

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION

8.1 Conservation Measure 24-01 requires the Commission to be notified of any proposed research surveys that expect to take the taxa and catch limits outlined in Annex 24-01/B.

8.2 The intention of the measure is to:

- allow catches for scientific purposes to be considered as part of any catch limits in force for each species taken;
- provide the opportunity for other Members to review and comment on research plans.

8.3 Scientific research surveys notified to the Secretariat under Conservation Measure 24-01 are placed on the CCAMLR website, which is regularly updated. A table of notification of scientific research surveys in 2003/04 received by the Secretariat by 24 October 2003 is provided in Table 6 of CCAMLR-XXII/BG/8 Rev. 1.

8.4 Last year, the Commission requested the Scientific Committee to review the list of taxa and their expected levels of catch in Annex 24-01/B, taking into account the expected levels below which notification would not be required (CCAMLR-XXI, paragraph 11.26).

8.5 In reviewing Table 6 of CCAMLR-XXII/BG/8 Rev. 1, the Scientific Committee noted that two of the four surveys notified by Australia include a catch of *C. gunnari*, which is not included in Annex 24-01/B, and that in reviewing the list of taxa in Annex 24-01 in the future, consideration of *C. gunnari* might be needed.

8.6 With regard to the catch limit required for notification, the Scientific Committee agreed that a catch limit of 10 tonnes was appropriate for *Dissostichus* spp., but felt that a limit of 50 tonnes was appropriate for *C. gunnari*. In recommending the catch limit for *C. gunnari*, the Scientific Committee noted that catches of >10 tonnes per half-hour tow have occurred occasionally during scientific trawl surveys by the UK and Russia, and that pelagic trawl equipment used by Russia in conjunction with acoustic surveys similarly may result in catches >10 tonnes, and hence that a total catch limit of 10 tonnes could compromise the results of research surveys. The Scientific Committee felt that a 50 tonne limit for *C. gunnari* was both within the spirit of Conservation Measure 24-01 and acceptable for scientific research.

8.7 The Scientific Committee advised the Commission that it would keep Annex 24-01/B under review and provide advice as appropriate.