

CONSERVATION MEASURE 90/XV
Experimental Harvest Regime for the Crab Fishery
in Statistical Subarea 48.3 for the
Seasons 1996/97 and 1997/98

The following measures apply to all crab fishing within Statistical Subarea 48.3 for the 1996/97 and 1997/98 fishing seasons. Every vessel participating in the crab fishery in Subarea 48.3 shall conduct fishing operations in accordance with an experimental harvest regime as outlined below:

1. The experimental harvest regime shall consist of at least two phases. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall complete all of the phases. Phase 1 shall be conducted during the first season that a vessel participates in the experimental harvest regime. Phase 2, and any additional phases, shall be completed in the next season of fishing.
2. Vessels shall conduct Phase 1 of the experimental harvest regime at the start of their first season of participation in the crab fishery. For the purposes of Phase 1, the following conditions shall apply:
 - (i) Phase 1 shall be defined as a vessel's first 200 000 pot hours of effort at the start of its first fishing season;
 - (ii) every vessel conducting Phase 1 shall expend its first 200 000 pot hours of effort within a total area delineated by twelve blocks of 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude. For the purposes of this Conservation Measure, these blocks shall be numbered A to L. In Annex 90/A, the blocks are illustrated (Figure 1), and the geographic position is denoted by the coordinates of the northeast corner of the block. 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;
 - (iii) vessels shall not fish outside the area delineated by the 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude blocks prior to completing Phase 1;
 - (iv) during Phase 1, vessels shall not expend more than 30 000 pot hours in any single block of 0.5° latitude by 1.0° longitude;
 - (v) if a vessel returns to port before it has expended 200 000 pot hours in Phase 1, the remaining pot hours shall be expended before it can be considered that the vessel has completed Phase 1; and
 - (vi) after completing 200 000 pot hours of experimental fishing, it shall be considered that vessels have completed Phase 1 and shall commence fishing in a normal fashion.
3. Normal fishing operations shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations set out in Conservation Measure 104/XV.
4. For the purposes of implementing normal fishing operations after Phase 1 of the experimental harvest regime, the Ten-day Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 61/XII shall apply.
5. Vessels shall conduct Phase 2, and any additional phases, of the experimental harvest regime during their second season of participation in the crab fishery. If any vessel initiates Phase 1 of the experimental harvest regime during the 1996/97 or 1997/98 fishing seasons, the Scientific Committee, and its Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment, shall advise the Commission on an appropriate experimental harvest strategy, Phase 2, for the following fishing season. This advice shall include provisions for:

- (i) requiring each vessel to expend approximately one month of experimental fishing effort during its second season of participation in the experimental harvest regime; and
 - (ii) a data collection and submission policy appropriate to the experimental fishing strategy that is being recommended.
6. Data collected during the experimental harvest regime in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 up to 30 June in any split-year shall be submitted to CCAMLR by 31 August of the following split-year.
 7. Vessels that complete all phases of the experimental harvest regime shall not be required to conduct experimental fishing in future seasons. However, these vessels shall abide by the guidelines set forth in Conservation Measure 104/XV.
 8. Fishing vessels shall participate in the experimental harvest regime independently (e.g. vessels may not cooperate to complete phases of the experiment).
 9. Crabs captured during the experimental harvest regime shall be considered part of the prevailing TAC for the current fishing season (e.g. for 1996/97, experimental catches shall be considered part of the 1 600-tonne TAC outlined in Conservation Measure 104/XV).
 10. All vessels participating in the experimental harvest regime shall carry at least one scientific observer onboard during all fishing activities.
 11. The experimental harvest regime shall be instituted for a period of two split-years (1996/97 and 1997/98), and the details of the regime may be revised by the Commission during this period of time. Fishing vessels that begin experimental fishing in the 1997/98 season must complete the regime during the 1998/99 season.

LOCATIONS OF FISHING AREAS FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL HARVEST REGIME OF THE EXPLORATORY CRAB FISHERY

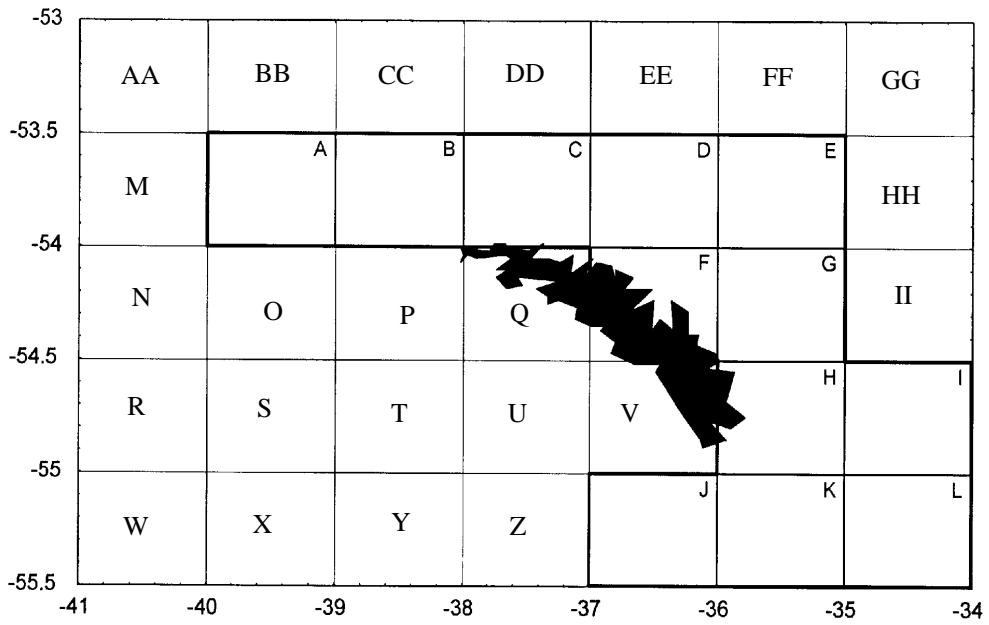


Figure 1: Operations area for Phase 1 of the experimental harvest regime for the crab fishery in Subarea 48.3.