

NEW AND EXPLORATORY FISHERIES

6.1 Five notifications of intent to initiate new fisheries in 1996/97 under Conservation Measure 31/X were received by the Commission from the Republic of Korea/UK, Australia, New Zealand, Norway and South Africa (see SC-CAMLR-XV, Table 8).

6.2 The Republic of Korea and the UK jointly submitted a notification for a new fishery for *M. hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3 (CCAMLR-XV/7) (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.2).

6.3 Norway submitted a notification (CCAMLR-XV/10 Rev. 1) for a new longline fishery for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.6. Clarification by Norway indicated that the notification was preliminary and that no permit had been issued for fishing during 1996/97 (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraphs 8.4 and 8.5).

6.4 Australia submitted a notification (CCAMLR-XV/9) for a new bottom trawl fishery in Division 58.4.3 for *D. eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni* and for mixed species in Division 58.5.2 which was similar to that submitted last year (CCAMLR-XIV, paragraph 6.1) (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.6).

6.5 New Zealand submitted a notification for a new fishery in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 for *D. eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni* (CCAMLR-XV/8 Rev. 1) which includes a plan of data collection and a fishery operation protocol (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.7).

6.6 South Africa submitted a proposal (CCAMLR-XV/11) for a longline fishery for *D. eleginoides* in a number of areas in the Indian Ocean which have never been fished (e.g. Subareas 48.6 and 58.7) or where South Africa has not fished (e.g. Divisions 58.4.3 and 58.4.4) (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.10).

6.7 The Commission endorsed the following principles for the new fisheries for *D. eleginoides* (which could be applied to other new fisheries to some degree) (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.17):

- (i) CCAMLR should adopt a common and integrated approach to areas where new fisheries have been proposed;
- (ii) as part of such an integrated approach, the application of Conservation Measure 31/X should anticipate the requirements of Conservation Measure 65/XII by setting up scientifically-based data collection and fishery/research operation

plans. This will facilitate the acquisition of data necessary to manage the development of new fisheries in accordance with CCAMLR's precautionary approach;

- (iii) precautionary catch limits should be developed for statistical areas using available information (e.g. based on catches from similar fisheries elsewhere and/or on areas likely to be suitable for fishing). Limits for smaller areas (e.g. 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude rectangles) should also be developed. These will serve to distribute catch and fishing effort while augmenting the collection of relevant information over a wide geographic area in a way that should reduce the risk of localised overfishing;
- (iv) the collection of crucial fisheries and biological information mandates the deployment of scientific observers; and
- (v) accurate positional information is essential, particularly if fine-scale rectangles are applied, if the fishery should follow stock across the Convention Area boundaries (as appears to be the case for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 58.7 and on the banks adjacent to Subarea 48.3) or if the fishery should move between subareas within the Convention Area.

6.8 The European Community insisted that the range of new proposed fisheries constituted one of the key issues facing this organisation. To address these fisheries it was essential to ensure fishing effort is dispersed to avoid overfishing; that there is full international scientific observer coverage and that the level of fisheries permitted is fixed at a responsible level.

6.9 The IUCN Observer expressed concern about the prospect of many new fisheries being opened around the Antarctic continent, and about the proposed catch limit of 2 200 tonnes which was of the same order of magnitude as that of commercial fisheries. The IUCN therefore urged the Commission to open these fisheries with extreme caution, and to set catch limits for new fisheries at levels required for non-commercial research purposes only.

6.10 The ASOC Observer noted that the proposed catch limits for the new fisheries for *D. eleginoides* seemed to allow full commercial-scale fisheries, rather than a fishing level to allow adequate data collection following the principles underlying the conservation measures for exploratory fishing (Conservation Measure 65/XII). ASOC further urged the Commission to set these catch limits at an order of magnitude below existing TACs in areas where commercial catches have been established for several years (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.28).

Future Work

New Fishery for *M. hyadesi* in Subarea 48.3

6.11 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request that the Secretariat compare the proposed data elements in WG-FSA-96/21 with those of CCAMLR's standard fine-scale catch and effort data form for a squid jig fishery (Form C3 Version 1) to ensure that critical data are collected (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.30).

New Fishery for *D. eleginoides*, *D. mawsoni* and Mixed Species in Subareas 48.6, 58.6, 58.7 and Divisions 58.4.3 and 58.4.4

6.12 The Commission endorsed the Scientific Committee's request that the Secretariat undertake calculations of seabed area for specific depth ranges in previously unfished areas being considered for fishing, and to compare these results with fished areas (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.31).

Management Advice

All New Fisheries

6.13 The Commission supported the recommendation of the Scientific Committee that each vessel participating in any of the new fisheries have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities, and that observers record and submit their data in the most recent version of the Scientific Observer Logbook (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.33).

D. eleginoides / *D. mawsoni* / Mixed Species

6.14 The Scientific Committee stated that it would be difficult to evaluate the potential of the new finfish fisheries if the catches were taken in short periods of time, or over very small areas. To address this matter the Commission endorsed the following recommendations (SC-CAMLR-XV, paragraph 8.37).

- (i) provisions should be made to distribute fishing effort over as wide a geographic area as possible (this might be accomplished by permitting a nominal level of exploitation in a number of fine-scale rectangles measuring 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude);

- (ii) the Commission should consider methods for limiting effort in each new finfish fishery; and
- (iii) provisions should be made to obtain accurate positional information from each vessel participating in a new finfish fishery.

6.15 The Commission noted the concerns of the European Community regarding the size of the fine-scale rectangles measuring 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude.