

## NEW AND EXPLORATORY FISHERIES

### New and Exploratory Fisheries in 1999/2000

7.1 The Commission noted that one conservation measure relating to a new fishery and 13 conservation measures relating to exploratory fisheries were in force during the 1999/2000 season. In only five of these 14 new or exploratory fisheries did fishing actually occur during 1999/2000, and in most cases the numbers of days fished and the catches reported were very small. The notable exception was the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1 conducted under Conservation Measure 190/XVIII, where three vessels fished for a total of 162 days, taking 745 tonnes of *D. mawsoni* (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.1).

7.2 The Commission noted the difficulties experienced by the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA in assessing the large number of annual notifications, many of which were repeat notifications, or incomplete, or both (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 9.2 to 9.4). The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's decision that future assessments would be made following a first notification but, in the absence of fishing, no further assessments would be made until new data were received. The Commission agreed that some of these difficulties may be alleviated if changes were made to the system of notification and classification of fisheries (see section 10).

7.3 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had reviewed the research element of Conservation Measure 182/XVIII describing general measures for exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp., and its application in small-scale research units (SSRUs). In many instances, no research data were available from SSRUs which had been fished in exploratory fisheries in the 1999/2000 season; a notable exception being the extensive data submission provided by New Zealand. The Commission noted that failure to provide such data seriously undermined the ability of the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA to make assessments (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 9.6 to 9.10).

7.4 The Commission agreed to the revisions of Conservation Measure 182/XVIII which had been endorsed by the Scientific Committee (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 9.11 to 9.15), including:

- (i) emphasising that the research plans mandated by that measure represented the minimum research requirements;
- (ii) encouraging the submission, wherever possible, of more comprehensive research plans, extending further than those required under the measure, and that such research plans, if endorsed by the Scientific Committee, may be exempted from the general research requirements under that measure;
- (iii) clarification of how the research element could be applied in the exploratory fisheries; and
- (iv) revision of the number of fish required for biological samples.

7.5 The Scientific Committee had also identified two options for by-catch limits in exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.14). During the course of further discussion, the Commission identified a third option: the by-catch catch limit for each SSRU may

be set at 50 tonnes per species in large SSRUs, and 20 tonnes per species in smaller SSRUs (paragraph 9.38).

7.6 The Commission noted that the only exploratory longline fishery for which WG-FSA was able to make an assessment was the fishery for *D. mawsoni* in Subarea 88.1. The Scientific Committee was pleased to note that new data from 489 longline hauls had been supplied by New Zealand. A total of 76 fine-scale rectangles has been fished in the past three years. These data included a large amount of biological information on the species, including information from tagging (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 9.18 to 9.24).

7.7 The Commission noted that a tagging program directed not only at *D. mawsoni*, the target species, but also at skates, a significant component of the by-catch, is in progress in Subarea 88.1. The results from these studies are likely to provide much useful information towards reducing the uncertainty over assessments. The Commission noted this study and encouraged other participants in the fishery in Subarea 88.1 to undertake similar tagging studies.

#### New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2000/01

7.8 Notifications for exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. in 2000/01 had been submitted in relation to longlining in Subareas 48.6, 58.6, 58.7, 88.1, 88.2 and 88.3, and Divisions 58.4.2, 58.4.3, 58.4.4, 58.5.1 and 58.5.2, and trawling in Divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3. All areas notified were outside areas under national jurisdiction. Notifications were also received for a new fishery trawling for *Chaenodraco wilsoni* and other species in Division 58.4.2, and an exploratory jig fishery for *Martialia hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3.

7.9 The Commission noted, with pleasure, that all notifications had been received by the specified deadline. However, it reaffirmed the need for notifications for new and exploratory fisheries to be submitted on time, and for each notification to comprehensively address all of the requirements defined in the respective conservation measure. Notifications should also clearly indicate the total level of catch and effort anticipated in each fishery.

