

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

22.1 Australia noted Dr Mike Richardson's imminent retirement and thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Commission over many years. Dr Richardson's commitment to CCAMLR, the Antarctic Treaty and the Antarctic Treaty System has been unwavering. His contribution has been profound and he has always provided a professional and coherent approach to the arguments he has put forward, and the work that he has contributed. Australia presented Dr Richardson with small gifts for himself and his wife.

22.2 Dr Richardson thanked Australia and said that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with the Commission over the last 17 years. CCAMLR had come a long way since he first joined in 1990. Dr Richardson recalled that the Commission had paid tribute at the beginning of the meeting to Dr John Heap who had been involved with CCAMLR at an early stage when it was fairly rudimentary in terms of the numbers of its conservation measures and certainly in the amount of data that was coming before this Commission on which to make sensible management decisions in respect of fisheries. Dr Heap had coined a very important mantra for CCAMLR – 'No data, no fish' and repeated it very often. Dr Richardson felt it had changed the whole atmosphere of CCAMLR where in fact the data started being produced and the Commission started moving on conservation measures in a very proactive way. Dr Richardson said that he greatly appreciated the cooperation he had had from all delegations over the years and he wished everyone, and CCAMLR as a collective organisation, all the best for the future.

22.3 The Executive Secretary said that he could not let Dr Richardson go without a few words:

'Today we talk about an English favoured one
Known by the name Michael Richardson.
Revered for clarity and precision
He is ever erudite, never cause for derision.
As Mike now leaves our fold
His departure will provide a noticeable hole.
We all wish him well post-CCAMLR
And sincerely hope he will always carry our banner afar.

Adieu Mike.'

The Executive Secretary presented Dr Richardson with a parting gift.

22.4 Australia thanked Prof. Lee for successfully guiding the Commission through the last two meetings, particularly this year's Silver Anniversary meeting.

22.5 The Executive Secretary presented the Chair with a customary gavel and a framed photograph of the Chair taken during his stay in Tasmania.

22.6 The Chair thanked participants for their special effort, without which this Silver Anniversary meeting would not be such a great success. He thanked everyone for their support and cooperation and the restraint shown by all participants during the discussions to achieve a highly productive outcome. He said that in adopting the final report, it had been a great day for the cause of conservation of the Southern Ocean. Prof. Lee congratulated all for the meaningful achievements upon which we should build a better and healthier Antarctic marine environment for ourselves and our children in the future. Delegations had worked hard in a very constructive manner, united under the name of CCAMLR, to protect the marine life of the Antarctic environment. He urged Members to continue their work and the spirit of consensus would enhance CCAMLR's credibility in the international community.

22.7 The Chair expressed 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.

22.8 The Chair said the success of the meeting had been made possible by the dedication, efficiency and professionalism of the Secretariat staff and the interpreters who had worked hard under the excellent leadership of the Executive Secretary. He fully appreciated everyone's sincere participation and contribution in helping him chair this, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of CCAMLR.

22.9 The Executive Secretary personally thanked his staff for their magnificent support of himself and the entire Commission.

22.10 The Chair closed the meeting.