

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

(Hobart, Australia, 26 to 30 October 2009)

Mark Hindell

SCAR-CCAMLR Observer

1. The twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Commission was held at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, from 26 October to 6 November 2008. The Scientific committee meeting was chaired by Mr. S. Iverson (Norway) and met between 26 and 30 October.
2. A report on SCAR activities of relevance to CCAMLR was submitted in advance and was registered as Commission background document CCAMLR-XXVIII/BG/6. This report is available via the SCAR website.
3. 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."
4. 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.
5. 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.

CAML activities

6. The Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) is both a major IPY initiative and a key SCAR activity. Its objectives are to develop a robust benchmark of the distribution and abundance of marine biodiversity in Antarctic waters, against which future change in the marine environment can be assessed. CAML has completed its major fieldwork. Eighteen vessels were involved. These ranged from voyages fully dedicated to CAML or had major CAML-related components through to other IPY project voyages that will provide data to CAML. The Census research voyages during the IPY have provided a comprehensive inventory of marine species: over 6 000 verified species of animals at each pole and 251 species that occur at both poles. At the molecular level, DNA sequences are showing differences in some species that were previously thought to be the same. The analyses showed a close connection between the species and their physical environment at various spatial scales.

SCAR-MarBIN

7. SCAR-MarBIN compiles and manages existing and new information generated by CAML on Antarctic marine biodiversity by coordinating, supporting, completing and optimising database networking. SCAR-MarBIN is the Antarctic Regional Node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and also contributes to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). SCAR-MarBIN continues to develop its Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS), which is a fully operable, browsable/searchable online list of Antarctic marine species, and is maintained by a board of taxonomic editors. SCAR-MarBIN also offers the possibility to visualise through a WebGIS and to download baseline data on the occurrence and abundance of marine organisms. SCAR-MarBIN is the foundation for CAML's assessment of Antarctic marine life. It will be a powerful information tool, which will provide a baseline reference for establishing a State of the Antarctic Environment, and predicting the future of marine communities around Antarctica, which are currently or may in the future be challenged by global change. SCAR-MarBIN will continue to prove useful in the development of monitoring and conservation strategies, in particular facilitating the designation of CAML Legacy Sites. It will also serve as an important biodiversity component of the Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS).

Expert Group on Birds and Marine Mammals (EG-BAMM)

8. SCAR's Expert Groups on Seals and Birds have been merged to become the Expert Group on Birds and Marine Mammals, under the leadership of Professor Hindell. The group met in July 2009, at the 10th SCAR Biology Conference in Sapporo, Japan, and identified some long-term research objectives. The most relevant of these is the compilation of all existing bird and mammal tracking data. These data will form the basis of multi-species 'hot-spot' analysis as well as a gap analysis to indicate species and regions where future tracking efforts should be focused. A long-term objective will be to build on this retrospective analysis to launch a new Southern Ocean predator community study.

Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS)

9. The SCAR/SCOR Oceanography Expert Group is developing a scientific design plan for a Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) covering the physics, chemistry and biology of the system. A SOOS meeting was held during XXX SCAR in July 2008, and another was held at the time of writing of this report (26 September 2009, in Venice, Italy). Before the end of 2009, a version of the plan will be made available to the wider community for comment before being finalised. Input will be actively sought from CCAMLR. Inputs from AGCS, ACCE and SOOS were fed into the Southern Ocean Sentinel workshop held in Hobart (20 to 24 April 2009). It is intended that outputs from the Southern Ocean Sentinel program will feed in to the SOOS when it is in place. SOOS will make a direct contribution to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and through that to the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS).

SCAR's Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) Review Report

10. The Commission noted that SCAR's Antarctic Climate Change and the Environment (ACCE) Review Report was presented to the UNFCCC during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen.

11. I stressed that SCAR is seeking to enhance its engagement with CCAMLR, and would gratefully receive suggestions on ways to facilitate this. For example, the formation of the EG-BAMM was to a large degree intended to provide data for WG-EMM and the MPA subgroup.

12. The Scientific Committee welcomed the report and in particular the desire for SCAR to forge closer links with CCAMLR. In particular, the Scientific Committee noted the potential for productive linkages between the SCAR EG-BAMM and WG-EMM-STAPP, especially noting the plans for SCAR to develop a tracking database of birds and mammals in the Convention Area.

13. The committee specifically noted the value of this work to WG-EMM and its work on developing Marine Protect Areas (MPAs). (See section 3.29-3.30 of the Report of the 28th Scientific Committee Meeting). The Scientific Committee recognised the value of obtaining input from the CEP and SCAR to discussions on MPAs, to ensure harmonisation across the Antarctic Treaty System, and to facilitate the provision and use of the best available scientific data. It agreed that experts/observers from the CEP and SCAR should be invited to attend meetings of WG-EMM, and to participate in inter-sessional work on the topic of MPAs, as appropriate.