

Assessment and management advice for other areas and species in the Atlantic Ocean

Antarctic Peninsula (Subarea 48.1) and South Orkney Islands (Subarea 48.2)

5.302 CCAMLR closed commercial finfishing in the Antarctic Peninsula (Subarea 48.1) and the South Orkney Islands (Subarea 48.2) after the 1989/90 season. Both subareas should only be reopened to commercial fishing if scientific surveys had demonstrated that the condition of fish stocks had improved to the extent which would allow commercial harvesting.

5.303 The last surveys of the two areas occurred in 2003 (Subarea 48.1) and 1999 (Subarea 48.2). They showed no improvement in the condition of stocks which would give rise to considerations of reopening the two areas for commercial finfishing. No new information has become available since then as no surveys were conducted in the 2003/04 season.

Management advice

5.304 The Working Group recommended that the existing Conservation Measures 32-02 and 32-04 on the prohibition of finfishing in Subareas 48.1 and 48.2 remain in force.

South Sandwich Islands (Subarea 48.4) and Bouvet Island (Subarea 48.6)

5.305 Both subareas exhibit rather limited shelf areas surrounding the islands. They have not been subject to commercial fishing activities with the exception of one exploratory longline cruise around the South Sandwich Islands in 1993 (Ashford et al., 1994). Following results from this cruise, CCAMLR has set a catch limit of 28 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. for this subarea (Conservation Measure 41-03).

5.306 New information has been provided on fish stocks in both subareas from the US ICEFISH cruise in June–July 2004 (WG-FSA-04/61). A total of 18 stations with 36 gear deployments were conducted in the South Sandwich Islands, while 14 stations including 47 gear deployments were performed around Bouvet Island. The mouth opening of the various trawls used, however, was too small to provide quantitative estimates for larger fish species caught, such as many nototheniids and channichthyids. Fourteen and 11 species of finfish were caught in the South Sandwich Islands and around Bouvet Island respectively. The two most abundant species in the catches were the small-sized *L. larseni* and *L. nudifrons* in the South Sandwich Islands and *L. larseni* and *L. squamifrons* around Bouvet Island.

Management advice

5.307 No commercial fishing has ever occurred in the two subareas except longlining for *D. eleginoides* in 1994 which led to a catch limit of 28 tonnes. The Working Group recommended that the existing Conservation Measure 41-03 for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.4 remains in force. Trawling, except for scientific purposes, should be prohibited in both subareas.

***Electrona carlsbergi* (Subarea 48.3)**

5.308 The state of the stock was last assessed in 1994. A precautionary catch limit has initially been set at 109 000 tonnes by CCAMLR, since then including provisions for the catch of this species at Shag Rocks, the by-catch of notothenioids in this fishery, data reporting and research (Conservation Measure 43-01). Since the average life span of this species is about five years, the 1994 assessment is no longer applicable. CCAMLR decided to close the fishery on this species in 2003.

Management advice

5.309 Due to the lack of new information on the current status of the stock, the Working Group recommended that the fishery remain closed. It should only be reopened after a new survey on this species is conducted and results have been evaluated by CCAMLR.

Stone crabs (*Paralomis* spp.) (Subarea 48.3)

5.310 Stone crabs were not exploited in the 2002/03 and 2003/04 seasons. No proposal for the harvest of crabs has been received by CCAMLR for the 2004/05 season.

Management advice

5.311 Stone crabs are subject to Conservation Measures 52-01 and 52-02 regulating the fishery and experimental harvest of crabs. The Working Group recommended that these conservation measures should remain in force.

***Martialia hyadesi* (Subarea 48.3)**

5.312 The exploratory fishery on *M. hyadesi* was subject to Conservation Measure 61-01. No new information on the species became available. No new request has been submitted to CCAMLR to continue exploratory fishing on this species in 2004/05.

Management advice

5.313 The Working Group recommended that the existing Conservation Measure 61-01 should remain in force.