

The CCAMLR Secretariat's response to the invitation to contribute to the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea relating to Part II of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/245 adopted on 29th December 2014, entitled "Oceans and the Law of the Sea".¹

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Executive Summary (400 words)

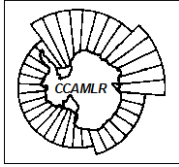
The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was established by international treaty in 1981 to conserve Antarctic marine living resources where conservation includes rational use. Since entry into force of the Convention, collectively and individually, CCAMLR's 25 Members and 11 Acceding States have made good progress in several key areas identified for priority attention in regard to oceans and the law of the sea. While the absence of permanent communities in the Antarctic minimises issues associated with the social pillar of sustainable development the Antarctic marine environment remains exposed to significant environmental risks, principally those related to climate change, associated processes such as ocean acidification and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In response to the invitation consistent with paragraph 301 of UN Resolution 69/245, and with particular attention to the request presented at paragraph 31, CCAMLR has established a General Science Capacity Fund and a CCAMLR Scholarship which is available to early career scientists from CCAMLR Members. Five scholarships have been awarded to early career scientists from Argentina, Chile, China, Poland and Russia since its establishment in 2010. In addition, the CCAMLR Secretariat has formalised an arrangement with the Secretariat of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) and the University of Tasmania, under the auspices of the International Antarctic Institute (IAI), to support short term fellowships for post graduate study.

In respect of the rational use of Antarctic marine living resources, CCAMLR continues to apply the principles of decision-making based on the best available science, precautionary catch limits for target stocks and management of fishing operations that take account of ecological relationships involving associated and dependent species. CCAMLR has successfully addressed a range of by-catch threats including the development and implementation of globally recognised best-practice measures for the reduction of seabird by-catch.

In 2005, CCAMLR Members commenced an exhaustive scientifically-based process to support the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas. In 2009 the first high-seas marine protected area, covering 94,000 km² on the South Orkney islands shelf, became the first component of this system. Efforts continued throughout 2014 and 2015 in relation to two proposals for the establishment of a representative system of MPAs – one in the Ross Sea Region and another

¹ Submitted by the CCAMLR Secretariat without prejudice to the individual views of CCAMLR Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, People's Republic of China, Chile, European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, 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.

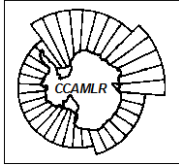


COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

www.ccamlr.org

26 June 2015

involving a network of four associated MPAs in East Antarctica. Initial preparatory work for the establishment of MPAs is being progressed in the Western Antarctic Peninsula–South Scotia Arc, at Bouvet-Maud and in the Weddell Sea. In addition, CCAMLR has implemented a comprehensive suite of precautionary measures to identify and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impacts of bottom fishing.



The CCAMLR Secretariat's response to the invitation to contribute to the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea relating to Part II of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/245 adopted on 29th December 2014, entitled "Oceans and the Law of the Sea".²

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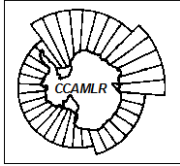
The Convention (CAMLR Convention) establishing the Commission provides, under Article II:

- “1. The objective of this Convention is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.
2. For the purposes of this Convention, the term ‘conservation’ includes rational use.
3. Any harvesting and associated activities in the area to which this Convention applies shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and with the following principles of conservation:
 - (a) prevention of decrease in the size of any harvested population to levels below those which ensure its stable recruitment. For this purpose its size should not be allowed to fall below a level close to that which ensures the greatest net annual increment;
 - (b) maintenance of the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent and related populations of Antarctic marine living resources and the restoration of depleted populations to the levels defined in sub-paragraph (a) above; and
 - (c) prevention of changes or minimisation of the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem which are not potentially reversible over two or three decades, taking into account the state of available knowledge of the direct and indirect impact of harvesting, the effect of the introduction of alien species, the effects of associated activities on the marine ecosystem and of the effects of environmental changes, with the aim of making possible the sustained conservation of Antarctic marine living resources.”

CCAMLR has 25 Members, including the European Union, and 11 additional States have acceded to the CAMLR Convention.