7.10 The Commission recalled earlier decisions regarding the prohibition on directed fishing on *Dissostichus* spp. in Subareas 48.1 (Conservation Measure 72/XVII), 48.2 (Conservation Measure 73/XVII) and 58.7 (Conservation Measure 160/XVII). Furthermore, it agreed that proposals for exploratory fisheries in waters outside areas of national jurisdiction in Divisions 58.5.1 and 58.5.2 would not be viable (CCAMLR-XVIII, paragraph 7.23 and Conservation Measure 172/XVII).

7.11 The Commission agreed that Subarea 48.5, the Antarctic coastal part of Division 58.4.1 south of 64°S, and Subarea 88.3 be closed to directed fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.40).

7.12 New and exploratory fisheries notified for the 2000/01 season and considered by the Commission are summarised in Table 1. In addition, the Commission noted the various notifications in Subarea 48.3 to fish for crabs (Uruguay and the USA) and to conduct experimental pot fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. (UK) (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.58). The UK had also expressed its intention to fish for crabs (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 5.110). The Commission also took

account of advice from the Scientific Committee's ad hoc WG-IMALF on the fishing seasons appropriate for the avoidance of incidental by-catch of seabirds (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 4.31(ii) to (iv) and Annex 5, Table 59).

Table 1: New and exploratory fisheries notified for the 2000/01 season.

Target Species	Region (outside EEZs)	Gear	Member
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	48.6	Longline	Argentina, Brazil, South Africa
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	BANZARE Bank	Trawl	Australia
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	BANZARE Bank	Longline	Argentina, France
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	Elan Bank	Trawl	Australia
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	Elan Bank	Longline	Argentina, France
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	58.4.2	Longline	Argentina
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	58.4.2	Trawl	Australia
<i>Chaenodraco wilsoni</i> and other species	58.4.2	Trawl	Australia
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.4.4	Longline	Argentina, Brazil, France, South Africa, Ukraine, Uruguay
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.5.1	Longline	Argentina, Brazil, France
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.5.2	Longline	Brazil, France
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.6	Longline	Argentina, France, South Africa
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.1	Longline	Argentina, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.2	Longline	Argentina, South Africa, Uruguay
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.3	Longline	Argentina, Uruguay
<i>Martialia hyadesi</i>	48.3	Jig	Joint notification by the Republic of Korea and the UK

7.13 Following consultations with the authorities competent in Antarctic matters, the Delegation of Argentina advised the Commission of its intention to withdraw its notifications for exploratory fisheries in Subareas 88.1, 88.2 and Division 58.4.2. This was because full compliance with mitigation measures relating to seabird by-catch recommended by the Scientific Committee would require entry in high latitude areas in autumn and winter.

7.14 The Commission complimented Argentina on its approach to reducing the IMALF problem.

7.15 The Commission noted New Zealand's position that it did not support proposals for expanded effort in the Ross Sea, an area with which New Zealand has had a long association and commitment to manage and protect the environment from any adverse impacts. In any previous year of the exploratory fishery in Subarea 88.1 a maximum of three vessels have operated. However, this year there are notifications of a total maximum of 10 vessels. New Zealand does not believe this escalation in effort is warranted for the purposes of researching this exploratory fishery. There is also the danger that the current research program may be undermined in the following manner:

- (i) there is potential for the short total season length to be further shortened if the catch limit was reached. This would then restrict the collection of research data to a shorter period than required;
- (ii) difficulties may be encountered in trying to replicate research sets previously fished within SSRUs for research purposes; and
- (iii) interpretation of longline CPUE data is confounded by changes in vessels from year

to year.

7.16 New Zealand advised that it could not support proposals for multiple exploratory fishing operations in Subarea 88.1 unless a fisheries management system was developed to address practical issues which will arise relating to compliance with Conservation Measure 182/XVIII. In particular, the current requirement for the maintenance of a maximum of only one vessel per fine-scale rectangle presents a major difficulty to operational management.

