

**COMMUNICATION POLICY WITH NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES  
RELATING TO ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED  
FISHING IN THE CCAMLR CONVENTION AREA**

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LETTER I: INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF VESSELS AND  
INVITATION TO CONSIDER ACCEDING TO THE CONVENTION

Dear Minister

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), signed at Canberra in 1980, established a Commission the aims of which include ensuring that fishing activities are carried out in a responsible manner in the extensive area surrounding the Antarctic continent and that its dependent and associated ecosystems are adequately protected (a list of Contracting Parties and a map of the Convention Area are attached to this letter).

Under the Convention any harvesting and associated activities in its area of application must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. To that end, the Commission adopts every year conservation measures which, *inter alia*, set catch limits consistent with sustainable harvesting of fisheries resources.

Of extreme concern to the Commission is the very high level of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing which is depleting these resources and undermining the objectives and purpose of the Convention.

The presence of vessels of non-Contracting Parties fishing in the Convention Area without any regard for the CCAMLR conservation measures and providing no reports of their catches totally undermines the efforts to provide responsible conservation and fisheries management. The Commission has requested me to convey to your Government its concern over these activities carried out in the Convention Area [geographical coordinates] on [date] by a vessel [name and registration number], flying the [country] flag, sighted undertaking fishing activities.

The Commission has also adopted a set of integrated measures intended to promote compliance by non-Contracting Party vessels with the CCAMLR conservation measures, including denial of landings and transshipments by non-Contracting Party vessels which undermine the effectiveness of the CCAMLR conservation measures, and will consider additional measures to counteract the unregulated fishing activities taking place within the CCAMLR area.

All States whose vessels undertake fishing operations in the CCAMLR area or which take an interest in the conservation of the living resources in that area may accede to the Convention. On behalf of the Commission, I hereby invite your country to consider acceding to the Convention under the provision of Article XXIX.1. which states: 'This Convention shall be open for accession by any State interested in research or harvesting activities in relation to the marine living resources to which this Convention applies.' Meanwhile, the Commission trusts that you will take steps to ensure that your flag vessels do not continue to act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention.

In accordance with the Commission's decision, I will have the honour of conveying your response to this letter to the Contracting Parties of CCAMLR. Thanking you in advance for your expected reply, I wish to take this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

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Chairman of the Commission

Encl.: List of Contracting Parties to the Convention, map of the Convention Area and *Basic Documents*

LETTER II: INVITATION TO SEND OBSERVERS TO THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING

Dear Minister

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), signed at Canberra in 1980, established a Commission the aims of which include ensuring that fishing activities are carried out in a responsible manner in the extensive area surrounding the Antarctic continent and that its dependent and associated ecosystems are adequately protected (a list of Contracting Parties and a map of the Convention Area are attached to this letter).

Under the Convention any harvesting and associated activities in its area of application must be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. To that end, the Commission adopts every year conservation measures which, *inter alia*, set catch limits consistent with sustainable harvesting of fisheries resources.

Of extreme concern to the Commission is the very high level of illegal, unregulated or unreported fishing which is significantly depleting these resources and undermining the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

The Commission has adopted a set of integrated measures designed to promote compliance with the Convention, including denial of landings and transshipments by non-Contracting Party vessels which undermine the effectiveness of the CCAMLR conservation measures.

The Commission has decided to include, within the scope of its political action aimed at ensuring compliance with the Convention, representations not only to those non-Contracting Party States whose vessels undermine the effectiveness of CCAMLR measures by fishing in the Convention Area without abiding by such measures, but also those States which, even if inadvertently, provide port facilities or landing facilities to those vessels and thus enable them to continue their damaging operations.

The possibility that [name of State] may fall into this latter category has been brought to the attention of the Commission. Therefore, on behalf of the Commission, I hereby invite your Government to cooperate in refraining from providing such port facilities or landing facilities to those vessels whose activities undermine the effectiveness of CCAMLR measures and I also invite your country to designate an observer to attend the Seventeenth Meeting of the Commission to be held in Hobart, Australia from 26 October to 6 November 1998 in order to explore and discuss means to cooperate in order to preserve Antarctic marine living resources from unregulated and irresponsible overfishing. The Commission believes that it is essential that all States in the vicinity of the CCAMLR Convention Area agree to cooperate in the protection of the marine living resources of the Southern Ocean and it is our earnest expectation that [name of the State] will also contribute to that common endeavour.

In accordance with the Commission's request, I will have the honour of conveying your response to this letter to the Contracting Parties of CCAMLR. Thanking you in advance for your expected reply, I wish to take this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration.

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Chairman of the Commission

Encl.: List of Contracting Parties to the Convention, map of the Convention Area and *Basic Documents*