

REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (NEW ZEALAND) TO THE 40th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

(virtual meeting, 18 to 29 October 2021)

CCSBT Observer (New Zealand)

1. The fortieth annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-40) was held virtually from 18 to 29 October 2021. The meeting was chaired by Dr J. Granit (Sweden).
2. The following Members 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. Canada, Cook Islands, Finland and Panama attended as Observers. Other non-Contracting Parties and organisations were invited to attend the meeting as Observers (CCAMLR-40 Paragraphs 1.4-1.5).
3. 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 Chairs presented summaries of the e-group discussions to the Commission.
4. The Commission adopted a Declaration on the occasion of its fortieth annual meeting to reaffirm its commitment to achieving the conservation objective of the Convention.
5. The Commission noted that climate change was a pressing issue of global importance that needed to be addressed within the framework of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The Commission invited the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to present a summary of its decadal review of the Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report during a plenary session of CCAMLR-41. The Commission agreed to reconsider a revised resolution on climate change at CCAMLR-41.
6. Most Members supported the adoption of the three proposed marine protected areas (MPAs) in the East Antarctic, Weddell Sea, and Antarctic Peninsula (Domain 1 MPA). The Commission encouraged Members to hold workshops on individual MPA proposals, and noted that a special session of the Commission could be valuable to promote a constructive discussion among Members to reach consensus on how to progress MPA design, designation, implementation and the establishment of research and monitoring plans (RMPs).

7. The Commission did not reach consensus on the designation of a stage 2 Special Area for Scientific Study (SASS) in the marine area recently revealed by the outgoing retreat of the Pine Island Glacier.
8. The Commission noted the discussions of the Scientific Committee on fish and invertebrate by-catch and welcomed its planned future work on data collection, reporting and analysis. The Commission approved the reconvening of the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) to address seabird strikes on warps and net monitoring cables, as well as seal and humpback whale by-catch events that occurred in the krill fishery.
9. In the 2020/2021 season (up to 31 July 2021), 13 CCAMLR Members participated in fisheries and research targeting icefish, toothfish and krill. Members reported a total catch of 320,014 tonnes of krill, 9,265 tonnes of toothfish and 360 tonnes of icefish from the Convention Area.
10. The Commission noted the work conducted by the Scientific Committee and the collaborations across the working groups on the revision of the krill management approach, resulting in an updated krill management approach work plan.
11. The Commission could not agree on a catch limit for the fishery for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3. Many members voiced their concerns at the unprecedented situation where for the first time the catch limit for an established fishery was blocked, and the Commission was not adhering to its commitment to utilise the best scientific evidence available in its decision-making.
12. The Commission adopted the 2021/2022 Non-Contracting Party (NCP)-IUU Vessel List and the Contracting Party (CP)-IUU Vessel List.
13. The Commission noted that SCIC did not come to a conclusion on all matters in the Summary CCAMLR Compliance Report and was therefore unable to adopt a Provisional CCAMLR Compliance Report as per Conservation Measure (CM) 10-10, paragraph 3. The Commission noted that the thorough compliance assessment indicated an overall high level of compliance by Contracting Parties, with compliance rates greater than 92% in most assessments.
14. The Commission adopted the revised 2021 budget, the 2022 budget as amended by SCAF and the forecast budget for 2023.
15. The Commission planned to hold the forty-first annual meeting at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 24 October to 4 November 2022.