

**CONSERVATION MEASURE 65/XII<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**Exploratory Fisheries**

The Commission,

Recognising that in the past, some Antarctic fisheries had been initiated and subsequently expanded in the Convention Area before sufficient information was available upon which to base management advice, and

Agreeing that exploratory fishing should not be allowed to expand faster than the acquisition of information necessary to ensure that the fishery can and will be conducted in accordance with the principles set forth in Article II,

hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Article IX of the Convention:

1. For the purposes of this conservation measure, exploratory fisheries are defined as follows:
  - (i) an exploratory fishery shall be defined as a fishery that was previously classified as a 'new fishery', as defined by Conservation Measure 31/X;
  - (ii) an exploratory fishery shall continue to be classified as such until sufficient information is available:
    - (a) to evaluate the distribution, abundance, and demography of the target species, leading to an estimate of the fishery's potential yield,
    - (b) to review the fishery's potential impacts on dependent and related species, and
    - (c) to allow the Scientific Committee to formulate and provide advice to the Commission on appropriate harvest catch levels, as well as effort levels and fishing gear, where appropriate.
2. To ensure that adequate information is made available to the Scientific Committee for evaluation, during the period when a fishery is classified as exploratory:
  - (i) the Scientific Committee shall develop (and update annually as appropriate) a Data Collection Plan, which will identify the data needed and describe the actions necessary to obtain the relevant data from the exploratory fishery;
  - (ii) each Member active in the fishery shall annually (by the specified date) submit to CCAMLR the data specified by the Data Collection Plan developed by the Scientific Committee;
  - (iii) each Member active in the fishery or intending to authorise a vessel to enter the fishery shall annually prepare and submit to CCAMLR by a specified date a Research and Fishery Operations Plan for review by the Scientific Committee and the Commission;

- (iv) prior to any Member authorising its vessels to enter an exploratory fishery that is already in progress, that Member shall notify the Commission not less than three months in advance of the next regular meeting of the Commission, and the Member shall not enter the exploratory fishery until the conclusion of that meeting;
  - (v) if the data specified in the Data Collection Plan have not been submitted to CCAMLR for the most recent season in which fishing occurred, continued exploratory fishing by the Member which failed to report its data shall be prohibited until the relevant data have been submitted to CCAMLR and the Scientific Committee has been allowed an opportunity to review the data;
  - (vi) fishing capacity and effort shall be limited by a precautionary catch limit at a level not substantially above that necessary to obtain the information specified in the Data Collection Plan and required to make the evaluations outlined in paragraph 1(ii);
  - (vii) the name, type, size, registration number, and radio call sign of each vessel participating in the exploratory fishery shall be registered with the CCAMLR Secretariat at least three months in advance of starting fishing each season; and
  - (viii) each vessel participating in the exploratory fishery shall carry a scientific observer to ensure that data are collected in accordance with the agreed Data Collection Plan, and to assist in collecting biological and other relevant data.
3. The Data Collection Plan to be formulated and updated by the Scientific Committee shall include, where appropriate:
- (i) a description of the catch, effort, and related biological, ecological, and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 1(ii), and the date by which such data are to be reported annually to CCAMLR;
  - (ii) a plan for directing fishing effort during the exploratory phase to permit the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, dependent, and related populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and
  - (iii) an evaluation of the time-scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities.
4. Research and Fisheries Operations Plans to be prepared by Members participating or intending to participate in the exploratory fishery shall include as much of the following information as the Member is able to provide:
- (i) a description of how the Member's activities will comply with the Data Collection Plan developed by the Scientific Committee;
  - (ii) the nature of the exploratory fishery, including target species, methods of fishing, proposed region and maximum catch levels proposed for the forthcoming season;

- (iii) biological information from comprehensive research/survey cruises, such as distribution, abundance, demographic data, and information on stock identity;
- (iv) details of dependent and related species and the likelihood of them being affected by the proposed fishery; and
- (v) information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere that may assist in the evaluation of potential yield.

<sup>1</sup> Except for waters adjacent to the Kerguelen and Crozet Islands

<sup>2</sup> Except for waters adjacent to the Prince Edward Islands