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

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23 January 2013

Stephen Mathias
Assistant Secretary –General
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
Siege
New York NY 10017
United States of America
To: undoalos@un.org

Dear Sir,

I refer to your communication referenced LOS/SG report/2013 dated 12 December 2012 inviting CCAMLR to contribute to the Secretary General's report on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to the General Assembly resolution entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea' adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2012 (currently document A/67/L.21).

In relation to paragraph 261 of the resolution concerning preparations for the 14th meeting of the Informal Consultative Process focusing on the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment I am pleased to advise that CCAMLR Members continue to place a high level of importance on monitoring ecosystem health in the Southern Ocean and the implications of the effects of climate change including ocean acidification. Since the early 1980s CCAMLR Members have supported a programme to monitor key components of the Antarctic marine ecosystem to understand and distinguish between change arising from activities such as fishing and change occurring as a result of environmental variability. Krill, *Euphausia superba,* which is the critical component of the Antarctic ecosystem, has been the focus of this work which started in 1984 under the auspices of the CCAMLR Environmental Monitoring Programme (CEMP).

CCAMLR scientists have recognised that potential effects of a lowering of pH on crustacean exoskeleton calcification could influence initial precipitation of CaCO3 or interfere with post-moult calcification of the new exoskeleton. This means that krill embryonic development may be affected by ocean acidification while acid-base regulation, in larvae and post-larvae, may compromise the somatic growth, reproduction, fitness, and behavior. CCAMLR Members are engaged in a number of research programmes to provide sustained observations of population and condition parameters of krill at circumpolar scales in order to the detect potential effects of ocean acidification as well as to fill critical knowledge gaps in the biology and ecology of Antarctic krill; including in relation to recruitment, habitat use, and adaptation, as well as the energy demand and food consumption of krill-dependent predators. CCAMLR's current precautionary management approach reflects the uncertainties surrounding krill population sustainability and the development and implementation of a feedback management system for the krill fishery, including the use of data from an expanded CEMP, remains a priority in the work of CCAMLR's Scientific Committee.

In relation to paragraph 28 of the resolution, requesting information on capacity building initiatives, in 2010 CCAMLR established a General Science Capacity Fund and a CCAMLR Scientific Scholarship Scheme which has so far provided three awards to support participation by early career scientists in the work of CCAMLR. In addition, the CCAMLR Secretariat has formalised an arrangement with 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 internship for post graduate study. The first such internship will be offered in 2013.

I hope that this contribution from the CCAMLR Secretariat assists you in the preparation of the Secretary General's Report.

I would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt on this contribution.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary