

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING ON THE COMMISSION  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING  
RESOURCES (CCAMLR)**

**(Hobart, Australia, 25 to 5 November 2011)**

**Mark Hindell**

**SCAR-CCAMLR Observer**

1. The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Commission was held at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 25 October to 5 November 2010. The Scientific committee meeting was chaired by Mr. D. Agnew (UK) and met between 25 and 29 October.
2. A report on SCAR activities of relevance to CCAMLR was submitted in advance and was registered as Commission background document CCAMLR-XXIX/BG/17. This report is available via the SCAR website.

### **3. Scientific Committee**

3.1 Climate Change. I made a presentation on the SCAR Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) report. The Scientific Committee recognised that this was an authoritative report that has clear implications for the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups, as well as for wider global climate negotiations, *e.g.* for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Scientific Committee noted that the findings of the report were far-reaching, with some of particular relevance to CCAMLR, including:

- The ozone hole has delayed the impact of greenhouse gas increases on the climate of the continent. An important exception is the Antarctic Peninsula, which has seen rapid summer warming. This warming is caused by stronger westerly winds bringing warm wet air into the region from the ocean.
- The Antarctic Circumpolar Current has warmed faster than the global ocean as a whole.
- Regional sea-ice has decreased west of the Antarctic Peninsula due to changes in local atmospheric circulation.
- This is thought to have caused changes in food webs on the northern Antarctic Peninsula that have cascaded to upper trophic level predators, *e.g.* to Adélie penguins.

- Over this century the ozone hole is expected to heal, allowing the full effects of greenhouse gas increases to be felt across the Antarctic.
- Climate variability in the polar regions is larger than in other parts of the world, yet these remote regions are sparsely monitored. These areas need to be monitored in much greater detail in order to detect change, to improve understanding of the processes at work, and to distinguish between natural climate variability and variability caused by human influences.

The Scientific Committee requested that the Commission take note of the ACCE report and its findings.

3.2. I gave a detailed report on SCAR activities to the Scientific Committee (SC) as part of a standing item on the SC Agenda - “Cooperation with other organisations, (i) Cooperation with the Antarctic Treaty System.” This report dealt with CCAMLR activities of relevance to SCAR, plus comments, discussion and feedback on the SCAR report to CCAMLR, mentioned in (2) above, which should also be read in conjunction with this report.

3.3. There were a number of activities conducted by, or involving, SCAR that related directly to CCAMLR or were of potential interest to CCAMLR. These were summarized in a verbal report to the Committee.

- SCAR’s report on ACCE was published in October 2009 and will be updated annually by SCAR’s Expert Group on Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment.
- The development of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS), the planning document for which will be finalised by the end of the 2010 and will be supported by a Secretariat hosted at the new Institute for Marine and Antarctic Research of the University of Tasmania.
- Two new potential scientific research programs of relevance to CCAMLR activities are under development – Antarctic Ecosystems: Adaptations, Thresholds and Resilience (AntETR) and State of the Antarctic Ecosystem (AntEco).
- SCAR’s new Action Group on Ocean Acidification
- SCAR coordinated CPR Surveys continue to grow with an increasing number of countries contributing
- The SCAR-MarBIN data portal continues to gather information on marine biodiversity in the Antarctic
- A proposal for a joint CCAMLR/SCAR action group to improve the strategic partnership between the two organisations with the aims of:
  - determining what SCAR’s and CCAMLR’s expectations of each other are or should be, based on what is of benefit to Members of each organisation,

and on a more strategic understanding of what each organisation can provide to make the partnership viable, sustainable and valuable

- offering advice on ways and mechanisms that SCAR and CCAMLR might implement to work together more effectively and in a more strategic manner
- offering guidance on ways in which SCAR and CCAMLR might work together more effectively in the future to provide advice to the ATS
- identifying a series of topics/issues that are of common interest to SCAR and CCAMLR that could form an agenda for the way forward.

3.4. The Scientific Committee welcomed the report and endorsed the proposed terms of reference for the joint action group. In order to make progress on the action group, the Scientific Committee agreed that the Chair of the Scientific Committee should contact the SCAR Executive to suggest a meeting in association with the CEP meeting to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in June 2011.

3.5. Dr Marschoff (CCAMLR Observer to SCAR-XXXI) provided the Scientific Committee with a report of the SCAR Delegates' Meeting held in Buenos Aires in July 2010 (SC-CAMLR-XXIX/BG/12). In particular he noted:

- the great commitment of SCAR to promote early careers in Antarctic science;
- the finding by SCAR's Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) of more than 200 alien species;
- the proposal for SCAR to host a workshop in South Africa in May/June 2011 entitled 'Antarctic Conservation in the XXI Century'. It is expected that the outcomes of the meeting will be useful for the Antarctic Treaty System.

3.6. Dr Barrera-Oro, who had attended the SCAR Open Science Conference, also held in Buenos Aires, informed the Scientific Committee that more than 850 papers had been presented and noted that there were a great number of young scientists presenting work at this meeting. The attendance of many of these scientists had been facilitated through the SCAR Science Capacity fund.

#### **4. Commission.**

4.1 Cooperation with SCAR. The Commission noted the presentation from SCAR to the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XXIX, paragraphs 10.5 to 10.8). In particular, the Commission endorsed the terms of reference of a Joint CCAMLR–SCAR Action Group to improve the strategic alliance between the two organisations, noting that this would address objectives of the Commission as well as the Scientific Committee.

4.2 The Commission noted the potential importance of ocean acidification and the recognition that, although the focus has been on ice dynamics in the Southern Ocean, acidification is an important component for CCAMLR in the consideration of the impact of climate change. The Commission requested that the issue of ocean acidification be included in the developments of the Joint CCAMLR–SCAR Action Group.