

**COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC  
MARINE LIVING RESOURCES 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OPENING ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, HOBART, MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2018**

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning and welcome to Hobart and to the 37th annual meeting of the Commission and Scientific Committee.

Dr Mayekiso, welcome once again to Hobart in what is the second year of your Chairmanship of the Commission. I am sure that I will be joined by all in being pleased that the Chairmanship is in your capable and experienced hands once again.

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 fourth occasion I have been privileged to open your annual meeting, and each time I am reminded of what a highly respected organisation CCAMLR is, and of the dedication that you all put into the work that underpins the decisions that you take.

This is not, of course, limited to these two weeks – we are all aware of the hard work that goes into the intersessional meetings of the Scientific Committee and the practical work that each and every Member engages in throughout the year to implement the Convention effectively.

International leadership of this quality is rare; maintaining that leadership over 37 years is even rarer. I am well aware that CCAMLR is repeatedly cited as one of the most far-sighted and effective of our global treaties and the decisions that you have taken over the years firmly support this.

So too do the growing number of organisations which are interested in your work, and I note several state and NGO observers here today which are new to CCAMLR.<sup>i</sup>

Many have told me that CCAMLR has been able to maintain this record by being rigorous in its use of scientific evidence for advice, and in applying the precautionary approach when approaching decisions. Such was the history of developing effective management for the krill and toothfish fisheries; for practically eliminating the bycatch of birds and mammals in fishing; and in more recent years reducing significantly the levels of IUU fishing for toothfish.

I am sure that this approach will equip you well as you deal with future unknown problems, as it has in the past – for instance, in the early 1980s the negotiators of CCAMLR never conceived that there would be a fishery for the little known toothfish that would be one of the most important resources managed by the Commission of the future.

I note with interest the advancement of your work on ecosystem-based krill management, an issue which has worldwide interest and attention. As you are all only too aware, concern about expansion of the krill fishery was one of the key drivers behind negotiation of the Convention, and I am sure that CCAMLR's continued good management of this resource will be critical as global populations and demand for food continue to expand.

I know also that your work on Marine Protected Areas continues to absorb a large amount of time of the Scientific Committee and the Commission. Ever since the decision of the Commission in 2005 to develop a network of MPAs, this has been a very ambitious undertaking.

At 2.09 million square kilometres the Ross Sea MPA is the largest MPA in the world and covers a wide variety of habitats, ecosystems and oceanographic features. The other MPAs that you are considering, and that you have already designated, cover equally important and ecologically diverse areas.

Clearly all the issues that are before you are complex, demand strong science to assist your decision making, and will take time to negotiate. I wish you well in your discussions on these important issues over the next two weeks.

Your track record gives me great confidence that CCAMLR will, at this meeting and in the future, continue to hold on to its reputation as a ground-breaking and far-sighted organisation.

I note that CCAMLR has a new Executive Secretary. On behalf of all at Government House I would like to thank Mr Andrew Wright for the wonderful working relationship that he had with all of us, and I look forward to working as closely with Dr David Agnew in the future.

I would like to close by emphasising how much Hobart values your presence, and feels honoured at having CCAMLR headquartered in our State, being one of few international organisations based in Australia.<sup>ii</sup>

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.

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<sup>i</sup> Luxembourg; the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO);

<sup>ii</sup> Others include the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP); Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).