



REPORT OF EXTERNAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY SPRFMO STAFF

Staff member	Craig Loveridge
Positions	Data Manager
Meeting attended	CCAMLR 38 th Annual meeting
Date	21 to 29 October 2019
Location	CCAMLR Premises, Hobart, Australia

1. Purpose of Meetings

The 7th Commission meeting, held in The Hague in The Netherlands, approved the [Secretariat travel plan for 2019-20](#). One of the official planned trips referred to the participation of the Data Manager for “*Making operational the arrangement with CCAMLR consistent with the toothfish tagging, the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and the Observer Programme.*” to the CCAMLR premises in Hobart during July 2019.

This trip was deliberately delayed in order to align with the main CCAMLR annual meeting to provide an opportunity to observe the organisation of a similar meeting as well as deliver a deeper understanding of the common issues faced by this neighbouring international organisation.

2. Meeting Facilitation

The SPRFMO Data Manager attended 3 separate CCAMLR meetings. During the first week the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR) met concurrently with the Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC) and following those meetings the CCAMLR Commission convened. It is worthwhile to note that due to the nature of these meetings it is a struggle for an individual to attend sessions of interest when the discussions are being held concurrently and meeting schedules are (necessarily) so flexible.

This period was a valuable learning opportunity as it is not often that SPRFMO Secretariat staff have been able to witness the internal workings of another similar organisation. In contrast to SPRFMO, the CCAMLR annual meeting tends to be held in the same venue each year which does mean that over time the location has been able to be tailored to the various meeting requirements.

Of particular note was the internet-based meeting server that CCAMLR operates and the associated efficiencies it creates especially for quick dissemination of presentations, contributions and for compiling large reports.

SC-CAMLR

The SC-CAMLRs assessment of research plans bears some similarities with the process the SPRFMO SC uses to assess exploratory fishing proposals, however one point of difference was that the Members are asked to fill out a self-assessment which includes a reference to the specific paragraph(s) addressing the requirement. This process is used to help focus proposals and ensure that all requirements are addressed prior to any SC assessment.

The SC-CAMLR also has access to a scholarship scheme which is used to assist the development of upcoming scientists. This scheme, funded through voluntary contributions, was well supported and considered a strength of CCAMLR.

SCIC

Some of the longer discussions held within the SCIC meeting revolved around the assignment of compliance statuses within the compliance monitoring scheme. During this meeting the SC Chairperson was called in to provide a scientific viewpoint on certain issues and this procedure did seem to increase the overall Member understanding of the issues under discussion. Another interesting suggestion made in the SCIC discussions was to focus more on outcomes/improvements by Members and to CMMs.



CCAMLR Commission

The Data Manager attended the first 2 days of the CCAMLR Commission meeting during which the reports of the SC-CAMLR and SCIC, implementation of CCAMLR objectives and cooperation with other organisations were discussed.

During the discussion of the reports it was notable that the CCAMLR Commission tends to go through each recommendation individually, which allows time for Commission discussion of each recommendation and its adoption (or not). By contrast currently the SPRFMO subsidiary Chairpersons provide a summary of their reports to the SPRFMO Commission under the expectation that the content of the reports is already well known.

3. SPRFMO-CCAMLR Arrangement

The SPRFMO-CCAMLR Arrangement allows for the establishment of a consultative process to facilitate the effective development, implementation and enhancement of cooperation and during the margins of the CCAMLR meetings, and as competing priorities allowed, the Data Manager sought out various appropriate CCAMLR staff.

Under the Arrangement the Data Manager discussed toothfish tagging protocols with the CCAMLR Observer Scheme Program Coordinator (Mr. Isaac Forster) particularly in relation to possible future SPRFMO toothfish fisheries as well as the implementation of current tagging processes. CCAMLR in association with the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators ([COLTO](#)) is planning a toothfish tagging workshop which will be held in Nelson, New Zealand during April/May 2020.

As SPRFMO is in the process of developing its own Observer programme and, recalling that the Arrangement foresees a program of knowledge exchange between the organisations, initial discussions on this topic were also held. Of particular note is the 10th [International Fisheries and Monitoring Conference](#) that is planned to be held in Hobart, Australia, from 1 to 5 March 2021.

Discussions with the CCAMLR Compliance Officer (Mr. Eldene O'Shea) focussed on the exchange of information in relation to the toothfish Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and the sharing of summary CDS data relating to the various toothfish fisheries operating in the SPRFMO Convention Area. The CCAMLR CDS helps CCAMLR develop relationships with other non-contracting parties that are trading toothfish also helps to protect legal catches, but it does require substantive Secretariat support.

The Data Manager was also able to have (understandably) brief discussions in the margins with the Science Manager (Dr. Keith Reid) and the Fisheries Monitoring and Compliance Manager (Ms. Bonney Webb) contrasting the various similarities as well as differences in the operating processes of the SC-CAMLR and the SCIC respectively.

4. Concluding Assessment

The opportunity to observe the CCAMLR meetings provided valuable opportunities to learn and compare SPRFMOs meeting processes with those being undertaken by a similar, albeit larger, organisation.

The trip also cemented the strong working relationship the Organisations have and helped to develop and enhance the level of cooperation being pursued under the umbrella of the SPRFMO-CCAMLR Arrangement.

The usefulness of conducting consultations in the margins of a meeting in which both Organisation's Secretariats are represented by appropriate staff is clear from the varied list of topics covered above. However, one point not mentioned was, while regular consultation is obviously useful, actual attendance for annual meetings is unlikely to be the most efficient long-term arrangement (notwithstanding the benefits of one-off attendance for individual staff).

The SPRFMO Secretariat is grateful to the CCAMLR Chairpersons and Members for allowing the Data Manager to observe and contribute to their various meetings, and to the CCAMLR Secretariat staff for their hospitality and willingness to continue to strengthen the cooperation between our two Organisations during such an obviously busy period.