

6 February 2019

**To:** United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

**From:** Executive Secretary, CCAMLR

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 28 December 2018 requesting information on Performance Reviews of CCAMLR.

I have the pleasure to present CCAMLR's response below.

### **Performance Reviews of CCAMLR**

In response to the request received from the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), 28 December 2018, the Secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) offers this information.

The Under-Secretary-General is invited to recall that CCAMLR is a distinct organisation and is not a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. Article II of the CAMLR Convention states that:

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.

Therefore, these comments are offered to DOALOS from CCAMLR as a *relevant organisation* in the terms of the letter of invitation.

In respect of the specific request for a contribution on the stated topic we refer to items (ii) and (iii) and in that context provide a brief summary of the process and participation in the performance reviews undertaken by CCAMLR.

Two performance reviews of CCAMLR have so far been undertaken, in 2008 and 2017.

At its Twenty-sixth Meeting (2007), CCAMLR decided to undertake a performance review of the organisation during 2008. CCAMLR's decision provided for the review to be carried out by a panel appointed by the Commission composed of nine persons as follows: four internationally recognised experts with CCAMLR experience; the Chair of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting's Committee for Environmental Protection; an expert nominated by CCAMLR non-governmental observers; and three external experts with experience in relevant areas of science, fisheries management and legal matters.

The purpose of the performance review was to evaluate the Commission's performance against comprehensive criteria provided by the Commission and more generally against the objectives and principles set out in Article II of the Convention. Over the next 10 years the actions that CCAMLR took to address the recommendations were documented and are publicly available [here](#).

At its Thirty-fifth Meeting in October 2016 CCAMLR agreed to undertake a Second Performance Review during 2017. The Review Panel comprised the following: four experts from CCAMLR Members, selected among internationally recognised experts who have experience in the CCAMLR context and a thorough understanding of the CAMLR

Convention; two external internationally recognised experts whose expertise covers the relevant areas of environmental management, fisheries science and legal matters, including compliance and enforcement issues and the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; one representative from the Committee for Environmental Protection; one non-governmental organisation representative.

The Review Panel was tasked with (CCAMLR-XXXV, Annex 8):

- (i) evaluating progress in implementing the recommendations from the first performance review
- (ii) considering afresh whether issues raised in the first performance review which have yet to be taken up by the Commission remain of concern and, if so, providing revised recommendations
- (iii) considering whether any further work would be desirable on issues covered by the recommendations of the first performance review
- (iv) considering any other matters relevant to the objective of the CAMLR Convention.

The Panel had a range of information available to it, including the Report of the first review (PR1) from 2008; annual and other reports of the Commission, its committees and their working groups. The Panel met in person at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Australia, from 25 to 30 June 2017.

The report of the second performance review (PR2) is available [here](#). Rather than providing detailed assessments of the degree of implementation of each of the PR1 recommendations, the Panel decided that it would be of greatest benefit to CCAMLR to build on the whole of PR1 by identifying priority recommendations related to those matters it considered were most relevant to CCAMLR's current work and strengthening future performance in meeting its objective. The first chapter presents the general conclusions of the Panel's review of implementation of the PR1 recommendations and progress in CCAMLR's performance since PR1. The other chapters cover seven priority thematic areas identified by the Panel.

In 2018 the Commission directed the Secretariat to proceed with publishing reports of progress against the recommendations of the second performance review in the same way as it had published progress against the recommendations of the first performance review.

Additional background information on these performance reviews is available on the CCAMLR website [here](#).

Sincerely,

David Agnew  
Executive Secretary