

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE INTRODUCTION
OF THE CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME
FOR TOOTHFISH (*DISSOSTICHUS* SPP.)**

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1. BACKGROUND

The scale of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in the Southern Oceans is the most significant problem faced by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

Over the past three years the amounts of toothfish taken by IUU fishing have been of the order of 90 000 tonnes, more than twice the level of catches taken in CCAMLR regulated fisheries. This rate of extraction is unsustainable and has led to a significant depletion of toothfish stocks in some areas. In addition, the mortality of seabirds, principally albatross and petrel species, taken as a by-catch of the longline fisheries is also unsustainable and has resulted in declines in the populations of these species.

To address this problem a number of conservation measures have been introduced by CCAMLR over the last three years relating to the toothfish fisheries in order to combat the problem of IUU fishing on the toothfish stocks. These measures in particular include:

- Flag State licensing requirement for all vessels in the fisheries;
- conservation measures fixing fishing levels for all toothfish fisheries in the Convention's waters;
- mandatory vessel monitoring systems (VMS);
- port inspections of landings and transshipments; and
- marking of vessels and fishing gear.

In addition there has been an intensification of control in the Convention Area. Consequently, the number of inspections followed by sanctions has also increased, reaching a peak in 1998.

2. CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

As a further means to address this problem which threatens the conservation of the toothfish stocks, the CCAMLR Commission adopted at its Eighteenth Meeting a conservation measure (170/XVIII) on the introduction of a Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. (see Annex 6 of this report).

The purpose for the introduction of this Scheme is:

- (i) to monitor the international trade in toothfish;
- (ii) to identify the origins of toothfish imported into or exported from the territories of Contracting Parties;
- (iii) to determine whether toothfish imported into or exported from the territories of Contracting Parties, if caught in the Convention Area, was caught in a manner consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures; and
- (iv) to gather catch data for the scientific evaluation of the stocks.

To meet this purpose, all landings, transshipments and importations of toothfish into the territories of Contracting Parties will require to be accompanied by a completed Catch Document. This will specify a range of information relating to the volume and location of catch, and the name and Flag State of the vessel.

This Catch Documentation Scheme will become operative on 4 May 2000* and will be open to all Flag States irrespective of whether they are Members of CCAMLR or not.

Non-Contracting Parties to CCAMLR are invited to participate in the Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp. To do so they will need to ensure that their vessels are provided with *Dissostichus* Catch Documents for presentation to Contracting Party authorities as required.

3. LANDING AND TRANSHIPMENT PROCEDURES

3.1 Area

Toothfish are caught both inside and outside the CCAMLR Convention Area (see map attached). The importation authorities (customs authorities or other appropriate officials) of Contracting Parties to CCAMLR will require that a *Dissostichus* Catch Document accompanies all imports of toothfish.

3.2 Procedures

The document required will have the form of the attached Catch Document. This document will be issued by the Flag State to its fishing vessels authorised to fish toothfish. It will also issue this document to all vessels authorised by the Flag State to receive transshipments of toothfish.

On receipt of a request from a fishing vessel the Flag State will determine whether the catches that are intended for landing or transshipping are consistent with its authorisation to fish and if so will issue the vessel with a unique Flag State Confirmation Number.

The document will need to be countersigned by a Port State official when the catch is landed. This signature will confirm that the catches landed agree with the details on the document. The person who receives the catch must also countersign the document and state on the document the amount of the landed catch that has been received. In the case that the catch is divided on landing, copies of the Catch Document must be supplied by the master and completed by each receiver of a part of the landing.

In the case of transshipment, the master of a receiving vessel will sign the Catch Document presented by the fishing vessel master. When catches are landed from a vessel that has received a transshipment of toothfish the quantity of the toothfish to be landed must be confirmed by the countersignature of a Port State official on each Catch Document that was received from fishing vessels by the master of the receiving vessel. In all other respects the landing is treated similarly to a landing direct to port.

