

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**  
(Hobart, Australia, 22 October to 2 November 2007)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 22 October to 2 November 2007, chaired by Mr P. Amutenya (Namibia).

1.2 All 25 Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as China), 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, Cook Islands, Finland, Greece, Mauritius, Netherlands, Peru and Vanuatu, were invited to attend the meeting as observers. The Cook Islands, Greece, Netherlands and Vanuatu were represented.

1.4 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 (WCPFC) were also invited to attend the meeting as observers. ACAP, ASOC, CEP, COLTO, FFA, IUCN, IWC, SCAR and SEAFO attended.

1.5 It was agreed at last year's meeting to invite the following non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR-XXVI as observers: Angola, Belize, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Panamá, Philippines, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Togo and Vietnam (CCAMLR-XXV, paragraph 19.1). These countries were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. Cambodia and Mozambique were represented at the meeting.

1.6 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 participants to the meeting, particularly China which was attending the Commission's meeting for the first time as a full Member. China had become a Member on 2 October 2007 (see paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4).

1.8 The Chair said that it was a great privilege for Namibia to chair the Commission's annual meeting in the 'silver anniversary' year of the Convention entering into force. He thanked the Government of Australia, the Depositary of the Convention and the State of Tasmania for their hospitality. The Commission looked forward to its annual meeting with eager anticipation.

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

1.10 His Excellency welcomed delegates to Hobart and Tasmania. He said that it was fitting that the International Polar Year (IPY), the largest internationally coordinated effort to study both the Arctic and Antarctic, coincided with the CAMLR Convention having been in force for 25 years on 8 April 2007.

1.11 His Excellency said that with the IPY taking place against a background of the ever-evolving climate change debate, it appeared reasonable to ask where CCAMLR stood in this regard. He noted that the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) had long been collecting data for selected species, and in key areas, which can potentially be used to tease apart changes due to natural variability and those that are human-induced. Furthermore, the provisions of Article II.3(c) of the Convention clearly identified the need to take into account the effects of environmental change as this may affect sustained conservation of marine living resources in the Convention Area. He also noted that, at its last meeting, the Commission recognised this need and called on Members to consider where the potential effects of climate change on Antarctic marine living ecosystems might be felt, and how such knowledge could be used to advise the Commission on management of the krill fishery specifically.

1.12 When opening the Commission's meeting last year, His Excellency noted that 'the sum of CCAMLR's achievements has fully surpassed the sum of its individual parts' and was now more convinced of this view than ever. By coming to terms with the possible effects of climate change on the resources it manages, and by addressing some difficult issues such as deep bottom trawling, the control of nationals and conservation of sharks, the Commission continued to take the global lead in the sustainable management of our planet's ocean spaces.

1.13 The Commission continued to draw heavily on logical, carefully formulated and robust scientific advice and this was apparent in its recent initiatives to develop an objective bioregionalisation of the Convention Area as a tool to underpin spatial management and future options aimed at managing selected species. His Excellency said he awaited with interest the eventual outcomes from this daunting and farsighted task.

1.14 Finally, he noted that the CCAMLR Headquarters had come of age as a unique meeting place for Antarctic parishioners, both nationally and internationally. It had served as a meeting venue for the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO), the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), the Tasmanian Midwinter Festival, the Tasmanian Antarctic Polar Network, the second round of negotiations for a South Pacific regional fisheries management organisation, and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern

Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), as well as a number of Tasmanian civil and commercial organisations. It was comforting to know that Tasmania is able to provide such a distinguished venue and to draw so many esteemed participants to our beautiful island.

1.15 His Excellency said that such achievements served to secure the Commission's standing in the Tasmanian community as well as its global position as a leader in the conservation of marine living resources for the benefit of present and future generations. It was therefore fitting that delegates were participants today in this Antarctic gateway city.

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