7.17 The Commission noted the recommendations of the Scientific Committee that all vessels in Subarea 88.1 requiring the exemption from the night-setting requirements of Conservation Measure 29/XVI must undergo line sink-rate certification by the authority of the Flag State (SC-CAMLR-XIX, Annex 5, paragraph 7.98) prior to entering the subarea and comply with all the experimental protocols of the existing sink rate experiment. Any vessel catching a total of three seabirds must immediately revert to night setting as required in Conservation Measure 29/XVI (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 4.33).

7.18 The Commission noted that following statement by the Representative of Brazil:

‘I would like to refer to document CCAMLR-XIX/5 which issued the Brazilian notification of its intention to develop exploratory longline fisheries for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in CCAMLR areas.

Since it is the first time Brazil takes this initiative, my Delegation, for the purpose of clarification, deems it necessary to offer some comments for the records of this meeting.

As it can be noticed, our notification was put forward in due time, that is to say by 23 July. Its language clearly states that all requirements of CCAMLR conservation measures will be followed. It also refers to the special care that will be taken to avoid incidental capture of seabirds. It refers as well to the presence of scientific observers on board each vessel. In brief, when our notification was drafted, special attention was given to the need to reflect properly the commitment of the Brazilian Government to the relevant CCAMLR conservation and management measures.

This season Brazil intends to fish in CCAMLR waters with only two vessels. As it is generally known, like many developing Coastal States, Brazil does not yet count on an adequate national fleet in order to develop longline fisheries in the high seas. To solve this problem, the Brazilian Government has been stimulating joint ventures with foreign fishing companies capable of offering expertise in this field and willing to transfer technology.

After reviewing our notification, the Secretariat informed us that one of the vessels indicated therein had a record of engagement in illegal fishing. Immediately, Brazil withdrew this vessel from its notification. This is the reason why there are no references to vessels in document CCAMLR-XIX/5.

This circumstance led the Brazilian authorities to take a decision that was reached recently and I take this opportunity to announce it to the Commission. Although we believe that the chartering of vessels constitutes a valuable tool for countries whose national fleet faces limitations to operate in the high seas, we recognise that such a practice raises serious concerns due to its possible links to IUU fishing. Taking into account these concerns, the Brazilian authorities decided that Brazil will only fish in CCAMLR waters with vessels of its own companies' property. That means, that we do not intend to resort to the chartering of vessels in order to fish in the Area of the Convention.

Fishing in Antarctic waters is a part of Brazil's Development National Plan of Action for Fishing in the High Seas. We believe that valuable expertise can be gained as far as fishing in deep waters is concerned. Nevertheless, we are convinced that these goals should only be achieved if they do not imply any possibility of damage to the sound reputation Brazil has been building throughout the years with regard to the conservation of the Antarctic environment.'

#### Catch Limits

7.19 The Commission agreed that the catch limits defined for exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. in 1999/2000 (CCAMLR-XVIII, Table 1) remained appropriate, with the following revisions:

- (i) the catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.2 could be revised to 1 000 tonnes if the calculations from last year are used (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.39; CCAMLR-XVIII, Table 1), but the catch limit was retained at 500 tonnes as set last year;
- (ii) the catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.2 should be split evenly between trawl and longline fishing if these two types of fisheries proceeded (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.39); and
- (iii) the catch limit for *D. mawsoni* in Subarea 88.1 south of 65°S was revised to 1 889 tonnes as a result of applying a discount factor of 0.5 to the estimated potential yield of 3 778 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.20).

7.20 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's recommendation that the appropriateness of the application of the catch limit of 100 tonnes per fine-scale rectangle in new and exploratory fisheries be reviewed by WG-FSA (SC-CAMLR-XIX, paragraphs 9.36 and 9.37).

7.21 Australia expressed concern that the large number of exploratory fishery proposals for *Dissostichus* spp. could result in large numbers of vessels fishing for small catch limits and in small statistical areas. Australia said that such an outcome would be inconsistent with the principle of

Conservation Measure 65/XII that exploratory fishing should not be allowed to expand further than the acquisition of information necessary to ensure the fishery is conducted in accordance with Article II. Australia proposed that to prevent such an outcome, effort limitations could be applied to all exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. One way to do this would be to restrict Members to only one vessel in each fishery.