Originals of all copies of the document must then be returned to the Flag State of the fishing vessel that caught the fish, which will forward a copy to the CCAMLR Secretariat. The copies of the document that were provided to each receiver must remain with the catch throughout all subsequent transactions, including export and import.

Please note that for catches taken in CCAMLR waters, the Commission is seeking to determine whether catches have been taken in a manner consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures including those in Attachment A. Full details of the CCAMLR conservation measures currently

in force can be obtained from the CCAMLR Secretariat.

4. EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES

In the event that a part of the catch is exported from the country of landing, the exporter must complete the export and intended import details on the *Dissostichus* Catch Documents that account for all toothfish contained in the shipment. The exporter must also obtain validation of the Catch Documents by the relevant official of the exporting state. If a shipment is re-exported, similar validation must be obtained from a relevant official of the exporting states and copies of the original Catch Documents attached.

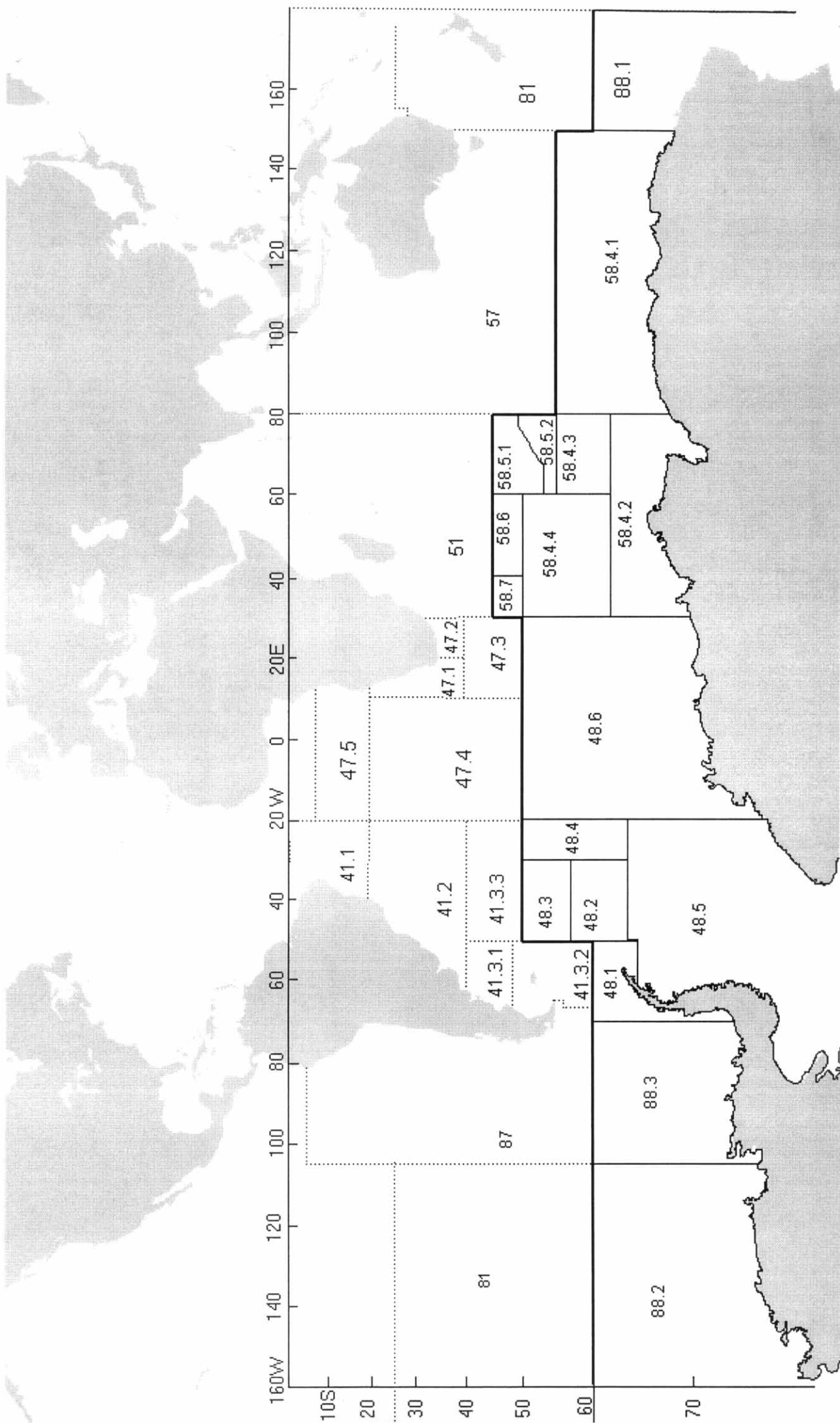
On importation, the relevant authorities may, if appropriate, contact the Flag State of the vessel to verify the authenticity of the content of the Catch Document. In the event that Contracting Parties importation authorities receive a shipment of toothfish that is NOT accompanied by a valid Catch Document, the shipment will be detained. In the event that checks carried out by the importation authorities with the Flag State fail to verify the legitimacy of a Catch Document, importation of the shipment will not be authorised.

