

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO THE
XXIX ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

(25 October - 5 November 2010, Hobart, Tasmania)

CCSBT Observer (Australia)

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**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (AUSTRALIA)
TO THE 29TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The twenty-ninth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXIX) was held in Hobart, Tasmania from 25 October to 5 November 2011.
2. The meeting was attended by representatives of all 25 Members of the Commission: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), Chile, European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay. The Netherlands attended as a Contracting Party with observer status. The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) and the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO) attended as invited NGO observers. Several international organisations were also represented. Nigeria attended as a non-Contracting Party with observer status.

Cooperation between CCAMLR and CCSBT

3. The Commission recalled that the issue of an MOU with CCSBT has been under discussion in that Commission for some time but that further progress was not made in the intersessional period. Given the number of areas of common interest between CCAMLR and CCSBT, the Commission looked forward to receiving an update at CCAMLR-XXX.
4. The Commission agreed that Australia would represent CCAMLR at the 18th Annual Meeting of CCSBT, incorporating the Extended Commission from 10 - 13 October 2011, to be held in Bali, Indonesia.
5. CCSBT has been invited to CCAMLR XXX.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

6. The Commission expressed its concern that the estimates of IUU catch for the Convention Area had risen since 2009 and concluded that, despite progress in the control of nationals and the implementation of the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), IUU fishing did not appear to be significantly declining.
7. The Commission agreed that, given the uncertainty surrounding gillnet catch rates, future estimates of IUU should focus on the level of effort, rather the level of catches. The CCAMLR Secretariat will also clarify, in future, whether zero IUU estimates in a specific area arise from a lack of information or confirmed zero IUU activity.

Performance Review

8. The Commission considered and reported on progress made on the recommendations from the 2008 Performance Review of CCAMLR. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had developed a road map that addressed recommendations from the Performance Review. Significant progress had been made in relation to addressing many of those recommendations including in relation to capacity building and burden sharing and that the recently endorsed three-year work plan for the Scientific Committee would take up additional matters raised by the Panel. Similarly the Commission endorsed a number of priorities identified by the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC)

including Flag and Port State duties and Monitoring Control and Surveillance requirements. The Commission endorsed the maintenance of the progress report as a dynamic, living document and a reference point for ongoing work.

9. The Commission welcomed the outcomes of an IUU capacity building training event in South Africa jointly convened by Australia, the CCAMLR Secretariat, South Africa and the UK. The Commission noted that this was a useful exercise to strengthen cooperation with other Parties and help achieve the objectives of the Convention.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

10. The Commission endorsed the terms of reference and potential workshop outputs from an MPA Workshop to be hosted in France in 2011. The objective of the workshop was to review progress, share experiences on different approaches to the selection of candidate sites for protection, review draft proposals for MPAs in the CAMLR Convention Area and determine a program of work to identify MPAs in as many of the priority regions as soon as possible.

By-catch and incidental mortality

11. The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's general advice on incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals. The Commission noted that seabird mortality continues to be low and there were no cases marine mammal mortality in the 2009/10 period. France informed the Commission of the success it has had in implementing its national plan of action to reduce seabird incidental mortality within EEZs, which has been ongoing for three consecutive years. This has resulted in the significant reduction in the level of seabird mortalities by 84% from 2006/07 to 2009/10. France invited all CCAMLR Members to consider taking action on this matter in RFMOs adjacent to the CAMLR Convention Area.

Review of the Secretariat Strategic Plan

12. At CCAMLR XXIX the Executive Secretary's proposal to undertake a review of the 2002 Strategic Plan and report the results of that review to CCAMLR XXX was welcomed by the Commission. The Commission noted that the review would offer opportunistic consultation with a range of CCAMLR stakeholders regarding Secretariat functions and the delivery of services and would address succession planning and an overall salary strategy for the Secretariat. The adoption of a 'green' policy by the Secretariat was welcomed by the Commission.

Other issues

13. Other issues discussed at CCAMLR XXIX included new and exploratory fisheries; data poor fisheries; krill fishery management; climate change; the development of standards for an accreditation scheme for participation in the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation; the development of compliance and evaluation procedure (DoCEP); and, a review of CCAMLR's Financial Regulations including the need for the development of Investment Principles.