

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Reports of observers from international organisations and intergovernmental organisations

ACAP

14.1 The ACAP Observer made the following statement to the Commission:

‘On behalf of the Parties to ACAP, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this meeting and to contribute to the important discussions being undertaken here. Firstly, I am pleased to advise that the MOU between CCAMLR and ACAP, which was agreed to at this meeting last year, has been endorsed by ACAP Parties and this document has now been signed by the respective Executive Secretaries, establishing a formal basis for collaboration between our two organisations.

Since the last meeting of the Commission, the Fifth Meeting of the Agreement’s Advisory Committee (AC5) was held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and a report on this meeting has been provided by the CCAMLR Observer (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/28).

Significant progress was achieved at AC5 with the identification of effective seabird by-catch mitigation measures for pelagic longline fishing operations. It is expected that next year’s meeting of the Advisory Committee will conclude this work, at which time ACAP will have available well researched, proven, by-catch mitigation measures for all types of fishing operations known to catch seabirds. This is a significant milestone, and builds on the ground-breaking work that was first initiated in this Commission on mitigation measures for demersal longline fishing operations.

ACAP has recently given a high priority to improving its ability to store and analyse data related to seabird conservation and to providing data and expert advice to a number of RFMOs that have a by-catch of albatrosses and petrels.

ACAP holds data on all 29 species listed under Annex 1 of the Agreement, including data relating to within and outside the CAMLR Convention Area and greatly appreciates the submission of data by some CCAMLR Parties, including data relating to areas outside CCAMLR waters. ACAP encourages those CCAMLR Parties which have relevant data and are yet to submit it to ACAP, to do so as soon as possible. In the coming year ACAP hopes to strengthen its practical cooperation with CCAMLR, including by providing an analysis of relevant data to assist the 2011 meeting of WG-IMAF.

In closing, I would like to highlight that ACAP is open to accession by any State with jurisdiction over breeding areas of ACAP species, or whose vessels fish in areas where ACAP-listed species forage. ACAP would warmly welcome the additional participation and accession of those CCAMLR Parties which are not yet a Party to ACAP. It is only through the collaborative efforts of all relevant States and international organisations that we can achieve our aim of achieving and maintaining a favourable conservation status for these iconic seabirds. Failure to do so will lead to the inevitable extinction of many populations of these seabirds.’

ASOC

14.2 ASOC made the following statement to the Commission:

‘ASOC conveys its warm welcome to CCAMLR’s new Executive Secretary and appreciation to the Chair and all CCAMLR countries for the opportunity to attend CCAMLR-XXIX as an observer. ASOC also appreciates the opportunity to engage in the critical issues that will be discussed this week, for many of which ASOC has submitted papers for discussion. First, ASOC wants to briefly reinforce the concerns that many countries expressed during the Scientific Committee meeting about the sharp and continuing increases in krill catches near the coasts in Area 48. This year, the catches reached a record 211 000 tonnes, which included a closure in Subarea 48.1 where 150 000 tonnes were caught in the coastal area where only 25% of the krill biomass is located, compounding the potential for localised depletion of krill.

ASOC has submitted to the meeting seven papers that are relevant to the work of the Commission (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/19 to BG/21 and BG/23 to BG/26).

Many of the recommendations from those papers will be introduced under the appropriate agenda items.

The need to reduce uncertainties in krill fisheries –

ASOC would like to briefly bring to the attention of the Commission, recommendations from CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/21, in particular the need to:

- Abide by scientific advice provided by WG-SAM and WG-EMM and review CM 51-06 to ensure systematic coverage of scientific observers for the krill fishery in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.
- Commit to work towards conducting a new krill synoptic survey to obtain an updated biomass estimate for Area 48. Small-scale acoustic surveys should be undertaken regularly in all areas where krill fishing takes place to provide up-to-date information on interannual krill variability. Subarea 48.2 is of particular importance, since no research program is active in this subarea.
- Strengthen the current CEMP to adapt to the needs of a feedback management system. Concurrently, CCAMLR should authorise and implement a dedicated CEMP Fund.
- Engage national scientists to gather the necessary predator data for revision of CM 51-07 in 2011 and provide them to the relevant working groups.

On MPAs –

ASOC is pleased to see that steady progress continues to be made within CCAMLR towards establishing an Antarctic System of Representative Marine Protected Areas by 2012. The MPA Workshop to be held in France next year is a particularly important step in the process and ASOC encourages all Members to work on identifying candidate MPAs and developing proposals within all eleven of the priority areas and

other areas as appropriate, in time for the workshop. Members should ensure that the MPA proposals that they develop are of sufficient scale to ensure that they will be able to deliver on their objectives.

ASOC commends the Commission for the establishment of this first MPA in the vicinity of the South Orkneys as it constitutes an important step towards establishing a network across the Southern Ocean. The methodology employed by the UK to identify the boundaries of the South Orkneys MPA in its original proposal was based on the best available science and is applicable across the Southern Ocean. By reducing the MPA borders and making allowances for fisheries, the principles behind the original proposal have been undermined and the ecological values of the new MPA compromised.

