

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER TO THE
31ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

(23 October - 1 November 2012, Hobart, Tasmania)

CCSBT Observer (Australia)

This paper is presented for consideration by CCSBT and may contain unpublished data, analyses, and/or conclusions subject to change. Data in this paper shall not be cited or used for purposes other than the work of the CCSBT Commission, Scientific Committee or their subsidiary bodies without the permission of the originators and/or owners of the data.

**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (AUSTRALIA) TO THE
31ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The thirty-first meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXXI) was held in Hobart, Tasmania from 23 October to 1 November 2012.
2. The following Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), 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. Singapore and Vietnam attended as non-Contracting Parties with observer status. The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO) and the Association of Responsible Krill Fishing Companies (ARK) attended as invited NGO observers. Several international organisations were also represented.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

3. The Commission discussed the evidence provided by Members on the current IUU activities in the CAMLR Convention Area. It was a general observation that IUU fishing continues at a relatively low level, although it was possible it was increasing and that the spatial distribution of IUU fishing may be changing.
4. 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 although estimates of total removals are needed for stock assessments. The Commission noted that gillnets were of particular concern due to the potential impacts on by-catch species and benthic ecosystems.

Performance Review

5. The Commission considered and reported on progress made on the recommendations from the 2008 Performance Review of CCAMLR.
6. The Commission agreed that there had simply been insufficient time at this meeting to discuss many of the issues that were formerly considered in this agenda item. The need to consider the range of emerging issues faced by the Commission meant that there was little time to address fundamental and substantive issues. In order to address this, the Chair invited discussion papers to be submitted to the Commission in 2013.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

7. The Commission considered two MPA proposals, one in the Ross Sea (proposed by USA and New Zealand) and the other for a representative system of MPAs in East Antarctica (proposed by Australia, France and the EU). The Commission noted the discussion and advice of the Scientific Committee on the proposals, however the Commission was unable to agree to either of these proposals.
8. The Commission agreed to a proposal from Member to host a Special Meeting of the Commission and an intersessional meeting of the Scientific Committee in July 2013 to continue the Commission's work in relation to MPAs for the following purposes:
 - a. the Special Meeting of the Commission will consider MPA issues and make decisions, if possible, on the joint New Zealand and USA MPA proposal on the

Ross Sea region and the joint Australia, France and EU MPA proposal on East Antarctica

- b. the meeting of the Scientific Committee will review and advise the Commission on the science already considered by the Scientific Committee and any additional available science relevant to assist the Commission's deliberations on the proposals, in accordance with CM 91-04.

Cooperation between CCAMLR and CCSBT

9. The Commission endorsed the cooperative arrangement between CCSBT and CCAMLR.
10. The Commission maintained that no fishing for southern bluefin tuna should occur in the CAMLR Convention Area without the vessel fully complying with CCAMLR conservation measures.
11. It also noted the usefulness of CCAMLR sharing its experience in the reduction of seabird mortality with both CCSBT and WCPFC.

CCAMLR Compliance Evaluation Procedure

12. The procedure will use information already provided to the Secretariat, as required under the Convention, conservation measures and other rules and procedures such as the System of Inspection as well as provide an opportunity for Members to comment on the compliance with CCAMLR conservation measures. The procedure also gives the Secretariat a formal mechanism to capture and record information on the implementation of conservation measures by Members. Accordingly, the CCAMLR Compliance Evaluation Procedure was adopted.

Other issues

13. Other issues discussed at CCAMLR XXXI included new and exploratory fisheries; data poor fisheries; krill fishery management; and climate change.
14. The Commission recognised that the initial contract of the Executive Secretary was due to expire on 18 April 2014. Expressing its satisfaction with the work of Mr Wright, the Commission, in accordance with Rule 14(a) of the Rules of Procedure, agreed that his office shall be extended for a second four-year term (to April 2018).
15. The thirty-second annual meeting of CCAMLR will be held from 23 October to 1 November 2013 in Hobart, Tasmania.