

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**
(Hobart, Australia, 27 October to 7 November 2003)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-second Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 27 October to 7 November 2003, chaired by Mr K. Yonezawa (Japan).

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. Canada, Greece, Netherlands and Peru were represented.

1.4 The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Permanent Commission on the South Pacific (CPPS), 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. The Commission also extended a late invitation to the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO). ASOC, CEP, COLTO, CPPS, FAO, IUCN, IWC and SCAR attended.

1.5 It was agreed at last year's meeting to invite to CCAMLR-XXII as observers the following non-Contracting Parties: Angola, Belize, People's Republic of China, Columbia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, St Vincent and Grenadines, Thailand and Togo (CCAMLR-XXI, paragraph 17.1). These countries were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. The People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Mauritius and Seychelles were represented at the meeting.

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 Canada (an Acceding State), Indonesia (a non-Contracting Party), COLTO, CPPS and CITES which were being represented for the first time.

1.8 It was acknowledged with regret that Mr Esteban de Salas, CCAMLR's Executive Secretary from 1993 to 2002, had died suddenly in Spain in May 2003. The sympathy of all Commission Members was conveyed to Mr de Salas' family.

1.9 The Chair then introduced The Honourable Dr S. Stone MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

1.10 On behalf of the Australian Government, Dr Stone extended a warm welcome to all delegates to Tasmania, particularly those from countries and organisations being represented for the first time. In her address she said that the Australian Government, as Depositary of the CAMLR Convention, was proud to have the Secretariat of such a prestigious international organisation headquartered in Hobart, Australia's gateway to the Antarctic. This complemented the strong and ongoing focus on marine policy and research present in Hobart. Southern Ocean research is an important and integral aspect to Hobart and the wider Australian community.

1.11 Dr Stone spoke of CCAMLR's achievements since the Convention came into force in 1980 – most notably its significant progress towards establishing a management regime for krill and its approach to establishing regimes for the sustainable harvesting of marine living resources taking into consideration the best available scientific advice. CCAMLR had, however, faced considerable challenges in recent years, most notably in relation to the serious threat of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing to CCAMLR's objective of the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.

1.12 Dr Stone looked to the future of CCAMLR with the current meeting addressing significant challenges in dealing with the difficult issue of IUU fishing. She felt that continuation of CCAMLR's tradition of cooperation, goodwill and commitment among all Members and those countries which cooperate with it, is essential to the attainment of its objective of the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.

1.13 Dr Stone saw the Commission's agenda as a full and challenging one, and she wished all delegations well in their deliberations.