COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
www.ccamlr.org

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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 68/70 adopted on 9th December 2013, 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 risks, principally those related to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and climate change including associated processes such as ocean acidification.

In regard to paragraph 30 of UN Resolution 68/70, CCAMLR has established a General Science Capacity Fund and a CCAMLR Scholarship which is available to early career scientists from CCAMLR Members. Four scholarships have been awarded to early career scientists from Argentina, Chile, China and Poland 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 internship 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, which has led to near-zero levels of seabird mortality in CCAMLR managed fisheries.

Significantly, in 2005, CCAMLR Members commenced an exhaustive scientifically-based process to establish representative system of marine protected areas. In 2009 the first high-seas marine protected area, covering 94,000 km^2 on the South Orkney islands shelf, became the first component of this system. Efforts continued during 2013 and 2014 in relation to two proposals for the establishment of MPAs in the Ross Sea and in the East Antarctica. Preparatory work for the establishment of MPAs is

[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.

also being progressed throughout the Convention Area. In addition, CCAMLR has implemented a comprehensive suite of Conservation Measures designed to identify and protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impacts of bottom fishing.

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

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's membership comprises 24 States and the European Union. With the accession of Panama in April 2013, 11 additional States have also 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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Resolution 68/70 Paragraph	CCAMLR Response(s)
30, 188 and 204	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 the University of Gdańsk, Poland, was selected to receive a CCAMLR Scholarship in 2013. She is the fourth recipient of the Scholarship. The previous recipients are from Chile, Argentina and China. 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. The Secretariat also hosts interns and volunteers as resources permit (see http://www.ccamlr.org/en/organisation/interns-and-volunteers)
151-157	Monitoring and reporting on marine debris in the CCAMLR Convention Area has been on the agenda of the meetings of the Scientific Committee and Commission for more than 30 years. In 2012, the Scientific Committee discussed climate change and its implications for the Southern Ocean ecosystem. Discussion focussed on the implications of climate change on krill and fish production modelling and future work through the Scientific Committee's Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management relating to the development of krill feedback management strategies. In recognition of the likelihood that increased warming and acidification will adversely impact marine ecosystems during the current century climate change has been assigned priority for the 2014 meeting of the Scientific Committee. CCAMLR's precautionary approach to management of CCAMLR-regulated fisheries takes account of a range of uncertainties including those associated with climate change. In 2012, CCAMLR adopted a Compliance Evaluation Procedure to evaluate Members implementation and compliance status

	of 14 conservation measures that involve 80 audit points including in relation to data submission obligations.
184-185	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 and its subsidiary bodies are published and routinely made available on a publically accessible section of the CCAMLR website (http://www.ccamlr.org/en/meetings/meetings). CCAMLR has adopted a suite of Conservation Measures that endeavour to 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. CCAMLR has implemented measures to mitigate the incidental catches of seabirds and marine mammals. As a result, the incidental mortality of seabirds in CCAMLR-managed fisheries has been near- zero since 2002. This is achieved through a suite of seasonal closures and operational by-catch mitigation measures that apply to all vessels participating in CCAMLR-managed fisheries. Observers appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation are operational in all CCAMLR-managed fisheries and, among other responsibilities, are tasked with collecting information in relation to by-catch.
194 and 200	CCAMLR Members participate as they deem appropriate. CCAMLR's Conservation Measures regulate marine resources in the high seas as well as resources in certain national jurisdictions. Relevant individual CCAMLR Members apply national requirements in areas under their jurisdiction.
206, 207 and 211	The principal CCAMLR Conservation Measures relevant to paragraphs 206 and 207 are 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. 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 preambular paragraphs. 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 indicator taxa with vulnerable life history characteristics specific to the Convention Area. 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, *inter alia,* 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 paragraph 119 (d) of Resolution 64/72. 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 *pro forma* 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 of VMEs to the CCAMLR Secretariat by Members when a VME is encountered during the course of fishery independent research activities. The latter provides a mechanism for VMEs that are detected to potentially be added to the CCAMLR VME Registry. In 2010, in relation to bottom fishing, the Commission received advice from the Scientific Committee, and endorsed: (i) a glossary of terms and conceptual diagram relevant to the consideration and management of VMEs in the Convention Area (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.
	
	The Scientific Committee continues to implement a work plan on VMEs and related matters.
	
	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
	• 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.
	• The prohibition on fishing with any bottom gear shallower than 550m in high seas areas (CMs 41-05 et segue from 2001 and CM 22-08 from 2009)
	• The Commission has adopted a Resolution (31/XXVIII) relating to the use of the best available science to support the development of Conservation Measures and, consistent with paragraph 119 (d) of Resolution 64/72, a suite of CMs relating to:
	  • Monitoring, control and surveillance,
	  • The regulation of mesh size,
	  • Catch and effort reporting,
	  • Prohibitions on directed fishing,
	  • Measures for exploratory fisheries, and
	  • Precautionary catch limits.

210	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. Since 2005, CCAMLR has held a series of technical workshops to progress the development of proposals for MPAs in the Convention Area.

	In 2011, the Commission adopted a general framework for the establishment of CCAMLR Marine Protected Areas (CM 91-04). 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. In 2013/14 the Commission continued its work relating to the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas in the Convention Area. Beyond the MPA initiatives undertaken by the Commission, there are additional marine protected areas within some national jurisdictions of the CAMLR Convention Area.
222	The Commission has adopted a Resolution (31/XXVIII) relating to the use of the best available science to support the development of Conservation Measures