The conservation measures and resolutions referred to in this response are available from the CCAMLR website (<http://www.ccamlr.org/en/conservation-and-management/conservation-measures>).

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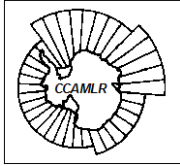


COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

www.ccamlr.org

26 June 2015

Resolution 60/245 Paragraph	CCAMLR Response(s)
11, 12, 15, 18 and 219	<p>CCAMLR has established a General Science Capacity Fund and a CCAMLR Scholarship which is available to early career scientists from CCAMLR Members. A candidate from Russia was selected to receive a CCAMLR Scholarship in 2014. He is the fifth recipient of the Scholarship. The previous recipients are from Chile, Argentina, Poland and China.</p> <p>In addition, the CCAMLR Secretariat has formalised an arrangement with the Secretariat of the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatross and Petrels (ACAP) and the University of Tasmania, under the auspices of the International Antarctic Institute (IAI), to support short term fellowships for post graduate study.</p> <p>The Secretariat also hosts interns and volunteers as resources permit (see http://www.ccamlr.org/en/organisation/interns-and-volunteers)</p>
146	<p>During 2014 and 2015, CCAMLR formalised arrangements with the five Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Centres responsible for search and rescue in the CAMLR Convention Area for the release of CCAMLR near-real time vessel monitoring system generated data supplied by fishing vessels operating in CCAMLR-regulated fisheries to support SAR. The five MRCCs are Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentine and South Africa.</p>
163, 164 and 181	<p>A marine debris reporting database has been maintained by the CCAMLR Secretariat since 1989. During that time, seven CCAMLR Members have submitted 493 separate marine debris summary reports from the CCAMLR Convention Area. Review of the available data, and reporting on trends in marine debris reporting, is undertaken annually by the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.</p>
165, 171, 249 and 283.	<p>At its meeting in 2014, the Scientific Committee's Working Group on Ecosystems, Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM) further considered potential climate change impacts on marine ecosystems, particularly in relation to krill, in the Antarctic with a focus on opportunities for collaboration with other scientific initiatives particularly the Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics (ICED) – an international initiative coordinated through the Scientific Committee on Ocean Research (SCOR) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere (IGP) under the auspices of the Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research Programme (IMBER) and the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS).</p>

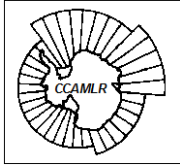


COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

www.ccamlr.org

26 June 2015

200-202	<p>Article II of the CAMLR Convention provides that precaution and an ecosystems approach are key principles of conservation relating to harvesting and associated activities in the Convention Area. The Reports of meetings of the Commission and of the Scientific Committee are published and routinely made available on a publically accessible section of the CCAMLR website (http://www.ccamlr.org/en/meetings/meetings).</p> <p>CCAMLR has adopted a suite of Conservation Measures that further implement the provisions of the CAMLR Convention, in particular Article II, in relation to ecosystem considerations associated with harvesting and associated activities in the Convention Area.</p>
221, 222 and 226	<p>CCAMLR Conservation Measure (CM) 22-06 (Bottom fishing in the Convention Area), initially adopted in 2007, and CM 22-07 (Bottom fishing activities subject to Conservation Measure 22-06), adopted in 2008 relate to paragraphs 221 and 222. Both Measures share objectives of protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing activities that have significant adverse impacts (SAI) on such ecosystems based on ecosystem and precautionary approaches. CM 22-06 specifically cites paragraph 83 of Resolution 61/105 in its pre-ambular paragraphs.</p> <p>For the purposes of CM 22-06, CCAMLR’s description of “vulnerable marine ecosystems” includes the habitats and communities identified in paragraph 80 of Resolution 61/105 and paragraph 113 of Resolution 64/72 and sponge fields, in addition to a suite of other taxa with vulnerable life history characteristics specific to the Convention Area.</p> <p>Consistent with the calls for action described at paragraph 83 (a, b, and c) of Resolution 61/105 and paragraph 119 (a and b), 120 and 122 of Resolution 64/72, CM 22-06 and CM 22-07 provide for an assessment process, undertaken by CCAMLR’s Scientific Committee, to determine if bottom fishing activities, taking into account, <i>inter alia</i>, the history of bottom fishing in the area proposed and a risk assessment, would contribute to significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and to ensure that if it is determined that these activities would make such contributions, that they are managed to prevent such impacts or are not authorised to proceed. CM 22-07 defines “Risk Area”, “VME Indicator Organism”, “VME Indicator Unit” and encounter parameters (paragraph 2) and specifies an encounter protocol for action required of CCAMLR Members and their fishing vessels when organisms that may be indicative of the presence of a VME are encountered. The CCAMLR Secretariat is responsible for maintaining a VME Taxa Classification Guide and a VME Register, and advising Members and their vessels on the location of VMEs, VME risk areas and VME fine-scale rectangles. These provisions implement the action anticipated at</p>

