in the intersessional period.
7. The Commission considered a range of issues relating to the *Dissostichus* spp. Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS; established through CM 10-05). The Commission adopted a proposal to increase the flexibility of the CDS. The agreed amendments will, in certain circumstances, enable the Secretariat to issue the required documentation to States that are not formally cooperating with the CCAMLR scheme, but which want to ensure that seized illegal catch can be legitimately sold, and the volume of catch to be included in trade statistics.
8. The Commission agreed that there should be a staged transition to 100% observer coverage in the krill fishery with a target coverage rate of no less than 50% of vessels during the 2016/17 and 2017/18 fishing seasons; no less than 75% of vessels during the 2018/19 and 2019/20 fishing seasons; and 100% coverage in subsequent fishing seasons. CM 51-06 (2016) was revised to reflect this and adopted.

9. The Commission agreed to extend CM 51-07 relating to the spatial distribution of the krill fishery in Subareas 48.1, 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4 until 2021. This agreement also endorsed work to further develop a quantitative risk assessment framework to scientifically determine the catch distribution, to ensure that the needs of krill predators are taken into account in managing the fishery.
10. The Commission focussed on improvement to the CCAMLR Compliance Evaluation Procedure. This included increased attention to allegations of observer harassment and intimidation, and a number of instances of crew insisting observers change their reports. In response, the Commission agreed to incorporate the obligations relating to observer rights and responsibilities into the Commission's Compliance Evaluation Procedure (as well as compliance with all of CCAMLR's conservation measures), to ensure that this issue is scrutinised annually and action can be taken where appropriate.
11. The Commission included three new vessels—the *Andrey Dolgov*, *Northern Warrior* and *Antony*—on its illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing list, and removed the vessel *Viking* on the basis that the vessel has been sunk by Indonesian authorities in 25 February 2016.
12. The Commission adopted CM 24-04 to establish time-limited Special Areas for Scientific Study in newly exposed marine areas following ice-shelf retreat or collapse. A period of ten years for scientific study was designated as the minimum time period necessary for Antarctic science to be designed, organised, funded and initial results to become available.
13. The Commission also endorsed a second Performance Review of CCAMLR to be conducted during the 2016-17 intersessional period. The review will include consideration of outstanding recommendations from the first Performance Review (2008) and priorities identified through the 2015 CCAMLR Symposium.