

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES
THIRTY FIRST MEETING**

OPENING SPEECH

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONORABLE PETER UNDERWOOD AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA**

**CCAMLR Secretariat Headquarters
181 Macquarie Street
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Mr. Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As your Chairman, Mr Lobach, has indicated this is the fifth occasion that I have had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from CCAMLR Members and other CCAMLR meeting participants to the annual meeting of the Commission here in Hobart. It is an important honor for me; one that I look forward to every year.

This has been a very significant 12 months for the Antarctic community in Hobart - a year of celebrations commemorating a century of exploration and endeavor in the Antarctic.

When we met this time last year we were commemorating Amundsen and Scott's journey's to the South Pole 100 years ago.

We extended our celebrations through the year to give special recognition to Mawson's pioneering work in the Antarctic with public lectures, photographic and art exhibitions, orchestral performances and theme days, such as a husky's picnic in the park and a longest-night dinner in June.

During this time, Hobart also hosted several important international meetings including a Sub-Antarctic Forum, the 30th anniversary of CCAMLR and this year's ATCM and CEP meetings.

It has been a wonderful time enjoyed by the Hobart community in general and a large number of international and inter-State visitors. Tasmanians are very proud to be the hosts of the CCAMLR secretariat and are always ready to welcome visitors.

The last 12 months here in Hobart has been a time of reflection, recognition and remembrance. Your work this week, in further developing CCAMLR's important work on conservation and management of the Southern Ocean ecosystem, is real-time and forward looking.

As I said last year, CCAMLR's relatively brief 30-year history has many achievements that few other organizations with similar mandates for ecosystem conservation and management can emulate. CCAMLR has set benchmarks, to which others aspire, in relation to precautionary management, an ecosystems approach to managing fisheries, combating illegal, unreported and illegal fishing, managing bottom fishing in the vicinity of vulnerable marine ecosystems and mitigating the effects of fishing on species, such as seabirds, taken incidentally during fishing operations.

The way that you have approached those challenges, collectively as members of CCAMLR's extended community, and successfully addressed them, has laid a very solid foundation for addressing the

challenges ahead. And, in all likelihood, the challenges ahead will place significant demands on this organization.

Almost every day we now read about the impacts of climate change and the changing global environment. Not surprisingly, the crucial role of the Southern Ocean in regulating the global climate is becoming better understood and, although there is still a great amount to learn, there is little doubt that the Ocean ecosystem under CCAMLR's care is among the most significant of ecosystems on our planet – marine or terrestrial.

The challenge for CCAMLR is to understand the drivers and processes associated with climate change and make adequate provision for that change within the processes managed by CCAMLR – further operationalizing the precautionary approach for which CCAMLR is so highly regarded.

This is fundamental to supporting CCAMLR endeavors to manage Southern Ocean fisheries in a sustainable manner – in a manner that accommodates the needs of other components of the same ecosystem in which CCAMLR-managed fisheries operate.

And CCAMLR has some immediate challenges to address this year. I am well aware that the normal CCAMLR agenda is very full and that, in the past, your discussions have often extended well into the night.

As a result, I was impressed when I learnt that, at last year's meeting, the Commission decided to reduce the length of its meeting this year by two days. That is commendable, particularly when I know that, this

year, among other matters, you will be involved in hopefully productive discussions relating to marine protected areas.

Of course, the Commission commenced its consideration of marine protected areas some seven years ago and I am aware that there is a large amount of work available to support your further deliberations this year. The preparatory work that you have collectively dedicated to this matter is another signature of CCAMLR which is also renowned for the application of the best available science to support decision-making.

The international community is watching for the outcomes of your discussions here over the next 2 weeks. I wish you the very best in your deliberations and I look forward to learning the results of your discussions.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I hope that your meetings over the next two weeks are productive. I look forward to discussing progress with you all next Tuesday night when I have the pleasure of hosting you at Government House. I'll now leave you to commence the Commission's agenda or return to the Scientific Committee's meeting.

Thank you