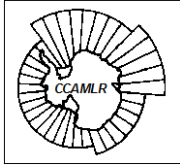


COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

www.ccamlr.org

26 June 2015

	<p>paragraph 119 (d) of Resolution 64/72.</p> <p>The Scientific Committee provides advice to the Commission on known and anticipated impacts of bottom fishing activities on VMEs and recommends practices and mitigation measures, including cessation of fishing activities, if needed, when evidence of a VME is encountered in the course of bottom fishing activities. CM 22-06 includes a <i>pro forma</i> for submitting preliminary assessments of the potential for proposed bottom fishing activities to have significant adverse impacts on VMEs and guidelines specifying categories of information to be included in notifications to the CCAMLR Secretariat by Members when a VME is encountered during the course of fishery independent research activities.</p> <p>In 2010, in relation to bottom fishing, the Commission received advice from the Scientific Committee, and endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a glossary of terms and conceptual diagram relevant to the consideration and management of VMEs in the Convention Area (Report on Bottom Fisheries and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) (attached); (ii) development of advice on precautionary management actions that can be taken to mitigate immediate risks to VMEs without the definition of a VME; and (iii) revision of CM 22-06, Annex A, in order to facilitate the work on the estimation of the spatial footprint and potential impact of notified fishing activities in forthcoming fishing seasons. <p>The Scientific Committee continues to implement a work plan on VMEs and related matters.</p> <p>The actions taken by CCAMLR in implementing CM 22-06 and CM 22-07 supplements previous actions taken in respect of the protection of benthic habitats, for instance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM 22-04 and CM 22-05, both of which were adopted in 2006, which address CCAMLR concerns relating to deep-sea gillnetting and the use of bottom trawling gear in the CAMLR Convention Area for purposes other than for permitted scientific research. The application of conservation measures to scientific research is addressed in CM 24-01.
<p>210, 226 and 227</p>	<p>In 2009, the Commission declared its first High Seas MPA on the South Orkney Islands Southern Shelf (CM 91-03). CM 91-03 prohibits all types of fishing activities, including a prohibition on the dumping of waste and discharges by fishing vessels, in an area of approximately 94,000 square kilometres.</p>



COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

www.ccamlr.org

26 June 2015

	<p>Since 2005, CCAMLR has supported, or is supporting, a series of technical workshops to progress the development of proposals for MPAs.</p> <p>In 2011, the Commission adopted a general framework for the establishment of CCAMLR Marine Protected Areas (CM 91-04).</p> <p>In 2012, CCAMLR adopted a Conservation Measure (91-02) to promote the awareness of Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs) and Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs) established by the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) among fishing vessels.</p> <p>In 2014/15 the Commission continued its work relating to a representative system of marine protected areas in the Convention Area with considerable effort expended in relation to the Western Antarctic Peninsula–South Scotia Arc, at Bouvet-Maud and in the Weddell Sea.</p> <p>Beyond the MPA initiatives undertaken by the Commission, there are additional marine protected areas within some national jurisdictions of the CAMLR Convention Area.</p>
239	The Commission has adopted a Resolution (31/XXVIII) relating to the use of the best available science to support the development of Conservation Measures