

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Sixth 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 1987.
2. All Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Economic Community, France, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.
3. Following established practice, acceding states were invited to attend as observers and Greece, Sweden and Uruguay attended in this capacity. Peru also participated as an observer by invitation of the Commission.
4. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) were represented as observers at the Meeting. A list of participants is at Annex A.
5. The Commission noted that since its last Meeting, the Government of Spain had notified the depositary government on August 1987, in accordance with Article VII 2 (d) of the Convention, of the basis on which it sought to become a member of the Commission. The Commission further noted that no Member of the Commission had requested a special meeting to consider the notification, and the Commission therefore warmly welcomed Spain into membership of the Commission with effect from 21 October 1987.
6. The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission was opened by Senator Graham Richardson, Minister for the Environment and the Arts in the Australian Government.
7. In his opening address Senator Richardson emphasised the importance of adopting a conservation strategy for Antarctic marine living resources which encompassed the rational and sustainable exploitation of marine stocks. He noted that some progress had been made on this matter since last meeting and hoped that significant further progress would be made during this meeting.

8. Senator Richardson said a familiar problem in the management of marine living resources was that research often lagged behind the need for rational management measures. He stressed the importance of devoting more attention to research on krill and commended the Commission for its initiative in establishing the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

9. The Provisional Agenda was adopted by the Meeting without comment. A copy of the agenda is at Annex B.

10. The Chairman, Mr Edmond De Wilde of Belgium, welcomed Spain as a new Member of the Commission and those attending the Meeting as observers. He informed the Commission that there had been no objections to the Conservation Measures adopted at the last meeting and that they had consequently entered into force in accordance with the Convention.

11. The Commission had been invited to send an observer to the XIVth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting held in Brazil in October 1987 and following the Commission's decision of last meeting, the Chairman had nominated a representative to attend. The Chairman informed the Commission that a report of the attendance had been distributed as CCAMLR-VI/BG/6.

12. Finally, the Chairman drew attention to the increasing workload for the Commission's meeting and called upon delegates to participate effectively in the Working Groups of the Commission and to use the time out of session to attempt to resolve different issues so as to shorten the discussion of items in the Plenary Session.