

REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO THE
36th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
(16 Oct 2015 to 27 Oct 2017, Hobart, Tasmania)

CCSBT Observer (Australia)

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**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (AUSTRALIA) TO THE
36th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXXVI) was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 16 to 27 October 2017.
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, 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.
3. Finland and the Netherlands attended as Contracting Parties with observer status and Iran and Singapore attended as a Non-Contracting Party observer.
4. The Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Association of Responsible Krill Fishing Companies (ARK), the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO), Oceanites, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) attended as invited NGO observers.
5. The Commission agreed to include additional data requirements for landing and transshipment into the CDS, and agreed that non-Contracting Parties could request (limited) access to the CDS at any time.
6. The Scheme to Promote Compliance by Contracting Party Nationals with CCAMLR Conservation Measures was amended to broaden the obligation to take appropriate measures to verify if any nationals, natural or legal persons are supporting or engaging in IUU activity, and to clarify that those responsible for, or are beneficiaries of, IUU can include insurance and other financial services providers.
7. The Compliance Evaluation Procedure was amended to include a 'non-compliant' status.
8. The Commission noted that the discussion in the Scientific Committee on harmonising CCAMLR's approach to activities targeting toothfish had highlighted that fishing conducted under CM 24-01 is subject to a more limited set of compliance and mitigation requirements than fishing conducted under CM 21-02 (i.e. exploratory fisheries). The Commission noted the complementary aims and objectives of two proposals, to develop a consistent and transparent approach to activities targeting toothfish. The Commission endorsed changes to CM 24-01 and a new conservation measure, CM 24-05 (Fishing for research purposes pursuant to Conservation Measure 24-01) to clarify the process for submission and review of research plans as well as for the subsequent reporting requirements (CCAMLR XXXVI, paragraphs 5.18 and 5.19).
9. The Commission considered revisions to the Scheme of International Scientific Observation (SISO) with a focus to enhance observer safety. CCAMLR adopted a revised SISO to include an emergency action plan.

10. The Commission agreed to remove the IUU-listed vessels *Seabull 22* and *Tchaw* from the NCP-IUU Vessel List on the basis that both vessels have been decommissioned. (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraph 3.52).
11. The Commission considered information for the possible removal of the IUU-listed vessels *Koosha 4* and *Northern Warrior*. The Commission upheld the recommendation from SCIC that both vessels should remain on the NCP-IUU Vessel List for 2017/18. The Commission agreed that additional information was required from the Islamic Republic of Iran in respect of the *Koosha 4* and that Spain was continuing its investigation into the Spanish company that had rented the *Koosha 4* during the time it had been sighted in the Convention Area (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraph 3.53).
12. The Commission noted that Angola had provided documents to request the removal of the Northern Warrior from the NCP-IUU Vessel List. Spain reported that, according to the official information collected to date, there were no links to the previous owner or involvement in IUU fishing activities. The Commission agreed that it required further information before it could remove the vessel from the NCP-IUU Vessel List, including by establishing that the previous owner does not have any legal, financial, or real interests in the vessel (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraph 3.54).
13. The Commission noted the unprecedented data that had been provided by Spain and made available by the Secretariat regarding the fishing activities in Division 58.4.1 of the IUU-listed vessels *Asian Warrior (Kunlun)*, *Zemour 2 (Yongding)* and *Zemour 1 (Songhua)*. The Commission noted the advice of the Scientific Committee that Australia and the Secretariat would coordinate the analysis of this data and that this analysis would include any other data that becomes available (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraph 3.59).
14. The Commission considered the East Antarctic Marine Protected Area proposal. Most Members expressed their support for the proposal to establish an MPA in the East Antarctic. However, consensus could not be reached and the proponents noted that they will continue to work with members in the intersessional period (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraph 8.32).
15. The Commission considered proposals for exploratory fishing in the CCAMLR Area and adopted conservation measures applicable to specific statistical Areas, Subareas and Divisions. The Commission also considered and endorsed stock assessments for other areas in the CCAMLR Area.
16. The Commission agreed to establish an informal Commission Bureau having no formal decision-making authority, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission, the Chairs of the Scientific Committee, SCIC, SCAF and the Executive Secretary. The Commission Bureau, under the leadership of the Chair of the Commission, will meet daily, as required, during the annual meeting of CCAMLR with the aim to assist, facilitate and coordinate the work of the respective meetings of the Commission, the Scientific Committee, SCIC and SCAF with the Secretariat facilitating the convening of the Commission Bureau meetings. The Commission will consider the increasing effectiveness of the Commission Bureau arrangement and decide at CCAMLR-XXXVII whether it should continue (CCAMLR XXXVI, Paragraphs 9.17 – 9.19).
17. CCAMLR undertook a Second Performance Review in the 2017 intersessional period. Each of the subcommittees of CCAMLR considered the recommendations from the

Second Performance Review relevant to their business. In relation to future work to provide appropriate opportunities for the Commission and Scientific Committee to further consider the PR2 recommendations, the Commission requested:

(i) the PR2 Report be placed in the public domain on the CCAMLRL website with the understanding that the PR2 Report was received as the work of the Panel and was intended to be used for consideration and discussion by Members;

(ii) that the Commission, SCIC, SCAF and the Scientific Committee and its working groups annually review the status of each relevant recommendation;

(iii) the Secretariat to provide annual updates to a matrix, maintained on the CCAMLRL website, that records the discussion and action considered in respect of each recommendation at each annual meeting of the Commission and Scientific Committee (CCAMLRL XXXVII, Paragraph 9.34).

18. Dr David Agnew was appointed as the new Executive Secretary.

19. The thirty-seventh annual meeting of CCAMLRL will be held in Hobart from 22 October to 2 November 2018.