

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
(Hobart, Australia, 27 October to 7 November 2008)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 27 October to 7 November 2008, 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. Netherlands, Peru 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, IUCN, IWC, SCAR, SEAFO and WCPFC attended.

1.5 It was agreed at last year's meeting to invite the following non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR-XXVII as observers: Belize, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Panamá, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Togo and Vietnam (CCAMLR-XXVI, paragraph 19.1). An invitation had also been issued to American Samoa, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Marshall Islands, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates, which were known to have an interest in fishing for, or trade in, *Dissostichus* spp. The Marshall Islands was 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. He said that it was once again a great privilege for Namibia to chair the Commission's annual meeting. 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.

1.8 The Chair asked participants to stand for a minute's silence in memory of CCAMLR's esteemed Scientific Committee Chair, the late Prof. Edith Fanta (Brazil), who passed way on 7 May 2008. Prof. Fanta was well respected in the Antarctic and CCAMLR as a whole has benefited from her dedication and commitment to all things Antarctic. But more than that, Edith was generous of spirit and truly gave of herself to all those with whom she came into contact. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

1.9 As a lasting memento of Prof. Fanta's contribution to CCAMLR, the Chair invited participants to write in the condolence book that would be forwarded to her family in Brazil.

1.10 The Chair introduced His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood AO, Governor of Tasmania, and said that CCAMLR had benefited enormously over many years from the close ties it shared with the Governor of Tasmania and Government House. CCAMLR again looked forward to building on and strengthening these ties.

1.11 His Excellency welcomed delegates to Hobart and Tasmania. He said that 2008 had been a momentous year for CCAMLR. Noteworthy initiatives included an independent review of the institution's performance, a joint workshop with the IWC on developing scientific inputs for coherent models of Antarctic marine ecosystems and continuing work on defining vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), as well as initiatives on facing the management challenges arising from global climate change. The issues to be addressed have become more complex, the available resources increasingly limited and the need for effective outcomes has greater urgency than ever before.

1.12 CCAMLR had responded to such challenges and His Excellency said that it was gratifying that consideration of climate change was now on the Commission's agenda, along with the subdivision of the precautionary krill catch limits in Area 48 and the development of spatial management in general. It was also pleasing to see that the CCAMLR Scientific Committee and the Antarctic Treaty's Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) are scheduled to hold a joint workshop immediately prior to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Party meeting in Baltimore, USA, next April. This particular workshop requires little promotion amongst CCAMLR Members, given its important rôle in enhancing cooperation between the two most important elements of the Antarctic Treaty System – the Treaty and the Convention.

1.13 His Excellency believed that having the CCAMLR Headquarters located in Tasmania contributed much to the Commission's success over the past 27 years. Tasmania is globally recognised, and unique, for possessing a critical and significant mass of Antarctic expertise. Offering both scientific and logistical advantages, the Antarctic gateway city of Hobart provides an outstanding environment for fruitful, informed and focused debate on a wide range of Antarctic issues.

1.14 His Excellency felt that CCAMLR's achievements served to secure the Commission's standing in the local 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.

1.15 It was with deep regret that His Excellency noted the passing in May this year of Prof. Edith Fanta of Brazil, the Chair of CCAMLR's Scientific Committee. Prof. Fanta made an enormous contribution to the Commission's work as well as to that of SCAR. She will be sorely missed. Together with Mrs J. Miller, His Excellency unveiled a painting by Mrs Miller in lasting memory of Prof. Fanta.

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