

Report by NEAFC Observer (Norway) on the 32nd Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXXII)

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) – 32nd Annual Meeting, London, 11-15 November 2013.

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-XXXII) took place in Hobart, Tasmania, during 22 October – 1 November 2013, under the chairmanship of Mr Leszek Dybiec (Poland). In addition to delegates from the 25 Contracting Parties, the meeting was attended by observers from various NGOs, including the Association of Responsible Krill harvesting companies (ARK), the Antarctic Ocean Alliance (AOA) and the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC).

A major part of the proceedings were devoted to two proposals for the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs). These were the Ross Sea Region MPA Proposal, proposed by the New Zealand and the United States of America, and the East Antarctic Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (EARSMPA), proposed by Australia, France and the European Union (EU). Earlier versions of the proposals had been submitted for the consideration of the Commission at the 2012 Annual Meeting (CCAMLR-XXXI), and again at a special extraordinary session of the Commission (CCAMLR-SM-II) at Bremerhaven; Germany, 16-17 July 2013, without any decisions having been taken.

During the deliberations, it was noted that the proponents, taking account of comments and questions raised by a number of other parties in intersessional communications as well as during the Commission Meeting itself, had made revisions to their proposals that facilitated substantive discussions, aimed at finding common ground for reaching consensus-based agreements. No such agreement did, however, materialize, and it is expected that the two MPA proposals – possibly in further revised versions – will be tabled for renewed consideration at the next year's Annual Meeting of the Commission.

Other matters dealt with at the CCAMLR-XXXII include the establishment of catch quotas for the main commercial fisheries (notably krill and toothfish) in the various parts of the

Antarctic Ocean. Following up on discussions in its sub-committees (viz. the Standing Committee on Implementation and Monitoring and the Scientific Committee), the Commission also dealt with inspection and control issues, including measures to prevent IUU fisheries, as well as matters concerning scientific cooperation.

On the issue of prevention of IUU fisheries, the Commission noted that, following the compilation of information contributed *inter alia* by the CCAMLR Secretariat, Interpol in 2013 issued a so-called "purple notice" concerning a fishing vessel which for a number of years has been operating unregulated in CCAMLR waters under various flags and names. This is understood to be the first time that Interpol has issued such a notice concerning a fishing vessel.

The next Annual Meeting of the Commission will be held in Hobart during 20-31 October 2014.

Oslo, 8 November 2013.

Odd Gunnar Skagestad

NEAFC Observer to the CCAMLR, on behalf of the Delegation of Norway.