5. INFORMATION

Should Flag States or fishing companies require further information or clarification on the operation of the Catch Documentation Scheme, they may contact the CCAMLR Secretariat at:

CCAMLR
PO Box 213
North Hobart 7002
Tasmania Australia

Telephone: 61 3 6231 0366
Facsimile: 61 3 6234 9965
Email: ccamlr@ccamlr.org



**CONSERVATION MEASURES AND OTHER REGULATIONS,
RELEVANT TO TOOTHFISH FISHERIES IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

Licensing

The specific provisions of Conservation Measure 119/XVII and Article IV(c) of the System of Inspection must be complied with. Vessels must be licensed by their Flag States to fish in CCAMLR waters, and details of the licence (name of vessel, time period(s) of fishing, area(s) of fishing, species targeted and gear used) must be sent to the CCAMLR Secretariat within seven (7) days of the issue of the licence.

Compliance with conservation measures

The provisions of all relevant conservation measures in relation to catch limits, fishing seasons, areas, and restriction of effort to named Parties must be complied with.

Data reporting

All toothfish fisheries require in-season catch reporting for the purposes of monitoring catch, as well as reporting of all catch, effort and biological data to CCAMLR (Conservation Measures 51/XII, 121/XVI and 122/XVI), which must be complied with.

Scientific observation and inspection procedures

The relevant provisions of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and the System of Inspection must be adhered to. In particular all vessels engaged in toothfish fisheries must carry an international scientific observer designated in accordance with the Scheme of Observation. Vessels fishing in the Convention's waters will be subject to inspection by inspectors designated under the System of Inspection.

Vessel monitoring and marking (Conservation Measures 148/XVII and 146/XVII)

All vessels and fishing gear must be marked according to internationally accepted standards and vessels should have on board an operational VMS reporting to the Flag State.

Mitigating measures

Measures for the mitigation of incidental mortality of birds in longline fisheries must be complied with (Conservation Measures 29/XVI). These include the deployment of bird-scaring devices, appropriate line-weighting regimes, prohibition on the use of plastic packaging bands on board vessels and the use of frozen bait, the requirement for night-time setting of lines, and the prohibition on the discharge of offal during hauling. General by-catch provisions associated with toothfish fisheries must be complied with.

Other measures

Any proposed development of new fishing areas must conform to the conservation measures dealing with new and exploratory fisheries. These include the requirement for research and data collection during the exploratory phase of a fishery (Conservation Measures 31/X and 65/XII). Vessels will be subject to inspection by Port States on landing or transshipping catches (Conservation Measures 118/XVII and 147/XVII).

The above is only a synopsis of the relevant measures. Those intending to be engaged in the Catch Documentation Scheme are advised to consult the actual texts of the measures to ensure compliance with their provisions.

* A formal notification to Members of conservation measures adopted at CCAMLR-XVIII was issued on 9 November 1999 (COMM CIRC 99/107). Therefore, subject to provisions of Article IX.6(b) of the Convention, the conservation measures will become binding on all Members on 7 May 2000.