

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

21.1 The Report of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Commission was adopted.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

22.1 Australia noted that one delegate who had been involved with CCAMLR for a number of years would not be returning. Australia wished to record its appreciation for the constructive role that Mr Ray Arnaudo (USA) had played in CCAMLR over the years and wished him well in his new endeavours.

22.2 On behalf of the Commission and the Secretariat, the Executive Secretary presented Mr Arnaudo with a gift in appreciation for his calm demeanour, understanding and good friendship over many years.

22.3 Mr Arnaudo thanked the Chair for his efforts at this meeting and noted that it had been one of the quickest meetings on record. He said that all could be proud of what CCAMLR had achieved, particularly with the progress being made against IUU fishing through the CDS.

22.4 The Executive Secretary also farewelled Prof. John Croxall (UK) who, after an association of nearly 25 years, was retiring and would not be returning to CCAMLR meetings. He believed that all had been enriched by Prof. Croxall's contribution to the organisation and the energy he had expended in furthering its actions.

22.5 Prof. Croxall said it had been a privilege and a pleasure to work with the CCAMLR community. He thanked everyone for their support and forbearance over many years and hoped to see many in other endeavours in the future.

22.6 South Africa, on behalf of the Commission, thanked the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr Fanta, who had persevered through the meeting despite having suffered a broken arm. South Africa also expressed its appreciation to the Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee, Dr Barrera-Oro, for his support.

22.7 Japan expressed its sincere appreciation to Prof. Lee for his hard work in chairing the Commission's meeting which was a difficult job given the complexity of the organisation. With Prof. Lee's professional and succinct dealings, the meeting had been concluded smoothly and successfully in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. Japan expressed its deepest respect to the Chair and looked forward to next year's Twenty-fifth Meeting.

22.8 Russia endorsed all the good wishes that had been expressed and especially thanked the translators and interpreters who helped participants to understand each other.

22.9 The Executive Secretary thanked his staff who had, particularly this year in moving to the new Headquarters, willingly worked long hours and produced the information and given the support expected by Members for a Secretariat of an organisation with CCAMLR's standing. He personally thanked all the staff without exception and the Commission joined the applause.

22.10 The Chair thanked participants for their special effort, without which the meeting would not have been such a great success. He thanked everyone for their support and cooperation and the restraint shown by all participants. The discussions had achieved a productive outcome. He said that in adopting the report, it had been a great day for the cause of conservation of the Southern Ocean. Prof. Lee congratulated all for the achievements upon which we should build to make a better and healthier environment. In this South Pacific area to which Tasmania belongs, there is an old saying – ‘Land divides, ocean unites’. The Chair wished to revise this to ‘Land divides, Antarctica unites’. We all are united as one under the name of CCAMLR to conserve marine life of the Antarctic continent and its surrounding waters.

22.11 The Chair took the opportunity to express his special thanks to Dr Fanta (Chair of the Scientific Committee) Mrs Carvajal (Chair of SCIC), Dr Pott (Chair of SCAF) and Dr D. Agnew (UK) (Chair of the Conservation Measures Drafting Group) for their hard work and outstanding contribution to the meeting.

22.12 The Chair said that the success of the meeting had been made possible by the dedication, efficiency and professionalism of all members of the Secretariat staff and the interpreters, all of whom had worked hard under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Dr D. Miller. He fully appreciated everyone’s sincere participation and contribution in helping him chair the Twenty-fourth Meeting of CCAMLR.

22.13 The Chair closed the meeting.