

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**
(Hobart, Australia, 24 October to 4 November 2005)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 24 October to 4 November 2005, chaired by Prof. Seo-hang Lee (Republic of Korea).

1.2 Twenty-three of the 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, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay. Poland was not represented.

1.3 Other Contracting Parties, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Mauritius, Netherlands, Peru and Vanuatu, were invited to attend the meeting as observers. Greece, Mauritius, Netherlands and Peru were represented.

1.4 The Cook Islands had deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Convention with the Depositary (Australia) on 20 October 2005 and also attended the meeting.

1.5 The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), 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 Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO), the Permanent Commission on the South Pacific (CPPS), the Food and Agriculture Organization 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 South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Commission for the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean were also invited to attend the meeting as observers. ACAP, ASOC, CCSBT, CEP, COLTO, FAO, IUCN, IWC, SCAR, SEAFO and UNEP attended.

1.6 It was agreed at last year's meeting to invite to CCAMLR-XXIV as observers the following non-Contracting Parties: Angola, Belize, People's Republic of China, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Panama, Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, St Vincent and Grenadines, Thailand and Togo (CCAMLR-XXIII, paragraph 18.1). These countries were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. The People's Republic of China was represented at the meeting.

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 Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting, particularly the Cook Islands.

1.9 The Chair noted that CCAMLR had a long association with the Government of Australia, the Depositary of the Convention, the State of Tasmania and the city of Hobart. The Commission looked forward to its annual meeting with eager anticipation, heightened by the warm reception and hospitality which all enjoyed, and now by a magnificent new Headquarters building.

1.10 The Chair then introduced His Excellency the Honourable William Cox AC RFD ED, Governor of Tasmania.

1.11 His Excellency welcomed delegates to Hobart and Tasmania. In his address he said that the occasion was especially noteworthy to him as it was the first time that CCAMLR had met in its own Headquarters. He felt it was fitting that the historic building now housed an organisation that leads the world in terms of ocean governance and the sustainable management of the wild resources found therein.

1.12 His Excellency said that each year, as CCAMLR looked back over its achievements and took the lessons learned into the future, progress continued to be made in combating the scourge of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, implementation of a centralised Vessel Monitoring System and development of an electronic Catch Documentation Scheme. Progress was also being made in addressing ecosystem considerations in the management of the krill fishery and in advancing various scientific initiatives aimed at improving the information on which management advice to the Commission had come to be based.

1.13 Most notably, the CCAMLR Symposium organised by Australia and Chile provided a unique opportunity for a frank and open appraisal of how CCAMLR goes about its business. Not only was this timely, it was also indicative of a 'healthy' respect for progress along with recognition of the need to remain flexible in response to ever-changing circumstances. Therefore, it is significant that the Symposium's outcomes are going to be considered against a background of growing international scrutiny as to the way that regional fisheries management organisations operate.

1.14 His Excellency said that, through its innovative thinking and progressive actions, CCAMLR has probably done more than many other, and similar, organisations, to advance the efficient meeting of its objectives. The fact that CCAMLR and those involved are often held up as an example of best international practice in the field of wild-resource management is clearly a testament that the organisation must be 'doing something right' and is a credit to all involved.

1.15 His Excellency repeated his past sentiment that CCAMLR Contracting Parties have much to offer the world in terms of their institutional and scientific expertise, as well as their institutional responsibility for a vast amount of vital data on the resources of the Southern Ocean. It is perhaps fitting that, like many of the other Antarctic organisations based in Tasmania, CCAMLR contributes greatly to the scientific synergy that characterises the Antarctic Treaty System. Along with COMNAP, the ACAP Secretariat and the University's

Antarctic CRC, CCAMLR is much valued in Tasmania as an institution with considerable educational potential on matters Antarctic. To have it now housed in the oldest school building in the State, is thus very appropriate.

1.16 His Excellency wished the Commission every success with the Twenty-fourth Meeting.

Opening of the new CCAMLR Headquarters building

1.17 The Chair welcomed the Hon. Alexander Downer, MP (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia), Senator The Hon. Ian Macdonald (Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, Australia), Lara Giddings, MHA (Minister for Economic Development and the Arts, Tasmania) and other distinguished guests on the occasion of the opening of the new CCAMLR Headquarters building. He again noted that this was the first time in CCAMLR's nearly 25-year history that it was holding its annual meeting at its own Headquarters.

1.18 Minister Downer indicated the importance that Australia attaches to its responsibilities as CCAMLR's host country and as the Depositary of the CAMLR Convention (see Annex 6). He highlighted the high esteem with which the Commission is regarded both domestically and internationally, especially in respect of its unique ecosystem and precautionary approach as well as its efforts to combat IUU fishing. Minister Downer also noted that the opening of the new CCAMLR Headquarters had personal significance since his father had attended the Hutchins School as a boy.

1.19 Minister Downer unveiled a commemorative plaque and declared the new CCAMLR Headquarters open.

1.20 In thanking Minister Downer, the Chair introduced Minister Lara Giddings, MHA.

1.21 Minister Giddings indicated that the Tasmanian Government was extremely proud of the fact that Hobart served as the host city for three important Antarctic organisations, including CCAMLR (see Annex 6). In these terms, she saw the locating of its new Headquarters in a well known and historic landmark as reinforcing the Tasmanian Government's ongoing commitment to, as well as its support for, CCAMLR over many years. Minister Giddings concluded by informing the Commission that the Tasmanian Government had entered into an agreement with the Australian Government to ensure that CCAMLR's move to its new Headquarters was now a reality and would continue to be supported in terms of underwriting the rent for the premises into the future.