

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO THE  
37th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC  
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**  
(22 October to 2 November 2018, Hobart, Australia)

**CCSBT Observer (Australia)**

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**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (AUSTRALIA) TO THE  
37th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXXVII) was held in Hobart, Australia, from 22 October to 2 November 2018.
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 Angola, Ecuador, Luxembourg 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), the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Oceanites Inc., the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) attended as invited NGO observers.
5. The Commission approved France's proposal to fund a project that would introduce satellite imagery assessment into the monitoring of suspected IUU fishing. The duration of the project by France will be one year and the cost of €100 000 would be funded by the EU (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 3.8).
6. The Commission agreed to grant the status of an NCP cooperating with CCAMLR in the CDS to Ecuador. The Commission also considered Singapore's application seeking the status of an NCP cooperating with CCAMLR in the CDS. The Commission found that Singapore did not meet the requirements to be granted NCP status, however the Commission endorsed Singapore's limited access to the electronic web-based CDS (e-CDS) (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 3.11).
7. The Commission agreed to remove the *Southern Ocean* from the Provisional Contracting Party (CP)-IUU list. The Commission also agreed to retain the NCP-IUU Vessel List without alteration (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 3.16).
8. The Commission noted that Angola provided information to support its request that the *Northern Warrior* be removed from the IUU- vessel list. The Commission noted that there was clear evidence that links remain between the current and previous owners of the vessel. The Commission upheld the recommendation from SCIC that the *Northern Warrior* should remain on the NCP-IUU Vessel List for 2018/19 (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 3.21).
9. The Commission noted the discussion of the Scientific Committee on exploratory fisheries in Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.2. The Commission was unable to reach consensus on the research plan for the exploratory fishery in Division 58.4.1 for 2018/19 (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 5.35).
10. The Commission agreed with the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that a second focused tagging program for skates be conducted in 2019/20 and 2020/21 in the Subarea 88.1 and SSRUs 882A–B region. This program will be carried out for a minimum of two years, and will be valuated throughout this period (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 5.68).

11. The Commission noted that the 2017/18 season had the lowest extrapolated seabird mortality figure in CCAMLR's history and reflected on the large amount of work undertaken by many of the Scientific Committee's working groups and Members to achieve this. (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 5.69).
12. The Commission considered the proposals for new Marine Protected Areas in East Antarctic, Weddell Sea and Planning Domain 1 (Antarctic Peninsula). Many Members expressed their support for the proposals to establish these MPAs, however consensus could not be reached. Proponents noted that they will continue to work with members in the intersessional period (CCAMLR XXXVII, Paragraphs 6.17, 6.29, 6.43 & 6.61).
13. The Commission considered revisions to the Scheme of International Scientific Observation (SISO) with a focus to enhance observer safety. CCAMLR endorsed the recommendation to revise the SISO to include requirements that scientific observers be equipped with an independent two-way satellite communication device and personal lifesaving beacon from 1 December 2019 (CCAMLR XXXVII, Paragraph 7.1)
14. The Commission considered the proposal to establish a Climate Change Response Work Program (CCRWP) to address the remaining terms of reference for the Climate Change Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG). While most members agreed that consideration of the impacts of climate change is an integral part of decision-making across the Commission, the Commission was unable to reach consensus on adopting the proposed CCRWP (CCAMLR XXXVII, Paragraph 8.13)
15. The Commission agreed to establish an ICG on Capacity Building (ICG-CB) and to hold a capacity building workshop to advance these discussions. The Commission welcomed the proposal by South Africa to hold this workshop in Cape Town, South Africa and the offer of Korea to fund the workshop through the Korean Contribution Fund (CCAMLR XXXVII, Paragraphs 10.6—10.9)
16. The Commission supported more active cooperation between CCAMLR and the RFMOs sharing a boundary with the Convention Area, in particular SIOFA, SEAFO, SPRFMO and CCSBT. The Commission agreed to renew the MoUs between CCAMLR and CCSBT and SPRFMO for a further three years. (CCAMLR-XXXVII Paragraph 11.20).
17. The Commission elected Spain to the position of Chair of the Commission for the 2019 and 2020 meetings. In accepting the appointment, Spain advised that Mr F. Curcio, the current Ambassador of Spain in New Zealand, would assume this role.
18. Ms M. Engelke-Ros (USA) was elected as SCIC Vice-Chair for 2019 and 2020
19. Ms S. Langerock (Belgium) to the position of Vice-Chair of SCAF for 2019 and 2020.
20. The thirty-eighth annual meeting will be held at the CCAMLR Headquarters building in Hobart, Australia, from 21 October to 1 November 2019.