

CONSERVATION MEASURE 126/XVI
Limits on the Crab Fishery in Statistical Subarea 48.3
in the 1997/98 Season

The Commission hereby adopts the following Conservation Measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 7/V:

1. The crab fishery is defined as any commercial harvest activity in which the target species is any member of the crab group (Order Decapoda, Suborder Reptantia).
2. In Statistical Subarea 48.3, the crab fishing season is defined as the period from 8 November 1997 to end of the Commission meeting in 1998, or until the catch limit is reached, whichever is sooner.
3. The crab fishery shall be limited to one vessel per Member.
4. The total catch of crab from Statistical Subarea 48.3 shall be limited to 1 600 tonnes during the 1997/98 crab fishing season.
5. Each vessel participating in the crab fishery in Subarea 48.3 in the 1997/98 season shall have a scientific observer, appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period.
6. Each Member intending to participate in the crab fishery shall notify the CCAMLR Secretariat at least three months in advance of starting fishing of the name, type, size, registration number, radio call sign, and research and fishing operations plan of the vessel that the Member has authorised to participate in the crab fishery.
7. All vessels fishing for crab shall report the following data to CCAMLR by 31 August 1998 for crabs caught prior to 31 July 1998:
 - (i) the location, date, depth, fishing effort (number and spacing of pots and soak time), and catch (numbers and weight) of commercially sized crabs (reported on as fine a scale as possible, but no coarser than 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude) for each 10-day period;
 - (ii) the species, size, and sex of a representative subsample of crab sampled according to the procedure set out in Annex 126/A (between 35 and 50 crabs shall be sampled every day from the line hauled just prior to noon) and by-catch caught in traps; and
 - (iii) other relevant data, as possible, according to the requirements set out in Annex 126/A.
8. For the purposes of implementing this Conservation Measure, the Ten-day Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 61/XII shall apply.

9. Data on catches taken between 31 July 1998 and 31 August 1998 shall be reported to CCAMLR by 30 September 1998 so that the data will be available to the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment.
10. Crab fishing gear shall be limited to the use of crab pots (traps). The use of all other methods of catching crabs (e.g., bottom trawls) shall be prohibited.
11. The crab fishery shall be limited to sexually mature male crabs – all female and undersized male crabs caught shall be released unharmed. In the case of *Paralomis spinosissima* and *Paralomis formosa*, males with a minimum carapace width of 102 mm and 90 mm, respectively, may be retained in the catch.
12. Crab processed at sea shall be frozen as crab sections (minimum size of crabs can be determined using crab sections).

**DATA REQUIREMENTS ON THE
CRAB FISHERY IN STATISTICAL SUBAREA 48.3**

Catch and Effort Data:

Cruise Descriptions

cruise code, vessel code, permit number, year.

Pot Descriptions

diagrams and other information, including pot shape, dimensions, mesh size, funnel position, aperture and orientation, number of chambers, presence of an escape port.

Effort Descriptions

date, time, latitude and longitude of the start of the set, compass bearing of the set, total number of pots set, spacing of pots on the line, number of pots lost, depth, soak time, bait type.

Catch Descriptions

retained catch in numbers and weight, by-catch of all species (see Table 1), incremental record number for linking with sample information.

Table 1: Data requirements for by-catch species in the crab fishery in Statistical Subarea 48.3.

Species	Data Requirements
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Numbers and estimated total weight
<i>Notothenia rossii</i>	Numbers and estimated total weight
Other Species	Estimated total weight

Biological Data:

For these data, crabs are to be sampled from the line hauled just prior to noon, by collecting the entire contents of a number of pots spaced at intervals along the line so that between 35 and 50 specimens are represented in the subsample.

Cruise Descriptions

cruise code, vessel code, permit number.

Sample Descriptions

date, position at start of the set, compass bearing of the set, line number.

Data

species, sex, length of at least 35 individuals, presence/absence of rhizocephalan parasites, record of the destination of the crab (kept, discarded, destroyed), record of the pot number from which the crab comes.