

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTIONS

8.1 The Scientific Committee noted the following scientific research surveys planned for the 2000/01 intersessional period and notified under Conservation Measure 64/XII (CCAMLR-XIX/BG/5 Rev. 1):

- (i) Australia (*Aurora Australis*) in Division 58.4.2 (krill);
- (ii) Germany (*Polarstern*) in Subarea 48.1 (krill);
- (iii) UK (*Argos Georgia*) in Subarea 48.3 (experimental pot fishery for *D. eleginoides*);
- (iv) UK (*James Clark Ross*) in Subarea 48.3 (krill);
- (v) Ukraine (*RK-1*) in Division 58.4.4 (*D. eleginoides*); and
- (vi) USA–Germany (*Yuzhmorgeologiya*) in Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 (finfish).

8.2 With the exception of the experimental pot fishing for *D. eleginoides* planned by the UK in Subarea 48.3, the total catch of finfish and krill in each survey notified for 2000/01 was expected to be less than 50 tonnes.

8.3 The Scientific Committee noted that the UK expected to catch up to 150 tonnes of *D. eleginoides* during the planned experimental pot fishing. Details of the experimental design were submitted in CCAMLR-XIX/9 and had been considered by WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraph 4.70). It was also noted that the experimental pot fishing conducted in 2000 had produced encouraging results; no seabird by-catch had been reported in association with the use of pots in Subarea 48.3 (Annex 5, paragraph 7.129). Further work was required to reduce the by-catch of juvenile crabs (*Paralomis* spp.) and demonstrate commercial viability of the method.

8.4 The Scientific Committee discussed the justification of conducting further experimental potting for *D. eleginoides* under Conservation Measure 64/XII. It was agreed that the development of mitigating measures for crabs and other by-catch was a suitable research activity under this conservation measure. However, the Scientific Committee agreed that the demonstration of commercial viability was not a research activity within the remit of the Scientific Committee.

8.5 The Scientific Committee noted that the fishing selectivity of pots used in the experimental trials was comparable to that of longlines in the commercial fishery (Annex 5, paragraph 4.71). Consequently, the Scientific Committee recommended that the conservation measure regulating the longline fishery for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 should be broadened to include year-round commercial fishing for that species using pots. This would allow further evaluation of the commercial viability of pots.

8.6 The Scientific Committee agreed that the catch of *D. eleginoides* taken in pots should be deducted from the catch limit for that species in Subarea 48.3 in the 2000/01 season (Annex 5, paragraph 4.70). It was also recalled that experimental pot fishing for *D. eleginoides* may result in significant levels of by-catch, particularly crabs, and that this should also be taken into consideration when monitoring the catch limits for other fisheries (including crabs) in Subarea 48.3.

8.7 The Scientific Committee reviewed the 50 tonne catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. for scientific research activities defined in Conservation Measure 64/XII, and the 10 tonne catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. in exploratory fisheries under Conservation Measure 182/XVIII. The Scientific Committee noted that these two conservation measures were inconsistent in their application to *Dissostichus* spp. (Annex 5, paragraphs 4.101 and 4.102).

8.8 The Scientific Committee recommended that Conservation Measure 64/XII should be amended so that a 10 tonne catch limit applies to the taking of *Dissostichus* spp. by longline, trawl and any other type of gear, including pots. The total aggregate catch limit for finfish should remain at 50 tonnes. The Scientific Committee agreed that research plans for research vessel activity involving catches of *Dissostichus* spp. exceeding 10 tonnes should be subject to a full review by WG-FSA and the Scientific Committee.