

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION (Hobart, Australia, 25 October to 5 November 1999)

OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia from 25 October to 5 November 1999 under the Chairmanship of Dr A.E. Muthunayagam (India).

1.2 All 23 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. Netherlands attended.

1.4 The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC), 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), the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) were invited to attend the meeting as observers. ASOC, IUCN, IWC and SCAR attended.

1.5 Mauritius and Namibia were invited to attend as observers in accordance with CCAMLR-XVII, paragraph 15.2. Both were represented at the meeting. Also invited were a number of non-Contracting Parties who were known to have interests in fishing or trade of *Dissostichus* spp. in the Convention Area: Belize, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), Panama, Portugal, Seychelles and Vanuatu. Denmark was represented.

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 Chairman welcomed all Members and introduced His Excellency the Honourable Sir Guy Green, AC, KBE, Governor of Tasmania.

1.8 His Excellency welcomed CCAMLR's progress towards conducting a krill synoptic survey in the Convention Area and commended the Members that had committed vessels to participate in the survey.

1.9 His Excellency referred to the conservation measures which CCAMLR adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting with respect to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and hoped that the Commission would continue to reach agreement on measures of a kind which would complement those which were already in place. He also wished the Commission well in its endeavour to further develop a Catch Documentation Scheme and encouraged Members to bear in mind the necessity to maintain an appropriate balance between the values that underpin international trade agreements and those that underpin international conservation agreements.

1.10 In concluding his address, His Excellency suggested that the Commission should feel encouraged by the knowledge that what it was doing was fundamentally right and sensible, and that its endeavours had substantial popular support.

