

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION**  
(Hobart, Australia, 26 October to 6 November 2009)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Twenty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 26 October to 6 November 2009, chaired by Ambassador D. MacKay (New Zealand).

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 was 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 Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), 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, IWC and SCAR attended.

1.5 In accordance with the Commission's decision last year (CCAMLR-XXVII, paragraph 19.1) and COMM CIRC 09/51, the following non-Contracting Parties were invited to attend CCAMLR-XXVIII as observers: Belarus, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Panamá, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Seychelles, Singapore, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. There were no non-Contracting Parties 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 an honour for New Zealand to chair the Commission's annual meeting. He thanked the Government of

Australia, the Depository 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 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.

1.9 His Excellency welcomed delegates to Hobart and Tasmania. He said it was fitting that, in celebrating the 50th year since the Antarctic Treaty was finalised on 2 December 1959, CCAMLR continued to shine as an example of this unique agreement in action. When CCAMLR entered into force in 1982, its very existence had been nurtured, developed and finalised within the framework of the Treaty System and its Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings. The joint CCAMLR Scientific Committee and Committee on Environmental Protection Workshop held in April this year clearly demonstrated the fruits of these labours. As a result, the cooperation between these two key elements of the Treaty System will continue to grow.

1.10 Noteworthy initiatives during 2009 included the development and implementation of a system to manage harvesting activities to mitigate potential impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems – ‘VMEs’. CCAMLR was one of only a few management organisations to meet the 31 December 2008 deadline set by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105.

1.11 His Excellency emphasised CCAMLR’s efforts to develop sustainable management of the growing krill fishery. While this fishery was one of the key reasons for CCAMLR’s existence, the trend of the fishery being at relatively modest levels for the past decade and a half at least, appeared to be changing. CCAMLR is to be congratulated for its perseverance in addressing such complex issues as dividing krill precautionary catch limits, investigating the carrying of scientific observers on krill fishing vessels and implementing small-scale management units.

1.12 His Excellency noted that, like much of modern life, CCAMLR is required to operate in an increasingly complex world. He congratulated CCAMLR Members for the manner in which they have steadfastly pursued the Convention’s objectives. His Excellency said that as humanity faces the vagaries of climate-induced variability on the biosphere, organisations such as CCAMLR should hold their heads high as we strive to secure a sustainable future for all.

1.13 In addressing the issue of climate change in particular, His Excellency noted that CCAMLR further demonstrates the important role that scientific cooperation plays within the Antarctic Treaty System. In this context, managing harvesting and associated human activities in the environmentally sensitive Antarctic is profoundly significant for ensuring rational utilisation of the rest of the planet’s living resources. The provision of the ‘best scientific evidence available’ therefore stands paramount. His Excellency congratulated the Scientific Committee for its efforts to ensure that the Commission’s decisions are scientifically well informed.

1.14 His Excellency said that CCAMLR was an organisation of global import and standing. To have it domiciled in Hobart and Tasmania is a rare privilege and one which the entire Tasmanian community greatly appreciates. With approval of the University of Tasmania’s

new Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies to be developed in the waterfront area during 2010, he believed that Hobart would continue to stand-alone as the global centre for Antarctic and marine science. The CCAMLR Headquarters is a beacon of international importance in this regard.

1.15 His Excellency said it was clear that CCAMLR's achievements 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.

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