

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (NEW ZEALAND) TO THE 39TH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

(virtual meeting, 27–30 October 2020)

CCSBT Observer (New Zealand)

- 1 The thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-39) was held online as a virtual meeting, via *Interprefy* software, from 27 to 30 October 2020. It was chaired by Mr Fernando Curcio Ruigómez (Spain).
- 2 Informal virtual meetings of the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC) and the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) preceded the Commission meeting; the Chair (SCIC) and Acting Chair (SCAF) presented summaries of the e-group discussions to the Commission.
- 3 The following Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, People’s Republic of China (China), European Union (EU), France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea (Korea), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Netherlands), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation (Russia), South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), United States of America (USA), and Uruguay. The Contracting Parties of Finland, Mauritius, and Peru attended the meeting as Observers. Other non-Contracting Parties and organisations were invited to attend the meeting as Observers (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 1.2–1.5).
- 4 Australia, as the Depositary State, reported that the Government of the People’s Republic of China decided the Convention will apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the PRC from 1 July 2020 (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 2.3).
- 5 The Commission noted updated proposals to establish marine protected areas (MPAs) in Domain 1 (Antarctic Peninsula), the East Antarctic, and in the Weddell Sea region (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 8.19). No decisions on MPA designation were made. Spatial management was considered under “other business” and consisted of attributed statements (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 8.20–8.35). Similarly, attributed statements on the importance of cooperating to give effect to the objective of the Convention were noted, and the Commission agreed to establish an e-group aimed at facilitating discussions on reinforcing

the objective of the Convention to pave the way for the Commission's 40th meeting (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 8.10).

- 6 The Commission noted the discussion by the Scientific Committee on climate change (SC-CAMLR-39, Paragraph 3.18), but made no decisions. The Commission welcomed the intent to develop new terms of reference for the climate change e-group in order to further develop mechanisms to ensure the latest climate change research is integrated into the work of the Scientific Committee and considered in the development of management advice for the Commission (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 8.36).
- 7 The Commission did not reach consensus agreement on a proposal to extend the deadline by one further year or to designate the newly exposed marine area adjacent to Pine Island Glacier as a Stage 2 Special Area for Scientific Study (SASS) (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 8.12). The Commission noted that the Stage 1 SASS would expire on 31 May 2021 and encouraged proponents to submit a proposal for redesignation of a Stage 1 SASS.
- 8 The Commission added the Panamanian-flagged vessel *Nika* to the Contracting Party IUU (CP-IUU) vessel list (CCAMLR-39, Paragraph 3.3). The Commission considered the recommendation from New Zealand to include the Russian-flagged vessel *Palmer* on the CP-IUU list, but could not reach consensus on including it on the list in 2020 (CCAMLR-39, Paragraphs 3.14 and 3.19).
- 9 Due to the fact that SCIC held informal virtual meetings in 2020, the Commission concluded that it was not possible to adopt the 2020 Compliance Report. The draft compliance table was appended to the Chair's report of the informal virtual meeting of SCIC, and the Commission underscored the importance of adopting a 2021 Compliance Report at the next annual meeting (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 3.41–3.42).
- 10 The Commission noted that while a complete report of the Scientific Committee was not adopted, progress on some issues had been made as indicated by the number of adopted paragraphs (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 5.2).
- 11 The catch of krill (446,783 tonnes) in the 2019/20 season was the largest catch ever reported in Area 48 of the Convention area (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 5.46). Many Members recalled previous scientific advice about the importance of having a precautionary approach, of spreading out the krill catch in space and time, and the urgent need to make progress in 2021 on the revised management of the krill fishery (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 5.54).

- 12 The Commission noted two proposals for continuing research (in Division 58.4.4b and the Ross Sea shelf survey), and noted that no review had been possible for new research proposals as there were no formal meetings of the Scientific Committee's working groups (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 5.28 and 5.29).
- 13 The Commission agreed, on a case-by-case basis for each subarea, division, and research block, to use the lesser of the catch limits proposed for 2020/21 by the Scientific Committee, or those previously adopted by the Commission for 2019/20, for the 2020/21 season. The Commission noted that this practice should not become a precedent and recalled that the Commission should use best available science consistent with the Convention (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 6.5).
- 14 Norway presented the preliminary results of a one-year trial of net monitoring cables with mitigation to reduce seabird mortality from warp and cable strikes (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 5.60). The Commission agreed on a derogation to enable the trial to continue, and agreed to establish an e-group in the intersessional period to address remaining issues (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 5.62–5.63).
- 15 The Commission renewed the conservation measures that were due to lapse in 2020 (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 6.2–6.3).
- 16 The Commission approved the Budget (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 4.22) and approved the recommendations of the General Capacity Building Fund Panel, agreeing to fund two capacity building projects from Ukraine and Uruguay (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 4.8). The Commission noted that the terms of reference for the General Science Capacity Fund (GSCF) will be finalised for presentation in 2021.
- 17 The Commission thanked Spain (Mr Fernando Curcio Ruigómez) for its dedication and excellent and steady execution as Chair of the Commission for the 2019 and 2020 meetings, and it was noted that Sweden (Dr J. Granit) would Chair the Commission for the 2021 and 2022 meetings (CCAMLR-39 Paragraphs 7.1–7.2). The Commission reappointed Dr Agnew as Executive Secretary for 2022–2026 (CCAMLR-39 Paragraph 7.7).
- 18 The Commission planned to hold the fortieth annual meeting at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 18 to 29 October 2021.