

Declaration on the occasion of the fortieth Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

The Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), meeting virtually in October 2021, on the occasion of the fortieth Meeting of the Commission;

Recalling that the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CAMLR Convention) entered into force on 7 April 1982;

Further recalling that the first Meeting of CCAMLR was held in Hobart from 25 May to 11 June 1982;

Conscious that the objective of the CAMLR Convention is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources;

Aware that for the purposes of the Convention, the term conservation includes rational use;

Further aware that any harvesting and associated activities in the Convention Area shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and with the conservation principles set out in Article II.3;

Mindful that the CAMLR Convention is an integral part of the Antarctic Treaty System;

Also mindful that Contracting Parties to the CAMLR Convention which are not party to the Antarctic Treaty acknowledge the special obligations and responsibilities of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties for the protection and preservation of the environment of the Antarctic Treaty area, including seas surrounding Antarctica;

Welcoming the Paris Declaration on the occasion of the Sixtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty and on the Thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the 1991 Madrid Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, adopted on 23 June 2021;

Reaffirming the importance of safeguarding the environment and protecting the integrity of the ecosystem of the seas surrounding Antarctica;

Noting the concentration of marine living resources found in Antarctic waters and the ongoing interest in the possibilities offered by the utilisation of these resources as a source of protein;

Acknowledging that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Convention Area continues to be a threat to the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources while recognising CCAMLR's efforts and achievements in effectively combatting IUU fishing;

Recognising the success of the Commission in drastically reducing seabird mortality in the Convention Area;

Acknowledging the importance of an effective Scheme of International Scientific Observation to support the monitoring of operations of fishing activities on board vessels engaging in harvesting of Antarctic marine living resources and related scientific research activities;

Recognising the importance of the implementation of the CCAMLR System of Inspection as an essential tool to verify compliance with conservation measures;

Recalling that the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources calls for international cooperation with due regard for the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty and with the active involvement of all States engaged in scientific research and/or harvesting activities in the seas around Antarctica;

Reaffirming the belief that it is in the interest of all humanity to preserve and conserve the seas surrounding Antarctica for peaceful purposes only and to prevent their becoming the scene or object of international discord;

Reaffirming that the function of the Commission is to give effect to the objective and principles set out in Article II of the Convention;

Noting with concern the effects of global environmental change, including climate change and ocean acidification, for the Antarctic marine living resources, their environment, and dependent and associated marine ecosystems and biodiversity;

Recalling that international cooperation in Antarctica and its surrounding seas is essential to effectively study the effects and impacts of global climate changes and that CCAMLR provides a framework to facilitate this cooperation;

Recalling that CAMLR Convention Article IX sets out the function of the Commission;

Acknowledging that the Scientific Committee provides a forum for consultation and cooperation concerning the collection, study and exchange of scientific information with respect to marine living resources, and has a crucial role in submitting scientific recommendations to the Commission regarding measures and research to achieve the objective of the Convention;

Reaffirming the Commission's commitment to developing an effective system of instruments, including a representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs), with the aim of conserving marine biodiversity within the Convention Area in accordance with the Convention;

Determined to further address the effects and impacts of climate change on Antarctic marine living resources, taking into account international research and reports, including the 2018 Food and Agriculture Organisation state of world fisheries and aquaculture (SOFIA) report, the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere, the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

Noting the necessity of adequately managing and protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), including seamounts, hydrothermal vents, cold-water corals and sponge fields;

Highlighting CCAMLR's achievements in protecting VMEs from adverse impacts and threats from bottom fishing through specific measures that have been introduced to protect benthic communities;

Recognising the importance of the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) that seeks to serve as a basis for the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources; and distinguish between changes due to harvesting of commercial species and changes due to environmental variability, both physical and biological;

Acknowledging the value of performance reviews as well as dialogues such as the Valdivia and Santiago symposiums, held in 2005 and 2015 respectively, in evaluating the effectiveness of the Commission in achieving the Convention's objective and in supporting continuous improvement in that regard, including through the incorporation of best practices into the work of the Commission and in achieving the objective and implementing the conservation principles of the Convention;

