

REPORT FROM THE CCSBT OBSERVER (NEW ZEALAND) TO THE 42nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

(Hobart, Australia, 16 October to 27 October 2023)

CCSBT Observer (New Zealand)

1. The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-42) met in Hobart, Australia, from 16 – 27 October 2023. It was chaired by Mr V. Tsymbaliuk (Ukraine). The [Report](#) of the Meeting is in the public domain.
2. The Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC), the Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) and the Scientific Committee also met in Hobart in the week of 16-20 October.

Organisation of the Meeting

3. The Commission noted that the Russian Federation was not present for the opening of the meeting or in the first week of the meetings of the Scientific Committee, SCIC or SCAF, as the delegation was awaiting visas until Tuesday of the first week of the CCAMLR meeting. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to consult with the Australian authorities on the application of the Headquarters Agreement in order to ensure equal right to representation of all Members in accordance with the Convention.

Management of marine resources

4. Responding to the threats associated with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) the Commission requested that the Secretariat cooperate with other organisations tracking HPAI outbreaks and develop guidance on HPAI for fishing vessels and scientific observers.
5. Several modifications to krill-related conservation measures were proposed in relation to the new krill management approach being developed by the Commission, including a proposal for collection of acoustic data by fishing vessels. The current Conservation Measure 51-07 was rolled over for a further year, but the Commission agreed that a revision of the measure was necessary to ensure that the temporal and spatial management of krill resources was based on the best available science and requested that the Scientific Committee finalise the acoustic survey methodology in 2024.
6. The Commission agreed to hold, jointly with the Scientific Committee, a Symposium in 2024 which will provide recommendations to CCAMLR on steps to harmonise the implementation of the revised krill fishery management approach and the establishment of a Domain 1 MPA in the Antarctic Peninsula Region.
7. The Commission adopted revised conservation measures relating to toothfish and icefish fisheries. However, the Commission was unable to agree a catch limit for the fishery for Patagonian toothfish in Subarea 48.3. Noting the lack of consensus on Antarctic toothfish in Division 58.4.1, the Commission agreed that this fishery would not take place in 2023/24.
8. The Commission noted that an external panel from the Center for Independent Experts had provided an independent and scientific evaluation of the approaches and methods used to assess the status of toothfish stocks, which the panel considered as using the best available science and representing global best practice in stock assessment. The Commission also noted the short-term

workplan established by the Scientific Committee to address issues related to potential biases in toothfish stock estimates from the effects of spatial patterns in fishing effort, to investigate methods for estimating recruitment used in projections, and to investigate the performance of the CCAMLR decision rules.

9. The Commission was unable to reach consensus on the advice from the Scientific Committee regarding the adoption of a conservation measure to provide protection to *Neopagetopsis ionah* fish nest areas in the southern Weddell Sea.

Spatial management

10. The Third Special Meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR-SM-III) was held in Santiago, Chile, from 19 June to 23 June 2023 to consider the way forward to progress MPA design, designation and implementation. The Commission noted that despite not achieving the desired outcome of creating a roadmap to the establishment of a representative system of MPAs, the meeting generated a better understanding of the different positions among Members, facilitating a clearer vision for a way forward.

11. The Commission had an extensive discussion on three existing proposals for MPAs (Domain 1 MPA, Weddell Sea MPA Phase 1 and East Antarctic MPA) and one new proposal, introduced by Norway, for a Weddell Sea MPA Phase 2. The Commission did not reach consensus on any of these proposals but welcomed the intention of Norway to hold a workshop to further develop the research and monitoring plan associated with the Weddell Sea MPA Phase 2 proposal.

12. The Commission approved the revised management plan for the merger of ASPA No. 152 Western Bransfield Strait and ASPA No.153 Eastern Dallmann Bay ASPA and forwarded it to the ATCM for final approval.

Impacts of climate change on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources

13. The Commission noted the significant threats of climate change to Antarctic marine ecosystems including the record low sea ice extent observed this year. It also noted that management responses to the effects of climate change need to be precautionary given that past environmental and ecological conditions may not endure in the future.

14. The Commission welcomed the suggestion that an annual report on the status of Antarctic marine living resources be developed by the Scientific Committee.

Implementation and compliance

15. The Commission adopted a compliance report, noting that the analysis reflected an overall high rate of compliance.

16. The Commission adopted a revised NCP-IUU Vessel List with the inclusion of one new vessel, the *Cobija*.

17. Singapore, Mexico, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Colombia are now cooperating with CCAMLR through voluntary implementation of the Catch Documentation Scheme.

Administration and Finance

18. The Commission adopted its budget for 2024. Recognising the need to consider increased cost recovery for fisheries management and other administrative activities to ensure financial sustainability

of the General Fund the Commission requested the Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) on Sustainable Finance to continue its work to identify sustainable financing options in 2024 and provide a proposal to CCAMLR-43.

19. The Commission considered a proposal for a code of conduct for CCAMLR meetings but could not reach consensus.

Next meeting

20. Ukraine (Mr V. Tsymbaliuk) will Chair the 43rd Meeting of the Commission to be held in Hobart, Australia, from 14 to 25 October 2024. Belgium was elected to serve as Vice-Chair for 2024 and 2025. Dr Cardenas (Chile) was elected as Chair of the Scientific Committee for 2024 and 2025.