ASOC trusts that Member States will take the lessons from this year and will return next year with proposals for MPAs that are of sufficient scale to actually meet agreed conservation objectives and confer real protection to the Southern Ocean.

On IUU fishing –

ASOC would like to express its appreciation to the EU for submitting its paper on this issue and the USA for its strong support.

ASOC submitted to CCAMLR a paper from The Pew Environment Group, which is a gap analysis comparing the new obligations under the PSMA agreement with the current regimes at the major RFMOs and CCAMLR. The preliminary findings, as of 31 July, served as a basis for this paper which acknowledges progress made by CCAMLR but also identifies the need for further work. The final report will be published in early 2011. Additional information and questions are still welcome before the report is finalised.

Finally,

- CCAMLR also should make mandatory the current voluntary requirement to obtain a unique IMO fishing identification number which is registered through Lloyds of London.
- CCAMLR should adopt a conservation measure which eliminates the carriage and use of heavy fuel oil on all fishing vessels operating in the Convention Area, thus harmonising the current heavy fuel ban that will take effect as of 1 August 2011, with requirements for the ban applicable throughout the Convention Area.

Finally, ASOC would like to thank the USA for its intervention asking for extension of observer status for working groups.’

COLTO

14.3 COLTO made the following statement:

‘COLTO appreciates the opportunity provided by CCAMLR to participate as an observer.

During the year, COLTO contributed A\$10 000 to the CCAMLR General Science Capacity Special Fund, supporting the initiative from Norway at last year’s meeting. COLTO notes the proposals from the Scientific Committee for effective use of these funds, and can see there will be positive benefits for CCAMLR as a result.

COLTO has been listening with interest to the Scientific Committee’s discussions on VMEs and the work being undertaken on an RSMPA. COLTO members can provide valuable practical input and expertise to CCAMLR discussions, and would like to offer its expert participation in the proposed workshop on MPAs in France next September, should the Commission consider its attendance worthwhile.

COLTO shares Members’ dismay at the unregulated high-seas catches of toothfish continuing using gillnet methods of fishing. That said, the continued low levels of IUU catches are a positive demonstration that CCAMLR’s rules are having the desired effect to eliminate IUU fishing for toothfish.

COLTO will continue to promote legal and sustainable fishing for toothfish, and to work with CCAMLR Members to eliminate IUU fishing.’

IWC

14.4 The IWC Observer to CCAMLR described work of relevance to CCAMLR (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/39 Rev. 1). The Commission noted the reported increase in Southern Ocean whale populations of between 7 and 8% per annum (SC-CAMLR-XXIX, paragraph 10.15). The IWC Observer also noted that the newly appointed Executive Secretary of IWC had extensive experience in Antarctic research.

14.5 The Commission commended the reports from observers and acknowledged the important role that their participation plays in CCAMLR’s work.

Reports of CCAMLR representatives at meetings of international organisations in 2009/10

14.6 The following reports from CCAMLR representatives were noted by the Commission:

- Report of the CCAMLR Observer to the 62nd Annual Meeting of IWC, 21 to 25 June 2010, Agadir, Morocco (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/3 Rev. 1, Belgium)

- Report of the EU–CCAMLR Observer to the IOTC 14th Annual Meeting, 1 to 5 March 2010, Busan, Republic of Korea (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/32, European Union)
- Report of the EU–CCAMLR Observer to the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting, 20 to 24 September 2010, Halifax, Canada (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/33, European Union)
- Report from the CCAMLR Observer to the 16th Annual Meeting of CCSBT, 20 to 23 October 2009, Jeju Island, Republic of Korea (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/34, Australia)
- Report from the CCAMLR Observer to the Extended Commission Meeting for the 17th Annual Meeting of CCSBT, 11 to 14 October 2010, Taipei (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/36 Rev. 1, Australia)
- Report from the CCAMLR Observer to the 7th Annual Meeting of SEAFO (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/40, Namibia)
- Report from the CCAMLR Observer (Brazil) to the XXI Regular Meeting of ICCAT (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/41, Brazil)
- Observer’s Report from the Eighth International Consultations on the Establishment of the Proposed South Pacific RFMO (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/42, New Zealand).

Cooperation with CCSBT

14.7 The Commission recalled that the issue of an MOU with CCSBT had been under discussion in that Commission for some time (CCAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 15.24) but that further progress was not made in the intersessional period (CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/36 Rev. 1). Given the number of areas of common interest between CCAMLR and CCSBT, the Commission looked forward to receiving an update at CCAMLR-XXX.

Cooperation with WCPFC

14.8 The Commission noted that the interaction between CCAMLR and WCPFC during the intersessional period included issues of sharing information and experience in relation to seabird by-catch mitigation.

Partnership in FIRMS

14.9 In response to the request of the Commission (CCAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 15.27), CCAMLR-XXIX/18 provided background information for the Commission’s review of its partnership in FIRMS.

14.10 The Commission recalled that it had entered a formal arrangement with FIRMS in 2006 and that, while FIRMS clearly has the potential to provide global information on the status and trends of fisheries, the Commission was concerned about the slow progress made by FIRMS. The Commission agreed to continued participation in FIRMS for a further year and to review this position in 2012.

