

NEW AND EXPLORATORY FISHERIES

New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2000/01

7.1 The Commission noted that 14 conservation measures relating to exploratory fisheries were in force during 2000/01, but fishing only occurred in respect of four of these (SC-CAMLR-XX, Annex 5, Table 16).

7.2 In most of the active exploratory fisheries, the numbers of days fished and the catches reported were small. As was the case last year, the notable exception was the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subarea 88.1 conducted under Conservation Measure 210/XIX. During 2000/01, 417 vessel days of effort were reported, taking 658 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. Vessels from New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay participated in this fishery.

7.3 The Commission noted that most of the fisheries notified in 2000/01 had not been fished, such as the exploratory longline fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp. in Subareas 48.6, 58.6, 88.2 and Divisions 58.4.3 and 58.4.4. In addition, many of these fisheries have been the subject of repeat notifications in recent years (e.g. longline fishery in Division 58.4.3, SC-CAMLR-XX, Annex 5, Table 19).

7.4 The Commission understood that some Members had not undertaken exploratory fisheries due to economic considerations or may have postponed fishing operations so as to better comply with measures adopted by CCAMLR.

7.5 Brazil referred to CCAMLR-XX/BG/32 pointing out that, in order to assure compliance with CCAMLR's conservation measures, Brazil has decided not to fish in CCAMLR waters, as it had previously announced. This was communicated to CCAMLR in due time, according to its rules of procedures. The reasons pointed out in the document show the seriousness of Brazil in carrying out responsible fisheries. Therefore, withdrawal from fishing and its consequences to the work of WG-FSA and the Commission should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7.6 The Commission recognised that repeat notifications for fisheries which are yet to be explored had placed a high burden on the work of the Scientific Committee and WG-FSA. Consequently, Members were urged to minimise the number of future notifications for fisheries which were unlikely to be fished in the season notified. It was agreed that it would be inappropriate for the Commission to use sanctions as a means of reducing the number of such notifications.

New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2001/02

7.7 The Commission noted that 13 notifications of new or exploratory fisheries had been made for the 2001/02 season (SC-CAMLR-XX, Annex 5, Table 17). All areas notified were outside areas under national jurisdiction. With the exception of the new

fishery for *Macrourus* spp. in Division 58.4.2, all of the notifications referred to fisheries or regions that have been considered previously by WG-FSA. New and exploratory fisheries notified in the 2001/02 season and considered by the Commission are summarised in Table 1. The Commission also noted notifications to fish for crabs in Subarea 48.3 (Japan and the USA). It was noted, with pleasure, that all notifications had been received by the specified deadline.

7.8 The Commission noted that there are still inconsistencies in the way in which notifications specify intended catch levels in particular. As was the case last year, some notifications attempted to specify realistic levels of intended catches, while others simply specified an intended catch that was equal to the current precautionary catch limit. While this inconsistency continues, the task of assessing the likely effects of multiple new or exploratory fisheries in an area is made much more difficult. Members were urged to specify realistic levels of intended catches in future notifications.

7.9 The Commission also noted that this year, once again, there has been a large number of notifications for Division 58.4.4 (five notifications for a maximum of up to 10 vessels). As the recommended precautionary catch limit is only 103 tonnes (see paragraph 7.11) there is a clear potential for the catch limit to be taken in a very short time and with the extreme likelihood of it being exceeded (see also Section 9).

7.10 In examining proposals for new and exploratory fisheries, New Zealand drew attention to the preamble to Conservation Measure 65/XII which underlines that fishing should not be allowed to expand faster than the acquisition of information necessary to ensure that the fishery can and will be conducted in accordance with the principles set forth in Article II. New Zealand stated that it had taken careful note of the Scientific Committee's report regarding Division 58.4.4 and had decided to withdraw its notification for Division 58.4.4. New Zealand added that the ability to implement applicable conservation measures was an important prerequisite to licensing and approving vessels for new and exploratory activities, as was the implementation of Resolution 13/XIX.

Table 1: New and exploratory fisheries notified in the 2001/02 season.

Target Species	Region (outside EEZs)	Gear	Member
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	48.6	Longline	Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Uruguay
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	58.4.2	Trawl	Australia
<i>Macrourus</i> spp.	58.4.2	Trawl	Australia
Mixed species ¹	58.4.2	Trawl	Australia
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	BANZARE Bank (58.4.3b)	Longline	France, Japan
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	Elan Bank (58.4.3a)	Longline	France, Japan
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.4.4	Longline	France, Japan, New Zealand ² , South Africa, Uruguay
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	58.6	Longline	Chile, France, Japan, South Africa
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.1	Longline	Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Russia
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.2	Longline	Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Russia
<i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	88.3	Longline	New Zealand ³

¹ *Chaenodraco wilsoni*, *Lepidonotothen kempi*, *Trematomus eulepidotus*, *Pleuragramma antarcticum*

² Notification withdrawn at the meeting

³ Notification withdrawn (Addendum to CCAMLR-XX/12)

Precautionary Catch Limits

7.11 The Commission noted that the Scientific Committee had only provided new advice on precautionary catch limits for stocks in Subarea 88.1 and Division 58.4.4, as these were the only areas for which sufficient data were available. For all other subareas and divisions for which notifications had been made, the Scientific Committee was unable to provide any new advice on precautionary catch limits.

