

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

(24 October - 4 November 2011, Hobart, Tasmania)

CCSBT Observer (Australia)

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**REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (AUSTRALIA) TO THE
30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES**

1. The thirtieth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXX) was held in Hobart, Tasmania from 24 October to 4 November 2011.
2. The following Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), Chile, European Union, France, Germany, 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. There were no non-Contracting Parties with observer status present.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

3. The Commission noted that there is no evidence to suggest that IUU fishing has declined and that it 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 and suggested that further information could be obtained from other organisations, such as IOTC, where gillnets are reported to be used.

Performance Review

5. The Commission considered and reported on progress made on the recommendations from the 2008 Performance Review of CCAMLR.
6. In addition to key outcomes addressing Performance Review Recommendations (for instance Marine Protected Areas), the Commission agreed to a shorter eight day Commission meeting in 2012 and 2013 as a trial in the interests of improving the efficiency of CCAMLR. This will be reviewed following the 2013 meeting.
7. Following a successful training event in 2010, the Commission agreed to a follow-up capacity building workshop in South Africa in 2012. The workshop will focus on assessing and developing the key port State controls that African States can implement to prevent IUU fishing activity and ensure that effective controls are in place at their maritime borders. The workshop will be delivered by Australia, UK, South Africa, the CCAMLR Secretariat, and the partnerships for African Fisheries' Stop Illegal Fishing Programme. The Commission noted that this capacity building event was an important contribution to the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing in the Convention Area.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

8. The Commission adopted a general conservation measure establishing a framework for the adoption of CCAMLR MPAs. This framework outlines the common actions and

requirements for the declaration, administration and management of CCAMLR MPAs, consistent with international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The adoption of this conservation measure confirmed CCAMLR's commitment to establish MPAs in the Convention Area.

9. The Commission considered two scenarios for MPAs in the Ross Sea (proposed by USA and New Zealand). The Commission noted the advice of the Scientific Committee that the scenarios are based on the best scientific evidence available and that no further scientific analysis is needed by the Scientific Committee. The proponents undertook to further consult with Members during the intersessional period with the intention of bringing forward proposals for the formal establishment of an MPA to the 31st meeting of CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XXXI).
10. Australia and France jointly proposed a representative system of MPAs in East Antarctica. The Commission noted the discussion of the Scientific Committee on the proposal and its advice that the proposal contained the best scientific evidence available. Australia and France expressed their intention to present a conservation measure for consideration at the CCAMLR-XXXI.
11. The Commission noted a UK proposal concerning the protection of marine habitats that may be newly exposed as a consequence of ice-shelf collapse. The EU presented to the Commission a proposal for a conservation measure to provide protection for such areas, noting that this had been borne out of the recommendations of the Workshop on MPAs, and, in particular, focused on protection in the Antarctic Peninsula region, given the risk to ice shelves associated with the elevated rate of warming in this region.

By-catch and incidental mortality

12. The Commission encouraged all Members that are engaged in fisheries management bodies in areas adjacent to the Convention Area to implement best practice mitigation to reduce seabird by-catch.
13. The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's general advice on incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals. The Commission noted the progress made by France in recent years to reduce the incidental mortalities in their exclusive economic zones and that incidental mortalities elsewhere in the Convention Area were similar to the near-zero levels of recent years.
14. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Scientific Committee in respect of the continued and enhanced engagement between the Secretariats of Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) and CCAMLR.

Cooperation between CCAMLR and CCSBT

15. The Commission noted that a draft Memorandum of Understanding in respect of general cooperation, had been forwarded by CCAMLR three years ago was still under consideration by CCSBT and requested the Executive Secretary to write to CCSBT to urge progress in this matter. CCAMLR looks forward to receiving an update at CCAMLR-XXXI.
16. The Commission agreed that Australia would represent CCAMLR at the 19th Annual Meeting of the CCSBT in October 2012.
17. CCSBT was invited to attend CCAMLR XXXI.

Review of the Secretariat Strategic Plan

18. In the 2010/11 intersessional period the Secretariat undertook a review of the 2002 Strategic Plan and developed an associated Staffing and Salary Strategy. An Independent Review of the Secretariat's Data Management Systems was also undertaken. The Commission will consider formal adoption of the Strategic Plan (2012-2014) at CCAMLR XXXI.

Other issues

19. Following a review of CCAMLR's Financial Regulations, to ensure that they were current and appropriate to the operations and requirements of the Commission and current accounting standards, the Commission adopted amendments to the Financial Regulations and new investment principles to guide the Commission's investment strategy.

20. Other issues discussed at CCAMLR XXX 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; and the development of a compliance and evaluation procedure.

21. The Commission adopted a resolution which encourages Members and their flagged vessels to provide relevant vessel information to the appropriate Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in advance of the vessels entering the Convention Area. Resolution 33/XXX (Provision of flag vessel information to Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres) was adopted.

22. Recalling the sinking of the FV *Insung No.1* in the Ross Sea in 2010, and Members' concerns for the safety of fishing vessels, crew and scientific observers operating in the Southern Ocean, the Commission adopted a resolution to enhance the safety of fishing vessels in the Convention Area. Resolution 34/XXX (Enhancing the safety of fishing vessels in the CAMLR Convention Area) was adopted.

23. The thirty-first annual meeting of CCAMLR will be held from 23 October to 1 November 2012 in Hobart, Tasmania.