

**Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
38th Annual Meeting, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia
Monday 21 October to Friday 1 November 2019**

**Opening Address by
Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC
Governor of Tasmania**

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning and welcome to Hobart and to the 38th annual meeting of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

Ambassador Curcio, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you in this the first year of your Chairmanship of the Commission.

Many of you have been here several times previously and we very warmly welcome you back. For those visiting us for the first time I hope that you enjoy your time with us. I hope that you'll find time to explore Tasmania and our lovely city of Hobart during your stay so that you can appreciate why so many of your colleagues return each year!

This is the fifth occasion that I have had the privilege of opening your annual meeting, and I never cease to be impressed with the very heavy agenda that you cover in these two weeks. I am of course very well aware that these meetings are supported by a lot of work intersessionally, undertaken by Members individually and by working groups. Your dedication, and your individual and collective contribution particularly to the science and research that is necessary for the Commission to make sound decisions, reflects the importance which you attach to the Convention and its objectives.

In these five years I have seen a significant growth in interest in the Commission and Scientific Committee's work. More people, and more state and more non-state observers, have been attending your meetings. This is clear evidence that others also recognise the importance and value of the work you do. The decision of the Commission last year to accept two non-contracting parties as cooperating with the toothfish Catch Documentation Scheme was an indication to me quite how much CCAMLR's work is recognised around the world, and how many non-contracting parties wish to become involved in it.

There are a very large number of highly important issues on your agenda. These include discussions on marine protected areas, climate change and krill management, and I am aware that many Members are active in undertaking the research to develop these elements of your work.

One statistic from the report of last year's meeting jumped out at me, that the krill catch had been more than 300,000 tonnes, the highest it has been since the early 1990s. I believe that this year this figure has continued to grow, and will be more than 350,000 tonnes. While this is lower than the current catch limit, the expansion of the krill fishery continues to attract worldwide attention.

I was therefore very pleased to hear the news that the Scientific Committee's Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management had made significant progress this year to develop a new practical approach to ecosystem-based krill management. Furthermore, I am told that this year a number of Members contributed to the CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program, and others participated in krill acoustic surveys, and that the survey work was supported actively by the krill industry.

Clearly in this short opening address I am unable to cover all the issues that are before you, nor do I necessarily understand the detail involved. But I am aware that addressing them is of great importance for the Antarctic, and that there is an increasing sense of urgency about them.

I wish you well in your discussions on these important issues over the next two weeks. Your collective will and experience gives me great confidence that CCAMLR will be able to find practical and effective management approaches that meet the challenges facing it.

And, as always, it gives me great pride and pleasure that these important discussions and the decisions that arise from them are made in Hobart. Hobart values your presence, and feels honoured at having CCAMLR headquartered in our State. We are proud of our Antarctic heritage and that so many other organisations involved in Antarctic and Southern Ocean work choose to meet and work here. I do hope that the welcome that the city gives you makes your work here enjoyable as well as productive.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to Government House this evening, and I hope that we will have an opportunity to talk about some of the important issues that are on your agenda.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you well in your endeavours over the next two weeks and to ensure that you are able to make the most of your time here I'll hand the Meeting back to your Chairman to start your deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.