

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH
MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**
(Hobart, Australia, 23 October to 3 November 2006)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-fifth 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 2006, chaired by Prof. Seo-hang Lee (Republic of Korea).

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, People's Republic of China, Cook Islands, Finland, Greece, Mauritius, Netherlands, Peru and Vanuatu, were invited to attend the meeting as observers. The People's Republic of China, Mauritius, Netherlands and Peru were represented.

1.4 The People's Republic of China had deposited its Instrument of Accession to the Convention with the Depositary (Australia) on 19 September 2006 and became an Acceding State on 19 October 2006.

1.5 The People's Republic of China made the following statement:

'This is the first time China has participated in CCAMLR's annual meeting as a Contracting Party to the Convention. It is a pleasure and honour for my delegation to attend this meeting in the beautiful city of Hobart. I would like to thank the Government of Australia and the State of Tasmania for hosting the meeting, and to thank the Australian Government and its embassy in Beijing for their valuable advice and assistance on the accession procedure. We also express our thanks to other Members and the Secretariat for their valuable support to us. I wish the meeting a total success.

The CCAMLR Convention is an important convention in the Antarctic Treaty System. Being a new Contracting Party to the CCAMLR Convention as well as an "old" consultative party to the Antarctic Treaty, China supports the healthy development of the Antarctic Treaty system. China would like to stand along with other Contracting Parties, to work together and contribute to the conservation of the Antarctic marine living resources. China anticipates becoming a Member of the Commission in the near future and China is looking forward to closer cooperation with other Members to make CCAMLR a greater success in the ecologically sustainable management of fisheries in the CCAMLR area.

While at the same time, being a newly-acceded Contracting Party, it is still a learning process for China to become more familiar with the Convention and the Commission's management mechanism. There is also a need for capacity building of China under

this Convention. Currently the relevant authorities in China are conducting a thorough study of the existing measures and management mechanism of CCAMLR. China would welcome any useful information and valuable assistance in this regard.’

1.6 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 and SCAR attended.

1.7 It was agreed at last year’s meeting to invite the following non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR-XXV as observers: Angola, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Panamá, Philippines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, St Vincent and Grenadines, Thailand and Togo (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 19.1). Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Maldives were also invited to attend (COMM CIRCs 06/65 and 06/76). These countries were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. Cambodia and Mozambique were represented at the meeting.

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

1.9 The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. He said that it was a great privilege to celebrate the Commission’s ‘Silver Anniversary’ meeting in its own Headquarters. He thanked the Government of Australia, the Depositary of the Convention, the State of Tasmania and the city of Hobart for their warm reception and hospitality. The Commission looked forward to its annual meeting with eager anticipation.

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

1.11 His Excellency welcomed delegates to Hobart and Tasmania. On the occasion of the Commission’s silver anniversary, His Excellency reflected on CCAMLR’s auspicious history. In his view, it leads the world in sustainable management of the ocean’s living resources and has done much to advance effective ocean governance globally. It is to the credit of all Contracting Parties which have enthusiastically engaged, and clearly exhibited a genuine desire to cooperate, in solving the problems which the organisation has faced.

1.12 His Excellency spoke of CCAMLR's achievements:

- The Commission's key role in the comprehensive and systematic management of Antarctic marine living resources, as well as protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated marine ecosystems.
- The Scientific Committee's many pioneering advances over the years in developing precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches to managing Antarctic marine living resources.
- CCAMLR's international recognition and appreciation for its sustained efforts to combat IUU fishing.

1.13 His Excellency saw these achievements as having served to secure the Commission's global position as a leader in the conservation of marine living resources. He said that CCAMLR has much to offer the world in terms of its institutional and scientific expertise. It continues to contribute extensively to the scientific synergy and cooperative spirit that characterises the Antarctic Treaty System as well as the many Antarctic-related activities with which Tasmania is deeply involved.

1.14 His Excellency felt that CCAMLR's many achievements have laid a solid foundation for its future. Effective organisations like CCAMLR have much to offer to secure the sustainability of the many resources that are too often taken for granted. He was convinced that CCAMLR would continue as a world leader in the future development of its precautionary approach to resource management through initiatives such as bioregionalisation of the Southern Ocean, the development of small-scale management units for the krill fishery, by-catch mitigation and adaptive responses to a variety of sustainability issues, including combating IUU fishing.

1.15 On the eve of the historic International Polar Year, it is also appropriate that CCAMLR, in its silver jubilee year, stands to contribute significantly to that global endeavour.

1.16 His Excellency concluded by wishing the Commission every success with its Twenty-fifth Meeting.

1.17 The Chair invited His Excellency to unveil a plaque which was to serve as a roll of honour for those who had served the Commission as office bearers over the past 25 years.