Report by the CCAMLR Observer to the Forty Fifth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting

**CCAMLR-41 (October 2022)**

Summary

1. The 41st Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-41) met in Hobart, Australia, from 24 October to 4 November 2022. It was chaired by Dr J. Granit (Sweden).

2. The [Report](https://meetings.ccamlr.org/system/files/meeting-reports/e-cc-41-rep.pdf) of the Meeting is in the public domain.

3. 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 24–28 October.

Organisation of the Meeting

4. The Republic of Ecuador acceded to the Convention on 24 July 2022 and became a Member of the Commission on 19 October 2022.

5. Under its opening agenda item, the Commission received a presentation from SCAR on its Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment Report.

Implementation of Convention objectives

6. The Commission discussed a number of issues under this item noting the work of all Members to build consensus in the Commission.

7. The Commission noted the progress that has been made across the recommendations of the [Second Performance Review](https://www.ccamlr.org/node/99391) (2017).

Management of marine resources

8. The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee developed a 5-year strategic workplan at its 2022 Symposium and has updated the terms of reference for all working groups, *inter alia* to include consideration of climate change.

9. The Commission welcomed the significant progress made by the Scientific Committee to apply the new krill management approach to calculate new catch limits in management units within Subarea 48.1 (Antarctic Peninsula). The Commission developed a workplan to progress a harmonised approach to management in Subarea 48.1, including consideration of the means of monitoring catch limits at small spatial scales, the harmonisation of different spatial management initiatives, including the proposal for a Domain 1 Marine Protected Area (MPA), and future monitoring of krill biomass and other components of the ecosystem. Current krill management measures will remain in place until this work is completed.

10. The Commission agreed to revise conservation measures relating to toothfish and icefish fisheries in the Convention Area. However, the Commission was unable to agree a catch limit for the fishery for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) in Subarea 48.3. The Commission endorsed the advice of the Scientific Committee for an independent review of data, stock assessments and decision rules for all relevant CCAMLR toothfish fisheries in 2023.

11. Noting the lack of consensus advice on research on *D. mawsoni* in Division 58.4.1, the Commission agreed that this fishery would not take place in 2022/23.

12. The extrapolated number of seabird mortalities from CCAMLR longline fishing in 2022 was the lowest on record. The Commission noted that the success of seabird mortality reductions in CCAMLR through the implementation of mitigation measures was due to the past efforts of the Scientific Committee’s Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing and it welcomed the renewal of meetings of this Group. The Commission noted the continued work to improve mitigation methods for seabirds and whales in the krill fishery, and collaboration with the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and the International Whaling Commission in this regard.

13. The Commission was unable to reach consensus on a proposal from the EU and its Member States for a new conservation measure to protect fish nests in the Convention Area.

Spatial management

14. The Commission did not reach consensus to approve the revised management plan for Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) Nos 152 and 153 which had been forwarded to it in accordance with ATCM Decision 9 (2005). The Commission endorsed the revised management plan proposal for ASPA No. 145.

15. The Commission had an extensive discussion on three proposals for MPAs (Domain 1 MPA, Weddell Sea MPA and East Antarctic Representative System of MPAs) and some of the outstanding issues relating to existing MPAs but did not reach consensus on these issues.

16. The Commission agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on spatial planning and MPAs in 2023. This meeting (the Third Special Meeting of the Commission) will take place from 19 to 23 June in Santiago, Chile.

Climate change

17. The Commission agreed a new Climate Change resolution, [Resolution 36/41](https://cm.ccamlr.org/resolution-36/41-2022).

18. The Commission was unable to agree that Conservation Measure 24-04, which allows for the temporary protection of newly exposed marine areas following ice-shelf retreat in Subareas 48.1, 48.5 and 88.3 for the purposes of scientific research, should be extended to apply to the whole Antarctic continental coast.

Implementation and compliance

19. The Commission adopted a compliance report, noting that consensus was reached on all but a few issues. There were no updates to CCAMLR’s IUU lists.

20. The Commission modified Conservation Measure 10-02 to require fishing vessels to be fitted with a fully functional automatic identification system (AIS) and have it switched on at all times in the Convention Area.

Administration and Finance

21. The Commission adopted its budget for 2023 and approved expenditure for several Special Funds, including the General Science Capacity Fund and the General Capacity Building Fund.

22. The Commission has agreed to develop a code of conduct for CCAMLR meetings, and to improve access to CCAMLR meeting documents.

Next meeting

23. Ukraine (Mr V. Tsymbaliuk) will Chair the Commission for 2023 and 2024. Argentina will continue to serve as Vice-Chair.

24. The 42nd Meeting of the Commission will be held in Hobart, Australia, from 16 to 27 October 2023.