

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH EXEMPTION

### Notifications to conduct research surveys using commercial vessels

8.1 The Scientific Committee discussed two notifications of intent to conduct toothfish longline research in 2009 using commercial vessels under the provisions of Conservation Measure 24-01.

8.2 New Zealand proposed to conduct winter research in Subarea 88.1 to investigate the early life history and reproduction of *D. mawsoni* in the Ross Sea (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.108 to 5.110; see also CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/15).

8.3 The Scientific Committee noted that although most members of WG-FSA agreed that this survey would provide important information on the reproductive biology and early life history of *D. mawsoni* (Annex 5, paragraph 5.111), concern was expressed over the size of the proposed catch and with other elements of the proposal (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.111 to 5.115).

8.4 Japan proposed to continue research on the distribution and population structure of toothfish in Divisions 58.4.4a and 58.4.4b started in 2007/08 (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.116 and 5.117; see also CCAMLR-XXVII/BG/15).

8.5 The Scientific Committee noted the concern expressed by WG-FSA whether the research is going to impede the recovery of this stock. The catch limit for this area when the fishery was closed was only 103 tonnes and therefore the proposed catch of 120 tonnes seemed excessive.

8.6 The Scientific Committee noted that the conservation measure states that the area should remain closed until a survey has been carried out and the results considered by the Commission. It further noted that although the survey had been carried out, a detailed report of the survey had not yet been submitted and reviewed by the relevant working groups and by the Scientific Committee. It was also noted that the random longline survey design being proposed at the Scientific Committee meeting by Japan could best be reviewed by WG-SAM.

8.7 In response to the discussion at WG-FSA (Annex 5, paragraphs 5.118 to 5.121) Japan proposed to include additional elements in the survey:

- (i) longline sets would be random in phase 1 of the survey;
- (ii) comparative fishing in phase 1 of the survey between trotlines and the Spanish longline system;
- (iii) increase in the tagging rate to five fish per tonne.

8.8 The Scientific Committee considered these additional elements and after much discussion recommended that before conducting additional research in this area, the following actions should be taken:

- (i) the results of the recent longline survey be reported to WG-FSA at its next meeting;
- (ii) the design of a future survey be discussed and agreed at WG-SAM;

- (iii) in the next year, that comparable fishing trials be carried out in areas other than Division 58.4.4, to attempt the calibration of the trotline gear with the other longline gear.

#### CCAMLR-sponsored research

8.9 The Scientific Committee considered the general principles and requirements to be met for CCAMLR-sponsored research. It noted that such research:

- (i) would be designed to support the Commission in its work to achieve the objectives in Article II;
- (ii) needs to be consistent with the precautionary approach of CCAMLR;
- (iii) should not undermine initiatives taken in other parts of CCAMLR or in other parts of the Antarctic Treaty System, such as species protection, closed areas and/or ASPAs and ASMAs;
- (iv) under such direct sponsorship, could involve, *inter alia*,
  - (a) special catch allocations from a catch limit to undertake research;
  - (b) research exemptions to existing conservation measures provided for in Conservation Measure 24-01;
  - (c) coordination of data acquisition and field programs through the CCAMLR Secretariat;
  - (d) special requirements to be undertaken by all Members during fishing operations.

8.10 The Scientific Committee noted the previous experience for designing the CCAMLR-2000 Survey and other work done under the auspices of CCAMLR that the following steps would be involved in developing and utilising CCAMLR-sponsored research:

- (i) Preparation:
  - (a) Demonstrate need of the research –

It was noted that ‘need’ can be determined from the consequences that the research will have for the Commission in achieving the objectives in Article II, e.g. is a catch limit too high (conservation objectives may not be met) or too low (conservation may not be an issue and more catch is possible) and not likely to be corrected using the existing process, and would the advice to the Commission be improved by the research? Analyses could be used to help demonstrate need, including management strategy evaluation, power analyses, and/or draft assessments using plausible datasets that may be obtained from research.

- (b) Develop a research design to address the need –

It will be important to identify the data needed to be collected to resolve the issue, including the spatial and temporal sampling required to resolve the issue and the number of samples needed to achieve the accuracy and precision of the estimate required.

- (c) Evaluate whether there may be short- or long-term effects of the research plan on current advice to the Commission –

It was noted that while the research is being undertaken, the quality of the current advice may be altered. The degree to which that would impact on the Commission achieving its objectives will need to be considered.

- (d) Identify the necessary standards to be met during data collection –

Such standards will need to include specifying the data quality requirements (e.g. tagging), vessel and observer capability and standards, survey design and implementation.

- (e) Determine any specific requirements to be met for implementing the research program –

Such requirements will include consideration of prospective participants (Members, fishing vessels, research vessels), how the participation will be managed, establishing a capability to meet standards, determining the contribution required from CCAMLR (catch allocation, requirements in conservation measures, research exemptions, Member contributions) and requirements of observers and vessels.

- (ii) Implementation
- (iii) Analysis of results
- (iv) Provision of advice to the Commission.

8.11 The Scientific Committee agreed that these guidelines were very useful and recommended they be followed when establishing CCAMLR-sponsored research programs.

#### Notifications to conduct scientific surveys using research vessels

8.12 The Scientific Committee noted that the following Members would be conducting scientific research surveys in 2009 also in accordance with Conservation Measure 24-01:

- Australia: demersal fish survey in Division 58.5.2 in May–June 2009
- UK: demersal fish survey in Subarea 48.3 in January–February 2009
- USA: demersal fish survey in Subarea 48.2.