Participation in CCAMLR meetings

14.11 The Secretariat reported that the attendance at the meeting by Nigeria as a non-Contracting Party had been financially supported from the Assistance Fund under Part VII of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The Observer from Nigeria made the following statement:

‘On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, I would like to register the country’s sincere appreciation to CCAMLR for the highest honour granted to the country to invite it as one of the observers to its 29th annual meeting in Hobart.

Last week at SCIC I made a presentation “Nigeria Statement”, outlining my country’s commitment to the CCAMLR fight against IUU fishing, which was adopted. I want to reassure the Commission of Nigeria’s commitment to all conservation measures as regards to international laws and jurisdiction, e.g. EU, UN, FAO, CCAMLR and others.

Nigeria is a non-Contracting Party to CCAMLR, although it is ready to cooperate most especially on the issue of IUU fishing. Nigeria equally promises that it shall not allow its port to be used as an IUU fishing port. It also promises to give a good fight to those vessel owners involved with IUU fishing if it dares find any, or receives information on any.

Concerning the vessel *Good Hope*, I made it clear in my statement that Nigeria has not granted fishing licences to any vessel to fish in the CAMLR Convention Area. However, I want to assure the Commission that investigation is currently going on and Nigeria shall inform the CCAMLR Secretariat appropriately, as soon as possible.

Finally, I want to plead with the Commission to initiate or come up with an accelerated information-sharing system with non-Contracting Parties; such information should be detailed and timely.’

14.12 The Commission welcomed this statement and thanked Nigeria for attending the meeting.

Nomination of representatives to meetings of international organisation in 2010/11

14.13 In response to the relatively limited number of reports received from observers nominated to meetings of relevance to CCAMLR, the Secretariat presented CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/33 that outlined an alternative approach to promoting CCAMLR and receiving information and developments in other relevant organisations.

14.14 The Commission agreed to maintain the current system for a further year and to review the information received at CCAMLR-XXX. Accordingly, the following observers were nominated to represent CCAMLR at meetings of international organisations in 2010/11:

- 17th Special Meeting of the Commission of ICCAT, 17 to 27 November 2010, Paris, France – EU
- Seventh Regular Session of WCPFC, 6 to 10 December 2010, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA – New Zealand
- Preparatory Conference II South Pacific RFMO Organisation, 24 to 28 January 2011, Cali, Colombia – New Zealand
- 29th Session of COFI, 29 January to 4 February 2011, Rome, Italy – Executive Secretary
- Third Meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN 3), 7 to 9 February 2011, Rome, Italy – Executive Secretary
- Ninth Round of Informal Consultations for States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, 15 to 29 March 2011, UN Headquarters, New York, USA – USA
- FAO Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance, 2 to 6 May 2011, Rome, Italy – EU
- IATTC:
 - 2nd Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee, 10 to 13 May 2011, La Jolla, CA, USA – EU
 - 82nd Meeting of IATTC (dates and venues not yet known) – EU
- ATCM XXXIV, 20 June to 1 July 2011, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Executive Secretary
- CEP:
 - CEP XIV, 20 to 24 June 2011, Buenos Aires, Argentina – Scientific Committee Chair and CCAMLR Science Officer
 - CEP ASMA Workshop, June 2011 (date and venue to be confirmed) – Scientific Committee Chair and CCAMLR Science Officer
- UNICPOLOS 12, June 2011, UN Headquarters, New York, USA – no nomination
- 63rd Annual Meeting of the IWC, 3 to 14 July 2011, St Helier, Jersey, UK – Belgium
- Third Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs, 11 to 15 July 2011, La Jolla, CA, USA – USA

- 7th Meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee (in conjunction with the intersessional meeting of the CWP Capture Fishery Group, scheduled in July 2011, La Jolla, CA, USA) – CCAMLR Data Manager
- 61st meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, 15 to 19 August 2011, Geneva, Switzerland – no nomination
- 33rd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 19 to 23 September 2011, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada – EU
- CCSBT:
 - Extended Commission Meeting, October 2011 – Australia
 - 18th Annual Meeting (dates and venue not yet known) – Australia
- 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 11), (dates and venue to be announced) – no nomination
- Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP 6) (dates and venue to be announced) – no nomination
- 8th Annual Meeting of SEAFO (dates and venue not yet known) – Namibia
- 5th Session of SWIOFC (dates and venue not yet known) – no nomination
- 15th Session of the IOTC, March 2011, Sri Lanka – EU.

14.15 Regarding future participation at CCAMLR meetings by new observers in general, Argentina stated that Members should receive thorough information about the proposed organisation.

14.16 Argentina emphasised once again that it is not a Party to the New York Agreement of 1995 on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks and that none of its provisions nor its decisions, resolutions or recommendations adopted in its framework, or derived from the said Agreement, are binding or have an exhortatory effect for Argentina, nor for any other State that is not a Party to the said instrument. In addition, Argentina stated that the Agreement must not be considered customary law.