

## CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME FOR *DISSOSTICHUS* SPP. (CDS)

7.1 The Commission noted that the CDS had been fully established and was providing CCAMLR with information required in order to track the trade of toothfish caught in the Convention Area and adjacent waters, and to ensure that catches taken within the Convention Area were consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures (Annex 5, paragraph 2.2).

7.2 The Commission noted with concern that Canada, a Contracting Party to the Convention, is still not in a position to implement the CDS despite a number of diplomatic demarches made by CCAMLR Members in the past three years (Annex 5, paragraph 2.5).

7.3 The Commission found that the reasons outlined in the most recent letter from Canada did not provide a substantive explanation for its inability to implement the CDS during the past three years. The Commission recalled Resolution 3 adopted by Consultative Parties to the Antarctic Treaty at ATCM-XXV, noting that this was the third consecutive year that the ATCM had adopted a resolution relating to CCAMLR and the CDS. The Commission welcomed such support from the ATCM for CCAMLR. The Commission noted that Resolution 3 was in part directed towards Contracting Parties that were not Members of the Commission urging them to implement the CDS. At a time when non-Contracting Parties were actively committed to the CDS it was unfortunate to see Contracting Parties, such as Canada, still not implementing the scheme.

7.4 The Commission noted Canada's non-participation in the CDS; and further noting Canada's apparent intention to expand krill fishing through joint ventures, requested that Members should engage Canada in bilateral and multilateral discussions on its role as a Contracting Party to the CAMLR Convention.

7.5 The Commission agreed that joint diplomatic action was required by all CCAMLR Members with embassies in Ottawa in order to persuade Canada to implement the CDS as soon as possible. The CAMLR Convention Depositary, Australia, could coordinate such action. Such concerted action would not preclude further diplomatic efforts by Members. The Secretariat was requested to write to Canada and convey the Commission's concern that Canada had still been unable to implement the CDS, and also inform Canada on discussions held at CCAMLR-XXI on the CDS and related matters.

7.6 The USA advised that it had in place the required customs procedures to control import of toothfish, in particular, from Canada. However, additional measures were still required in order to fully control illegal or unreported shipments of toothfish from Canada by trucks.

7.7 The Commission noted with appreciation an offer extended by the FAO Observer to arrange a meeting between Canada and CCAMLR Members participating at the forthcoming COFI meeting. Members attending COFI were urged to take this opportunity.

7.8 The Commission noted with concern the continued high level of catches reported under the CDS from the Indian Ocean sector outside the Convention Area (Annex 5, paragraph 2.7), and that a number of landings reported by Mozambique were not documented under the CDS (Annex 5, paragraph 2.10).

7.9 The Commission thanked Mozambique for its cooperation with CCAMLR during 2002. It hoped that Mozambique would accept an invitation to join CCAMLR and to participate in the CDS.

7.10 The Commission noted that, during 2001/02, the CDS Intersessional Group had continued its work, culminating in a two-day informal meeting of the group immediately prior to CCAMLR-XXI (Annex 5, paragraph 2.20). The report of the group contained a number of recommendations on improvements to the CDS. These were considered by SCOI and recommended to the Commission for adoption.

7.11 The Commission adopted the following recommendations put forward by SCOI relating to the CDS (Annex 5, paragraph 2.23):

- (i) The current summary format for CDS data developed by the Secretariat should be amended as proposed by the CDS group, including the addition of the table indicating catch location (i.e. EEZ versus high seas) and the percentage of the harvest by product type along with the standard conversions.
- (ii) A standard set of summary CDS data should be developed by SCOI and this should be annually published by the Secretariat as part of the *Statistical Bulletin* or placed on the CCAMLR website. The development of such a dataset should involve consultations with other international organisations in order to obtain their views on what type of data reporting they might require for their work.
- (iii) Members be requested to work jointly with the World Customs Organization (WCO) in order to introduce universal harmonised tariff codes for *Dissostichus* spp. products.
- (iv) Cooperation with FAO and RFMOs should be continued with a view to developing a harmonised catch document system.
- (v) Whilst Members often participate at meetings of international organisations and can represent CCAMLR, Secretariat staff should attend the most important meetings that relate to the CDS.
- (vi) Countries should be requested to provide information on conversion factors and food additives in order to apply these to CDS data reports and that the current CCAMLR conversion factors be employed until more detailed information on such factors is obtained.
- (vii) The Secretariat and national CDS officers should continue to investigate differences between weights of toothfish landed and exported on a case-by-case basis.
- (viii) Multiple transshipments at sea, defined as two or more transshipments, should be prohibited until a standard procedure can be developed to prevent CDS fraud and accurately account for catch movements.
- (ix) Catch document validation and verification procedures and measures should be standardised for all Parties to the CDS for all stages of the trade cycle.

7.12 The Commission agreed that the CDS group continue its work intersessionally in 2002/03 and that it should hold a three-day meeting immediately preceding CCAMLR-XXII. The revised list of work identified by the CDS group is attached (Annex 5, Appendix IV). The exact dates of the meeting should take into account the work of WG-FSA and scheduling of the proposed SCOI/WG-FSA task group to assess total removals of toothfish (see paragraphs 8.12 and 8.13). The Secretariat was asked to consult intersessionally with Members in order to set dates for the proposed meetings.

7.13 The Executive Secretary advised the Commission that a number of delegations had queried the Secretariat on the possible source of CDS data, which were available only in SCOI documents considered at CCAMLR-XXI, apparently released to the public. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the Secretariat had implemented and fully complied with the 'Rules of Access to CDS Data' as adopted by the Commission.

7.14 The USA observed that the citing of data without prior permission constituted a breach of access to CDS data. Members and observers were requested to double their control over distribution and access to CCAMLR working documents. The attention of observers was drawn to the CCAMLR disclaimer printed on cover pages of all CCAMLR working documents which prohibits using and citing of these papers for purposes other than the work of CCAMLR.

7.15 The Commission agreed with SCOI that the proposed electronic web-based CDS would be beneficial to the operation of the CDS by assisting the tracking of toothfish trade in real-time, resolving missing or incorrect information and greatly reducing the opportunity for fraudulent activity (Annex 5, paragraph 2.29).

7.16 The Commission approved a proposal for a pilot project to address the electronic web-based CDS in 2002/03. The pilot project will run in parallel with the current paper system. It will be evaluated and subsequently decided on prior to its implementation in full by the Commission (Annex 5, paragraph 2.30).

7.17 A list of issues that the above pilot project should address were noted. These included, *inter alia*, data security, data access, levels of user and State access to data, and electronic evidence. Consideration should also be given as to which Members should participate in the pilot project (Annex 5, paragraph 2.31).

7.18 A number of Members volunteered to take part in the pilot project. The Convener of the CDS Intersessional Group advised that immediately after CCAMLR-XXI the principal investigators would discuss organisation of the project and its scope will ideally cover each phase of the toothfish trade, i.e. harvest, landings, export and import operations. It would also include a selection of Flag, Port and Export/Import States from CCAMLR Members and participating non-Contracting Parties. The number of participants would be limited due to the logistical and financial constraints of the project and the limited time allocated for its completion. The recommendations of the principle investigators would be circulated to Members in due course.