Enhancing CCAMLR performance

Submitted by ASOC
Enhancing CCAMLR Performance

Submitted by ASOC

Abstract

CCAMLR has a history of leadership in conservation and management, yet the outcomes of both performance reviews have demonstrated that there is significant room for improvement. Thus, ASOC recommends that as CCAMLR reviews the outcomes of the second Performance Review, it also considers how to implement outstanding recommendations from the first Performance Review. Implementation should take into account recommendations on the same issues from the second Performance Review as well as recent CCAMLR proposals and discussions on the issues. Key actions for CCAMLR from ASOC’s perspective are to create a representative system of MPAs, to refine compliance categories, to implement additional precautionary management measures in the krill fishery, and to support the implementation of a climate change response work plan (CCRWP).

Background

ASOC welcomes the upcoming Second Performance Review (PR 2) of CCAMLR, and looks forward to the speedy uptake of its recommendations. Areas of particular importance to ASOC are:

- Designation of a representative system of marine protected areas;
- Improving compliance with, and enforcement of, conservation measures;
- Enhancing conservation and fisheries management to ensure Article II objectives are met in the krill fishery;
- Consideration of climate change impacts and responses into conservation and management measures, and implementing the Climate Change Response Work Programme (CCRWP).

However, ASOC would like to highlight that there are recommendations from the first review that remain incomplete. CCAMLR should implement the recommendations from the first Performance Review (2008), considering related PR 2 recommendations (and current CCAMLR discussions and proposals on those issues) as appropriate, as a matter of priority.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Recommendation 2.4.3.1 on MPAs from the CCAMLR 2008 Performance Review remains incomplete. Although we welcome the recent designation of the Ross Sea Region MPA, the planned representative system of marine protected areas is still not in place. ASOCcommends the progress in some planning domains over the years to develop proposals for East Antarctica, the Weddell Sea, and the Antarctic Peninsula. To continue progressing this issue, we encourage rapid progress on designating additional MPAs in the network, and on identifying areas in planning domains not yet considered in depth by CCAMLR Members (see ASOC papers A Representative System of CCAMLR MPAs: Taking Stock and Moving Forward, CCAMLR-XXXVI/BG/25 and Toward a System of Marine Protected Areas in the Southern Ocean, SC-CAMLR-XXXVI/BG/32). ASOC considers that the creation of MPAs is critical for CCAMLR to be able to meet its obligations under the Convention.

Compliance and Enforcement

ASOC recognises the strong foundation framework for compliance as evidenced in Conservation Measure 10-10 (2016), and notes this was also mentioned in the second Performance Review. This paper suggests a further refinement of the compliance status, to ensure a more effective categorisation of compliance offenses. During the compliance meeting at CCAMLR, a more streamlined sorting of compliance offenses would allow for better analysis of the seriousness of the problem.

ASOC suggests that compliance categories be revised to the following:

---

1 Lead author Kathryn Vincent with contributions from Claire Christian, Lyn Goldsworthy, Chris Johnson, and Ricardo Roura.
Kril Conservation and Fishery Management

ASOC notes that there has been little progress on management measures for krill fishing beyond the establishment of trigger levels. There is an urgent need to develop further management measures for the krill fishery to ensure that localized depletion does not occur, and that populations of krill-dependent predators are not affected by fishing.

Managing the krill fishery in line with Article II objectives is one of CCAMLR's most critical tasks. ASOC recommends that:
- CCAMLR commit to a timeline and work program to update krill biomass and distribution estimates.
- CCAMLR should review the current CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP), to determine if it is sufficiently robust to inform CCAMLR’s management of the fishery.
- CCAMLR should agree to a detailed work plan and timeline to develop and implement decision-making frameworks for the management of the krill fishery.
- CCAMLR develop requirements for evaluation of representative samples of the krill catch to assess the level of by-catch of *Euphasia crystallorophias*.

Further information on these recommendations can be found in *Progressing Towards Responsible, Science-based and Highly Precautionary Krill Fisheries Management* (SC-CAMLR-XXXVI/BG/31), submitted to this meeting.

Climate Change

Climate change and its actual and potential impacts on marine ecosystems are not fully recognised or embedded in most current CCAMLR CMs (exceptions include Conservation Measure 24-04). Its growing impact in the region necessitates an active consideration in CCAMLR decision-making. ASOC continues to support the inclusion of climate change implications statements in all proposals for new and revised conservation measures (when relevant).

Furthermore, as noted in ASOC paper *Adopting and implementing a climate change response work plan* (CCAMLR-XXXV/BG/27), ASOC strongly supports the development of a Climate Change Response Work Plan (CCRWP) by CCAMLR and the establishment of an Intersessional Correspondence Group (ICG) to support its implementation to include climate change planning when developing conservation measures. However, the plan is extremely ambitious in scope and ASOC believes the proposed ICG must implement additional prioritization, scheduling, and SMART objectives in conjunction with the plan for it to be successful.

Conclusion and Recommendations

CCAMLR has a history of leadership in conservation and management, yet the outcomes of both performance reviews have demonstrated that there is significant room for improvement.

As CCAMLR considers the results of PR2, ASOC urges examination of recommendations from the first review that were not addressed or implemented. Making progress on these outstanding recommendations, particularly since these areas are also the subject of new recommendations in PR2, is required to ensure CCAMLR meets its objectives under the Convention.

ASOC recommends that CCAMLR:
- Honour its commitment to creating a representative system of MPAs.
- Continue to refine compliance categories to allow for better focus on serious infractions.
- Implement precautionary management measures for krill fishery management.
• Support the implementation of a climate change response work plan to consider climate change information in planning and appropriate management responses.