

**CONSERVATION MEASURE 31-02 (2007)<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**General measure for the closure of all fisheries**

Species	all
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	all

This conservation measure governs the closure of all fisheries and is adopted in accordance with Article IX of the Convention.

- General application
1. Following notification by the Secretariat of the closure of a fishery (Conservation Measures 23-01, 23-02, 23-03 and 41-01 refer), all vessels in the area, management area, subarea, division, small-scale research unit or other management unit subject to the closure notice, shall remove all their fishing gear from the water by the notified closure date and time.
  2. On receipt of such notification by the vessel, no further longlines may be set within 24 hours of the notified closure date and time. If such notification is received less than 24 hours before the closure date and time, no further longlines may be set following receipt of that notification.
  3. All vessels should depart the closed fishery as soon as all fishing gear has been removed from the water.
  4. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, should it appear likely that a vessel will be unable to remove all its fishing gear from the water by the notified closure date and time because of:
    - (i) consideration of the safety of the vessel and crew;
    - (ii) the limitations which may arise from adverse weather conditions;
    - (iii) sea-ice cover; or
    - (iv) the need to protect the Antarctic marine environment,the vessel shall notify the Flag State concerned of the situation. The Flag State or vessel shall also notify the Secretariat. The vessel shall nonetheless make all reasonable efforts to remove all its fishing gear from the water as soon as possible.
- Other relevant considerations
5. In the event the vessel is unable to remove all of its fishing gear from the water by the notified closure date and time, the Flag State shall promptly inform the Secretariat. On receipt of such information the Secretariat shall promptly inform Members.
  6. If paragraph 5 applies, the Flag State shall carry out an investigation of the vessel's actions and, according to its domestic procedures, report on its findings, including all relevant matters, to the Commission no later than the next meeting of the Commission. The final report should assess whether the vessel made all reasonable efforts to remove all its fishing gear from the water:
    - (i) by the notified closure date and time; and
    - (ii) as soon as possible after the notification referred to in paragraph 4.

7. In the event that a vessel does not depart the closed fishery as soon as all fishing gear has been removed from the water, the Flag State or vessel should inform the Secretariat. On receipt of such information the Secretariat shall promptly inform Members.

<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