

## **REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**

(Hobart, Australia, 21 October to 1 November 2002)

### OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 21 October to 1 November 2002, chaired by Dr N. Sasanelli (Italy).

1.2 All 24 Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, 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.

1.3 Other Contracting Parties, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Netherlands, Peru and Vanuatu, were invited to attend the meeting as observers, but were not represented.

1.4 The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Commission on the South Pacific (CPPS), the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), 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 Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were also invited to attend the meeting as observers. ASOC, CEP, FAO, IOC, IUCN, IWC and SCAR attended.

1.5 It was agreed at last year's meeting to invite to CCAMLR-XXI as observers the following non-Contracting Parties: Angola, Belize, People's Republic of China, Columbia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, St Vincent and Grenadines, Thailand and Togo (CCAMLR-XX, paragraphs 17.1 and 17.2). These countries were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. The People's Republic of China, Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles were represented at the meeting. As the Secretariat had not been able to establish contacts with appropriate persons within the Governments of Madagascar and Togo, it had not been possible to issue invitations to these countries.

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

1.7 The Chair welcomed all Members and observers to the meeting, particularly Mozambique which was being represented for the first time as a non-Contracting Party. He noted that during the course of the meeting, delegates from the 24 Member countries would work intensely on the protection of Antarctic marine living resources, the preservation and well being of which is vital to the health of the planet in the future.

1.8 The Chair wished to thank the Australian Government and the State of Tasmania for their support of, and contribution to, CCAMLR. In particular this year, the Governor and the Premier of Tasmania had visited the Secretariat offices and hosted functions to welcome the new Executive Secretary and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Convention.

1.9 The Chair then had the honour of introducing His Excellency the Honourable Sir Guy Green, AC, KBE, Governor of Tasmania.

1.10 His Excellency extended a welcome to all delegates to Tasmania. In his address he spoke of the entrenchment in Tasmania's history and culture for some 180 years of the Antarctic, sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean. This involvement had been reinforced with the inauguration of the Tasmanian Mid-winter Festival which had included two lectures on the Southern Ocean, one of which was given by the Executive Secretary, Dr D. Miller.

1.11 His Excellency expressed Tasmanians' feelings of close attachment to CCAMLR and their pleasure in having the Secretariat's home in Hobart. On a visit to the Secretariat earlier in the year he had been greatly impressed by its organisation and professionalism, personal commitment and collegiality. It had been his pleasure to host a reception for the staff to mark the 20th anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention.

1.12 His Excellency said he continued to be impressed by the Commission's efforts to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing for toothfish. He was pleased to see the continued success of the innovative and well thought out Catch Documentation Scheme which was being seen as a model for other international regulatory regimes. He also congratulated all those involved in the CCAMLR website, which is now not only a useful tool for the Scientific Committee, but also a most valuable resource for the wider international community.

1.13 Another aspect of CCAMLR's work which His Excellency saw as an example for others to follow, was the way in which the Commission has formulated and applied the 'precautionary principle', a term which had been routinely misused by environmental and scientific forums all over the world. The careful, disciplined program for determining precautionary limits which CCAMLR has devised stands in marked contrast to the casual application of the principle in programs of environmental management found elsewhere.

1.14 His Excellency concluded his address on a personal note. His interest and involvement with CCAMLR began in 1983 as Lieutenant-Governor and increased following his appointment as Governor. He said it had been his privilege to be associated with CCAMLR and to have the opportunity of meeting the able and agreeable people who have dedicated themselves to its work. His Excellency's term as Governor will come to an end before the next meeting. So, as this was the last time he would address this forum, and being conscious of Article XVIII of the Convention, His Excellency bid farewell by saying:

'merci et adieu  
gracias y adiós  
spaseeba ee da svedanja  
Thank you and goodbye'.