

CONSERVATION MEASURE 63/XV
Regulation of the Use and Disposal of Plastic
Packaging Bands on Fishing Vessels

The Commission,

Recollecting that for many years it has received evidence from the Scientific Committee that substantial numbers of Antarctic fur seals have been entangled and killed in plastic packaging bands in the Convention Area.

Noting that, despite the recommendations of CCAMLR and the provisions of the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes which prohibit the jettisoning of all plastics at sea, substantial entanglement of fur seals is still continuing.

Recognising that the bait boxes used on fishing vessels in particular and other packages in general need not be secured by plastic packaging bands because suitable alternatives exist.

Agrees to adopt the following Conservation Measure, to reduce the incidental mortality of Antarctic fur seals due to entanglement, in accordance with Article IX of the Convention.

1. The use on fishing vessels of plastic packaging bands to secure bait boxes shall be prohibited.
2. The use of other plastic packaging bands for other purposes on fishing vessels which do not use on-board incinerators (closed systems) shall be prohibited.
3. Any packaging bands, once removed from packages, shall be cut, so that they do not form a continuous loop and at the earliest opportunity burned in the on-board incinerator.
4. Any plastic residue shall be stored on board the vessel until reaching port and in no case discarded at sea.