

CONSERVATION MEASURE 52-03 (2008)
Limits on the exploratory fishery for crab in
Statistical Subarea 48.4 in the 2008/09 season

Species	crab
Area	48.4
Season	2008/09
Gear	pot

The Commission hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 21-01, and notes that this measure would be for one year and that data arising from these activities would be reviewed by the Scientific Committee:

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| Access | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fishery for crab in Statistical Subarea 48.4 shall be conducted by vessels using pots only. The crab fishery is defined as any harvest activity in which the target species is any member of the crab group (Order Decapoda, Suborder Reptantia). The fishery in the 2008/09 season shall be conducted by one (1) Russian flagged vessels using pots only. 2. The crab fishery shall be limited to one vessel per Member. |
| Catch limit | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The total catch of crab in Statistical Subarea 48.4 in the 2008/09 season shall not exceed a precautionary catch limit of 10 tonnes. 4. The crab fishery shall be limited to sexually mature male crabs – all female and undersized male crabs caught shall be released unharmed. In the case of <i>Paralomis spinosissima</i> and <i>Paralomis formosa</i>, males with a minimum carapace width of 94 and 90 mm respectively, may be retained in the catch. |
| Season | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. For the purpose of the pot fishery for crab in Statistical Subarea 48.4, the 2008/09 season is defined as the period from 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009, or until the catch limit is reached, whichever is sooner. |
| By-catch | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. All by-catch of finfish shall be recorded for length, identified to species and then released to the sea with the least possible handling. Before release, all live specimens of <i>Dissostichus</i> spp. shall be measured and tagged. Full biological data shall be taken from all dead finfish by-catch. A total by-catch limit of 0.5 tonnes shall apply for all dead finfish. |
| Observers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Each vessel participating in this fishery shall have at least one scientific observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, and where possible one additional scientific observer, on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. Scientific observers shall be afforded unrestricted access to the catch for statistical random sampling prior to, as well as after, sorting by the crew. |
| Data:
catch/effort | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. For the purpose of implementing this conservation measure in the 2008/09 season, the following shall apply: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Five-day Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 23-01; |

- (ii) the Monthly Fine-scale Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 23-04. Fine-scale data shall be submitted on a haul-by-haul basis.
- 9. For the purpose of Conservation Measures 23-02 and 23-04 the target species is crab and by-catch species are defined as any species other than crab.
- Data: biological 10. Fine-scale biological data, as required under Conservation Measure 23-05, shall be collected and recorded. Such data shall be reported in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.
- Research 11. Each vessel participating in this exploratory fishery shall conduct fishery-based research in accordance with the data requirements described in Annex 52-03/A and the experimental harvest regime described in Annex 52-03/B. Data collected for the period up to 31 August 2009 shall be reported to CCAMLR by 30 September 2009 so that the data will be available to the meeting of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) in 2009. Such data collected after 31 August 2009 shall be reported to CCAMLR not later than three months after the closure of the fishery.
- Environmental protection 12. Conservation Measure 26-01 applies.

ANNEX 52-03/A

DATA REQUIREMENTS

Catch and Effort Data:

Cruise Descriptions

cruise code, vessel code, permit number, year.

Pot Descriptions

diagrams and other information, including pot shape, dimensions, mesh size, funnel position, aperture and orientation, number of chambers, presence of an escape port.

Effort Descriptions

date, time, latitude and longitude of the start of the set, compass bearing of the set, total number of pots set, spacing of pots on the line, number of pots lost, depth, soak time, bait type.

Catch Descriptions

retained catch in numbers and weight, by-catch of all species (see Table 1), incremental record number for linking with sample information.

Table 1: Data requirements for by-catch species in the crab fishery in Statistical Subarea 48.3.

Species	Data requirements
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Numbers and estimated total weight
<i>Notothenia rossii</i>	Numbers and estimated total weight
Other species	Estimated total weight

Biological Data:

For these data, crabs are to be sampled from the line hauled just prior to noon, by collecting the entire contents of a number of pots spaced at intervals along the line so that between 35 and 50 specimens are represented in the subsample.

Cruise Descriptions

cruise code, vessel code, permit number.

Sample Descriptions

date, position at start of the set, compass bearing of the set, line number.

Data

species, sex, length of at least 35 individuals, presence/absence of rhizocephalan parasites, record of the destination of the crab (kept, discarded, destroyed), record of the pot number from which the crab comes.

ANNEX 52-03/B

EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST REGIME

The following annex applies to all crab fishing within Statistical Subarea 48.4. Every vessel participating in the crab fishery in Statistical Subarea 48.4 shall conduct fishing operations in accordance with an experimental harvest regime as outlined below:

1. Vessels shall conduct the experimental harvest regime at the start of their first season of participation in the crab fishery and the following conditions shall apply:
 - (i) every vessel when undertaking an experimental harvesting regime shall expend its first 30 000 pot hours of effort within a total area delineated by seven blocks distributed amongst seven island groups. For the purposes of this conservation measure, these blocks shall be numbered A to G. In Annex 52-03/C, the blocks are illustrated (Figure 1). For each string, pot hours shall be calculated by taking the total number of pots on the string and multiplying that number by the soak time (in hours) for that string. Soak time shall be defined for each string as the time between start of setting and start of hauling;
 - (ii) vessels shall not fish outside the area delineated by the seven blocks prior to completing the experimental harvesting regime;
 - (iii) vessels shall not expend more than 4 500 pot hours in any single island group;

- (iv) if a vessel returns to port before it has expended 30 000 pot hours in the experimental harvesting regime, the remaining pot hours shall be expended before it can be considered that the vessel has completed the experimental harvesting regime;
 - (v) after completing 30 000 pot hours of experimental fishing, it shall be considered that vessels have completed the experimental harvesting regime and they shall be permitted to commence fishing in a normal fashion.
2. Data collected during the experimental harvest regime up to 30 June 2009 shall be submitted to CCAMLR by 31 August 2009.
 3. Vessels that complete the experimental harvest regime shall not be required to conduct experimental fishing in future seasons.
 4. Fishing vessels shall participate in the experimental harvest regime independently (i.e. vessels may not cooperate to complete phases of the experiment).
 5. Crabs taken by any vessel for research purposes will be considered as part of any catch limits in force for each species taken, and shall be reported to CCAMLR as part of the annual STATLANT returns.
 6. All vessels participating in the experimental harvest regime shall carry at least one scientific observer, appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, on board during all fishing activities.

**LOCATIONS OF FISHING AREAS FOR THE
EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST REGIME**

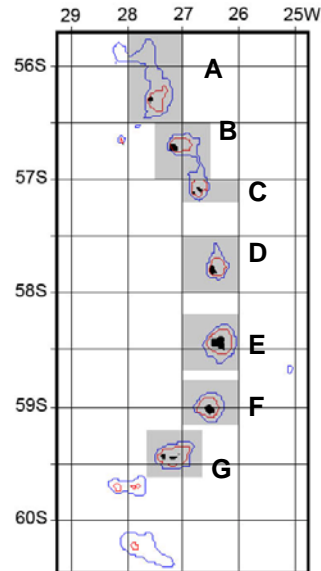


Figure 1: Operational area for Phase 1 of experimental harvest regime for the exploratory fishery for crab in Subarea 48.4.