Acknowledging the essential role of the CCAMLR Secretariat in supporting the functions of the Commission, the Scientific Committee and their subsidiary bodies;

Hereby:

1. Reaffirm their strong and unwavering cooperation and commitment to the objective of the CAMLR Convention;
2. Decide to further strengthen their efforts to ensure the conservation of marine living resources in the Convention Area while ensuring that harvesting and associated activities do not irreversibly impact the Antarctic marine ecosystem;
3. Also commit to ensure that the harvesting of marine living resources and associated activities in the Convention Area are managed in accordance with the objective of the Convention and conservation principles;
4. Confirm that the Antarctic Treaty and its Protocol on Environmental Protection ensure the effective and enduring international governance of Antarctica, providing for Antarctica's use only for peaceful purposes, free from measures of a military nature, guaranteeing freedom of scientific investigation and cooperation to that end, and designating Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to peace and science;
5. Commit to ensure that CCAMLR remains at the forefront of efforts to develop an ecosystem-based management regime as a key component of the Antarctic Treaty system and continues to make decisions based on the precautionary approach;
6. Reaffirm their commitment to the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, where conservation includes rational use, based on the best scientific evidence available in accordance with the Convention;

7. Reaffirm their commitment to protect VMEs, including seamounts, hydrothermal vents, cold water corals and sponge fields, including from bottom fishing activities that can have significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems;
8. Also commit to ensure that challenges and impacts on Antarctic marine living resources arising from global environmental change, including climate change, are duly considered and addressed in Commission decisions;
9. Reaffirm their determination to establish a representative system of Marine Protected Areas within the Convention Area, and to continue making best efforts to scientifically design, designate, implement, monitor and review effectiveness of MPAs in accordance with the Convention;
10. Commit to developing and integrating science-based dynamic management measures, in which information from ongoing ecosystem monitoring is used for updating management provisions at regular intervals, to improve the Commission's ability to achieve the objective and conservation principles of the Convention, in the context of a changing marine environment;
11. Reaffirm their strong commitment to monitoring and controlling Contracting Party compliance with the Convention and conservation measures in force, and eliminating IUU fishing from the Convention Area;
12. Commit to continuing engagement with relevant non-Contracting Parties to ensure they cooperate fully with CCAMLR and the effectiveness of CCAMLR conservation measures is not undermined;
13. Reaffirm their commitment to prevent market access to products of IUU fishing taken from the Convention Area;
14. Also reaffirm their continued commitment to ensure compliance with conservation measures and deter the involvement of their nationals in IUU fishing activities and where they do, take effective action;
15. Reiterate their will to enhance and reinforce the CCAMLR System of Inspection and the Scheme of International Scientific Observation, for respectively ensuring compliance with CCAMLR conservation measures and supporting scientific research activities through responsible and sustainable harvesting, that lead to improved conservation and better management;
16. Commit to ensure CCAMLR maintains a close collaboration with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) and other relevant bodies of the Antarctic Treaty system on matters falling within their competence, bearing in mind its particular importance in accordance with the CAMLR Convention, as well as other relevant bodies of the Antarctic Treaty system, including the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP), as well as the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) and others;
17. Further reaffirm their commitment to continue to collaborate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, relevant regional fisheries management organisations and arrangements, particularly those that manage areas

adjacent to the Convention Area, as well as appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations which can contribute to the work of the Commission;

18. Reaffirm their commitment to provide the Secretariat with the necessary means and support to carry out the work entrusted to it by the Commission;
19. Reaffirm the important role of the Scientific Committee including the collection, study and exchange of information with respect to the marine living resources and in formulating its scientific advice to the Commission in accordance with Article XV of the Convention;
20. Further reaffirm their determination to take decisions based on the best scientific evidence available;
21. Reaffirm their determination to work collectively and constructively in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty system to continue to enhance the functioning of the Commission with a view to achieving the objective of the Convention;
22. Reaffirm their determination to ensure the ongoing conservation of Antarctic marine living resources which form part of the Antarctic marine ecosystem, including in response to the effects and impacts of global climate change.

Adopted on 29 October 2021