Monday, 7 January 2013



## **Bushfires in Tasmania**

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

In response to a large number of inquiries concerning the bushfires in Tasmania I am pleased to advise that all CCAMLR staff are safe and have only experienced minor inconvenience as a result of the fires that have been so widespread in Tasmania for the last three days.

During this period Hobart has experienced its hottest day ever recorded (42°C), and at least 40 fires were reported around the state. This morning, the temperature has moderated to an extent (maximum 29°C forecast). Hobart continues to experience a thick smoke haze; there are a number of fires still active at the southern end of the island. Two in particular, one in the valleys of the upper Derwent River and another on the Tasman Peninsula, remain out of control and are threatening communities.

Several thousand people have been evacuated, largely by boat, and at least 100 homes and a school have been lost. There is significant loss of livestock and wildlife and fears are held for a number of people who remain unaccounted for. On behalf of CCAMLR I have authorised \$2,000 as a donation to the bushfire appeal which is managed by the Red Cross.

With thanks to all those who inquired about the wellbeing of CCAMLR staff, their families and friends. Your concern is very much appreciated.

With best wishes,

Andrew Wright Executive Secretary

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