

**CONSERVATION MEASURE 207/XIX**  
**Exploratory Trawl Fishery for *Dissostichus* spp.**  
**in Statistical Division 58.4.2 in the 2000/01 Season**

The Commission hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 65/XII:

1. Fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. by trawl in Statistical Division 58.4.2 south of 64°S shall be limited to the exploratory fishery by Australian-flagged vessels.
2. The total catch of *Dissostichus* spp. taken by the trawl method shall not exceed 500 tonnes, of which no more than 150 tonnes shall be taken in any one of the zones bounded by the longitudes 30°E and 40°E, 40°E and 50°E, 50°E and 60°E, 60°E and 70°E, 70°E and 80°E respectively.
3. The by-catch in this exploratory fishery shall be regulated as set out in Conservation Measure 201/XIX.
4. If, in the course of a directed fishery, the by-catch in any one haul of any by-catch species for which by-catch limitations apply, as set out in paragraph 3 of this conservation measure, is equal to, or greater than 2 tonnes, then the fishing vessel shall not fish using that method of fishing at any point within 5 n miles<sup>1</sup> of the location where the by-catch exceeded 2 tonnes for a period of at least five days<sup>2</sup>. The location where the by-catch exceeded 2 tonnes is defined as the path followed by the fishing vessel from the point at which the fishing gear was first deployed from the fishing vessel to the point at which the fishing gear was retrieved by the fishing vessel.
5. For the purposes of this exploratory trawl fishery, the 2000/01 fishing season is defined as the period from 1 December 2000 to 30 November 2001 or until the catch limit is reached, whichever is the sooner.
6. Each vessel participating in this exploratory trawl fishery in Statistical Division 58.4.2 in the 2000/01 season shall have at least one scientific observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation on board throughout all fishing activities within this division.
7. Each vessel operating in this exploratory trawl fishery in Statistical Division 58.4.2 shall be required to operate a VMS at all times, in accordance with Conservation Measure 148/XVII.
8. For the purpose of implementing this conservation measure:
  - (i) the Five-day Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 51/XIX shall apply; and
  - (ii) the monthly fine-scale biological data, as required under Conservation Measure 121/XIX, shall be recorded and reported in accordance with the System of International Scientific Observation.
9. The total number and weight of *Dissostichus* spp. discarded, including those with the 'jellymeat' condition, shall be reported. These fish will count towards the total allowable catch.
10. The data collection and research plans in Annex 207/A shall be implemented and the results reported to CCAMLR not later than three months after the closure of the fishery.

<sup>1</sup> This provision is adopted pending the adoption of a more appropriate definition of a fishing location by the Commission.

<sup>2</sup> The specified period is adopted in accordance with the reporting period specified in Conservation Measure 51/XIX, pending the adoption of a more appropriate period by the Commission.

**DATA COLLECTION AND RESEARCH PLANS**

1. Demersal trawling for *Dissostichus* spp. in water shallower than 550 m shall be prohibited except for the research activities described below:
  - (i) demersal trawling shall be allowed only in designated 'open' areas on the upper and mid-slope in depths greater than 550 m;
  - (ii) the manner in which areas are designated 'open' and 'closed' for demersal trawling will be determined according to the following procedure:
    - (a) open and closed areas will consist of a series of north–south strips extending from the coast to beyond the foot of the continental slope. Each strip will be one degree of longitude wide;
    - (b) in the first instance, when the vessel has found an appropriate area for prospecting or fishing, it will designate the strip as open, with the area to be fished to be approximately centered in that strip;
    - (c) a single prospecting haul will be permitted in that strip before it is designated as open or closed, to establish if an aggregation of interest is present. There must be a minimum of 30 minutes of longitude between prospecting hauls where no strip is designated open;
    - (d) whenever a strip is designated open, at least one strip adjacent to that strip must be designated as closed. Any remnant strips less than one degree wide resulting from the previous selection of open and closed strips, will be designated as closed;
    - (e) once a strip is designated closed it cannot be subsequently fished in that season by any method that allows fishing gear to contact the bottom;
    - (f) prior to commercial fishing in an open strip, the vessel must undertake the survey trawls in the open strip as described below. The survey trawls in the adjacent closed strip must be undertaken prior to the vessel fishing a new strip. If the adjacent closed strip has already been surveyed, a new survey is not necessary; and
    - (g) when the vessel wishes to fish in a new strip, it must not choose a strip already closed. Once a new strip is designated, conditions as described in paragraphs (b) to (f) will apply to that strip.
2. Survey trawls in each open strip and its adjacent closed strip will be conducted according to the following scheme:
  - (i) each pair of strips will be divided between the shelf area above 550 m and the slope area below 550 m. In each open and closed strip the following research shall be undertaken:
    - (a) in the section deeper than 550 m, two stations (whose locations have been randomly pre-selected according to depth and longitude) shall be sampled. At each of these stations a beam trawl sample of benthos and a bottom-trawl sample of finfish using a commercial trawl with a small mesh liner shall be taken;

- (b) in the section shallower than 550 m, two stations shall be sampled at randomly pre-selected sites according to depth and longitude for benthos using a beam trawl once at each station only; and
  - (c) this will be undertaken in each pair of the open and closed strips using the process described above.
- 3. The following data and material will be collected from research and commercial hauls, as required by the CCAMLR *Scientific Observers Manual*:
  - (i) position, date and depth at the start and end of every haul;
  - (ii) haul-by haul catch and catch per effort by species;
  - (iii) haul-by haul length frequency of common species;
  - (iv) sex and gonad state of common species;
  - (v) diet and stomach fullness;
  - (vi) scales and/or otoliths for age determination;
  - (vii) by-catch of fish and other organisms; and
  - (viii) observations on the occurrence of seabirds and mammals in relation to fishing operations, and details of any incidental mortality of these animals.