

CONSERVATION MEASURE 31/X
Notification that Members are Considering
Initiating a New Fishery

The Commission,

Recognising that in the past, Antarctic fisheries have been initiated in the Convention Area before sufficient information was available upon which to base management advice,

Noting that in recent years new fisheries have started without adequate information being available to evaluate either the fishery potential or the possible impacts on the target stocks or species dependent on them,

Believing that without prior notification of a new fishery, the Commission is unable to fulfil its function under Article IX,

hereby adopts the following Conservation Measure in accordance with Article IX of the Convention:

1. A new fishery, for the purposes of this Conservation Measure, is a fishery on a species using a particular fishing method in a statistical subarea for which:
 - (i) information on distribution, abundance, demography, potential yield and stock identity from comprehensive research/surveys or exploratory fishing have not been submitted to CCAMLR;
or
 - (ii) catch and effort data have never been submitted to CCAMLR;
or
 - (iii) catch and effort data from the two most recent seasons in which fishing occurred have not been submitted to CCAMLR.

2. A Member intending to develop a new fishery shall notify the Commission not less than three months in advance of the next regular meeting of the Commission, where the matter shall be considered. The Member shall not initiate a new fishery pending the process specified in paragraphs 4 and 5 below;

3. The notification shall be accompanied by as much of the following information as the Member is able to provide:
 - (i) the nature of the proposed fishery including target species, methods of fishing, proposed region and any minimum level of catches that would be required to develop a viable fishery;
 - (ii) biological information from comprehensive research/survey cruises, such as distribution, abundance, demographic data and information on stock identity;
 - (iii) details of dependent and associated species and the likelihood of them being affected by the proposed fishery; and

(iv) information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere that may assist in the valuation of potential yield;

4. The information provided in accordance with paragraph 3, together with any other relevant information, shall be considered by the Scientific Committee, which shall then advise the Commission;

5. After its review of the information on the proposed new fishery, taking full account of the recommendations and the advice of the Scientific Committee, the Commission may then take such action as it deems necessary.