

REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

(Hobart, Australia, 21 October to 1 November 1996)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 21 October to 1 November 1996 under the Chairmanship of Mr J. Villemain (France) who opened the meeting.

1.2 All Members of the Commission were represented: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, European Community, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, 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 Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Greece, Netherlands and Peru were invited to attend the meeting as observers. Finland and Greece attended.

1.4 The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), 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 Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (IOFC), 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) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) were invited to attend the meeting as observers. ASOC, CCSBT, IOC, IUCN and IWC attended.

1.5 The Chairman welcomed Members and observers to the meeting and noted that Uruguay had become a full Member of the Commission since the last meeting. There are now 23 Members and six Acceding States. The Republic of Namibia has expressed interest in participating in the work of CCAMLR, and its Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is presently studying the prospect of Namibia's acceding to the Convention.

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 meeting was addressed by His Excellency the Honourable Sir Guy Green, AC, KBE, Governor of Tasmania.

1.8 Attending his first meeting of the Commission, His Excellency noted that since the early days of European settlement, Tasmania's involvement with Antarctica had grown considerably so that it was now playing a significant role in every field, including scientific research, research and analysis of law and policy, environmental studies, resupply of expeditions and the provision of a large range of specialised products, services and technology.

1.9 His Excellency recalled that he had recently initiated a two-day Governor's Forum at which all those involved in every aspect of the Antarctic, sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean, both at the national and state level in Australia, had presented their views of Tasmania's future in this field. It was the first time in Australia that people from all areas of Antarctic endeavour had ever met together at one place and one time.

1.10 His Excellency said CCAMLR was a truly remarkable organisation and its achievements since its inception were impressive. He referred, in particular, to CCAMLR's precautionary and ecosystem approach to marine living resource management and to the Scheme of International Scientific Observation. He appreciated that the Commission had some difficult issues to face at this meeting but, given its impressive history of achievement, its progressive outlook, the expertise of its Scientific Committee and the commitment of its Members, he was confident that it would be able to find the creative formulae necessary to achieve results.

1.11 His Excellency concluded by praising the example CCAMLR had provided of how an international convention could be made a balanced, effective and dynamic instrument of conservation.