

REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
(Hobart, Australia, 23 October to 3 November 2000)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 23 October to 3 November 2000. The Executive Secretary conveyed the apologies of the Chair, Dr A.E. Muthunayagam who was not available for the opening of the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and Mr V. Brukhis (Russia), Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair in his absence. Mr Brukhis then opened the meeting.

1.2 The Chair of the Commission took over his responsibilities after the first two agenda items were dealt with.

1.3 Twenty-two of the 23 Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island, United States of America and Uruguay. Poland was not represented.

1.4 Other Contracting Parties, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Namibia, Netherlands and Peru, were invited to attend the meeting as observers. Bulgaria, Netherlands, Namibia and Peru attended.

1.5 The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were invited to attend the meeting as observers. ASOC, CEP, FAO, IUCN, IWC, SCAR and SCOR attended.

1.6 Belize, China, Panama, Portugal, Mauritius, Seychelles and Vanuatu who were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. were also invited to attend as observers in accordance with CCAMLR-XVIII, paragraphs 16.2 and 16.5. Mauritius was represented.

1.7 The List of Participants is given in Annex 1. The List of Documents presented to the meeting is given in Annex 2.

1.8 The Vice-Chair welcomed all Members and introduced His Excellency the Honourable Sir Guy Green, AC, KBE, Governor of Tasmania.

1.9 His Excellency extended a warm welcome to all delegates to Tasmania. In his address he

highlighted the CCAMLR 2000 Krill Synoptic Survey of Area 48 (CCAMLR-2000 Survey) undertaken early in January–February by CCAMLR Member States as a major scientific achievement. The survey had contributed a unique set of data that enabled the Scientific Committee and CCAMLR to take a well-informed assessment of the status of krill. This had also provided a significant contribution to the general body of scientific knowledge.

1.10 He acknowledged the widespread concern about seabird by-catch, particularly in relation to albatrosses and petrels, and noted CCAMLR's involvement in a meeting to develop an agreement on the conservation of these taxa. He suggested that, due to its unique role and standing, CCAMLR was well placed to make significant contributions to the development of an agreement and action plan.

1.11 His Excellency noted that an important issue for CCAMLR-XIX was the review of the Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (CDS) which had been established last year. He was impressed by the resolute and practical approach that CCAMLR was taking with regard to its implementation, particularly in relation to obtaining the cooperation of non-Contracting Parties.

1.12 In concluding his address, His Excellency wished the delegates a successful and productive meeting.