7.12 In addition, the Commission noted that an assessment of *D. eleginoides* in the Prince Edwards Islands EEZ had suggested that the stock in that area had been greatly reduced from its unexploited level primarily by IUU fishing. This raised major concerns about the status of *D. eleginoides* stocks throughout Subarea 58.7.

7.13 The Commission agreed that the precautionary catch limits defined for the 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 Subarea 88.1 was revised to 2508 tonnes as a result of applying a discount factor of 0.50 to the estimated potential yield of 5 016 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs 9.9 and 9.10, see also Annex 5, Table 22); and
- (ii) the catch limit for *D. eleginoides* in Division 58.4.4 was revised to 103 tonnes (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraph 9.14).

7.14 New Zealand stated the following:

‘We would refer to the position reflected in paragraph 9.11 of the Scientific Committee’s report where the query was raised as to whether, from a management perspective, there is any necessity to increase overall catch limits to achieve the objectives of the exploratory fishery. For example, in Subarea 88.1 the fishery has not been constrained by the previous catch limit with catches in 2000/01 at about 30% of the precautionary catch limit.

We note in this connection that paragraph 2(vi) of Conservation Measure 65/XII, which governs new and exploratory fisheries, suggests that effort should not be substantially above that necessary to enable the Commission to fulfil the evaluations under paragraph 1(ii) of Conservation Measure 65/XII to ensure the collection of sufficient and consistent information specified in the data collection plan. New Zealand considers that the maintenance of the current catch limit for Subarea 88.1 would also be consistent with this approach. However, we recognise and appreciate that the assessments produced in WG-FSA were based on the best available data and that Subarea 88.1 is one of only two exploratory fisheries where WG-FSA felt there was sufficient data to undertake new advice on precautionary catch limits.’

Research Requirements

7.15 The Commission agreed to revise the elements of Conservation Measure 200/XIX (General Measures for Exploratory Fisheries for *Dissostichus* spp.) so as to include (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs 9.15 to 9.17): a reduction in the minimum distance between research hauls, from 10 n miles to 5 n miles; and a maximum number of 10 000 hooks for research sets.

Revision of the Boundaries of Division 58.4.3 and Adjacent Areas

7.16 The Commission in 2000 requested that the Scientific Committee review the definition of the boundaries of subareal division of Divisions of 58.4.1 and 58.4.3 (CCAMLR-XIX, paragraph 9.47). The request was made because new and exploratory fisheries proposed for Division 58.4.3 in the 1999/2000 and 2000/01 seasons were given separate catch allocations for BANZARE and Elan Banks. These banks are separated by a trough of deep water at least 130 n miles wide. Each bank had to be specifically defined in the conservation measures in order to allocate individual catch limits, rather than apportioning a catch limit to an entire statistical division. Various options for modifying the boundaries were reviewed in SC-CAMLR-XX/5.

7.17 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee advice to move the boundaries of Division 58.4.3 and adjacent areas within the Convention Area, so as to separate catch allocations for BANZARE and Elan Banks (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs

9.21 to 9.23). The revised coordinates of the boundaries in this region are given in Annex 7. As a result of this revision, Elan Bank now lies in Division 58.4.3a and BANZARE Bank lies in Division 58.4.3b (Annex 7, Figure 1).

7.18 The Commission noted that a further amendment could be to extend the eastern boundary of Subarea 58.5 (which also defines the outer boundary of the CCAMLR Convention Area) from 80°E to 86°E in order to include William's Ridge that currently lies outside the CCAMLR Convention Area. The Commission also noted the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that consideration be given to extending the Convention Area in Subareas 58.5, 58.6 and 58.7 to include as much as possible of the distribution range of the species for which it has primary responsibility, i.e. toothfish (SC-CAMLR-XX, paragraphs 9.25 to 9.27).

7.19 The FAO Observer (Mr R. Shotton) had indicated that he could not foresee problems from his organisation's point of view in amending the Convention Area boundaries and that consideration of this issue would best be done prior to the finalisation of discussions on the proposed new Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission.

7.20 The Commission agreed that such a change would require further consideration.