CCAMLR

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
Commission pour la conservation de la faune et la flore marines de l'Antarctique
Комиссия по сохранению морских живых ресурсов Антарктики
Comisión para la Conservación de los Recursos Vivos Marinos Antárticos

CCAMR Secretariat contribution to the Report of the Secretary General on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to General Assembly draft resolution A/71/L.26, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" in accordance with the invitation from UN DOALOS received 16 December 2016 (LOS/SGR/2017).

CCAMLR's responses to the effects of climate change on the conservation of Antarctic marine ecosystems includes the establishment of the world's first high seas marine protected area (MPA) on the South Orkney Islands southern shelf in 2009 which, in part, establishes a scientific reference area. In 2011, the Commission adopted a general framework for the establishment of MPAs which recognised that CCAMLR MPAs, *inter alia*, aim to provide protection of areas to maintain resilience or to adapt to the effects of climate change. In 2015 climate change was added as a substantive item to the Commission's annual meeting agenda and an intersessional correspondence group, facilitated by Australia and Norway, was established to provide advice and recommendations to appropriately integrate the impacts of climate change into the work of the Commission. In 2016, the Commission adopted the Ross Sea region MPA, an area of approximately 1.55 million km^{-2}, where research and monitoring will focus on strengthening knowledge of ecosystem impacts of climate change and provide reference areas for monitoring natural variability and long-term change. In addition, the Commission adopted a conservation measure which facilitates the establishment of time-limited Special Areas for Scientific Study in newly exposed marine areas following ice shelf retreat or collapse around the Antarctic Peninsula.

As krill is a key component of the Antarctic marine ecosystem, a priority for CCAMLR's Scientific Committee is understanding the potential effects of climate change on krill and krill fishing. This includes (i) describing the status and trends of the krill fishery, (ii) the development of a feedback management procedure capable of regulating krill fisheries in response to changes in the status of the krill resource, (iii) utilising data generated by CCAMLR's Ecosystems Monitoring Program (CEMP) to detect the impacts of environmental change and to distinguish these from the impacts of fishing, and (iv) research and modelling of biology, ecology and population dynamics of krill and its related ecosystem through collaborative scientific research.

CCAMLR's consideration of climate change issues benefits from collaboration with other organisations. This includes collaboration with the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP), through the CEP's Climate Change Response Work Program (CCRWP), the Integrating Climate and Ecosystem Dynamics in the Southern Ocean (ICED) program, a regional program of the Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (IMBER) Program, Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) particularly through its specialist groups such as AnT-ERA – Antarctic Thresholds – Ecosystem Resilience and Adaptation and AntEco) and the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS).

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