

Conservation Measure 41-09 (2023)
Limits on the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus mawsoni*
in Statistical Subarea 88.1 in the 2023/24 season*

Species	toothfish
Area	88.1
Season	2023/24
Gear	longline

The Commission hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 21-02:

- Catch limit 2. Notwithstanding Conservation Measure 91-05, paragraph 28, the precautionary catch limits for Statistical Subarea 88.2 small-scale research units (SSRUs) A–B are included in the catch limits in this paragraph.

The total catch of *Dissostichus mawsoni* in the 2023/24 season shall not exceed a precautionary catch limit of 3 499 tonnes applied to the following areas:

- (i) ‘N70’: all areas outside the Ross Sea region marine protected area and north of 70°S, which in Statistical Subarea 88.1 include SSRU A and SSRUs B, C and G –

665 tonnes

- (ii) ‘S70’: all areas outside the Ross Sea region marine protected area and south of 70°S, which in Statistical Subarea 88.1 include SSRUs G, H, I, J and K –

2 309 tonnes

- (iii) ‘SRZ’: Special Research Zone of the Ross Sea region marine protected area –

456 tonnes.

3. A discrete research catch limit of 69 tonnes has been set aside in the 2023/24 season as follows:

- (i) for the Ross Sea shelf survey notified by New Zealand under Conservation Measure 24-01, to be undertaken by the vessel *San Aotea II* or if necessary an alternate vessel in accordance with the research plan – 69 tonnes

This research catch limit is fixed and shall not be modified by any overrun of the individual or combined SSRU catch limits for target or by-catch species in Statistical Subarea 88.1.

- Season 4. For the purpose of the exploratory longline fishery for *Dissostichus mawsoni* in Statistical Subarea 88.1, the 2023/24 season is defined as the period from 1 December 2023 to 31 August 2024.

* Paragraph 1 is intentionally left blank. Paragraph 2 is the first operative paragraph in this conservation measure.

- Fishing operations 5. The exploratory longline fishery for *Dissostichus mawsoni* in Statistical Subarea 88.1 shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Conservation Measure 41-01, except paragraph 6.
- By-catch 6. The by-catch limits for Statistical Subarea 88.2 SSRUs A–B are included in the by-catch limits in this paragraph. This paragraph also applies to Statistical Subarea 88.2 SSRUs A–B.

The total by-catch¹ in the 2023/24 season shall not exceed a precautionary catch limit of 170 tonnes of skates and rays, and 494 tonnes of *Macrourus* spp. Within these total by-catch limits, individual limits will apply as follows:

- (i) all areas outside the Ross Sea region marine protected area and north of 70°S, which in Statistical Subarea 88.1 include SSRU A and SSRUs B, C and G –

33 tonnes of skates and rays, 106 tonnes of *Macrourus* spp., 33 tonnes of other species

- (ii) all areas outside the Ross Sea region marine protected area and south of 70°S, which in Statistical Subarea 88.1 include SSRUs G, H, I, J and K –

115 tonnes of skates and rays, 316 tonnes of *Macrourus* spp., 115 tonnes of other species

- (iii) Special Research Zone of the Ross Sea region marine protected area –

22 tonnes of skates and rays, 72 tonnes of *Macrourus* spp., 22 tonnes of other species.

For the purposes of this paragraph ‘*Macrourus* spp.’ and ‘skates and rays’ should each be counted as a single species.

On all vessels, all skates and rays must be brought on board or alongside the vessel to be checked for tags and for their condition to be assessed. Recaptured tagged skates and rays, as per Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex 41-01/C, paragraphs 2(vii) and (ix), should not be re-released. Unless otherwise specified by scientific observers, all other skates and rays caught alive and with a high probability of survival should be released alive, by vessels, by cutting snoods, and when practical, removing the hooks, and the number should be recorded and reported to the Secretariat.

If the by-catch of any one species is equal to, or greater than, 1 tonne in any one haul or set², then the fishing vessel shall move to another location at least 5 n miles³ distant. The fishing vessel shall not return to any point within 5 n miles of the location where the by-catch exceeded 1 tonne for a period of at least five days⁴. The location where the by-catch exceeded 1 tonne is defined as the path⁵ followed by the fishing vessel.

If the catch of *Macrourus* spp. taken by a single vessel in any two 10-day periods⁶ in any SSRU exceeds 1 500 kg in each 10-day period and exceeds 16% of the catch of *Dissostichus* spp. by that vessel in that SSRU, the vessel shall cease fishing in that SSRU for the remainder of the season.

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| Mitigation | 7. The exploratory longline fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Subarea 88.1 shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Conservation Measure 25-02. |
| | 8. Any vessel catching a total of three (3) seabirds shall immediately change to night setting only (i.e. setting only during the hours of darkness between the times of nautical twilight ⁷) ⁸ . |
| Observers | 9. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least two scientific observers, one of whom shall be an observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation, on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. |
| VMS | 10. Each vessel participating in this exploratory longline fishery shall be required to operate a VMS at all times, in accordance with Conservation Measure 10-04. |
| CDS | 11. Each vessel participating in this exploratory longline fishery shall be required to participate in the Catch Documentation Scheme for <i>Dissostichus</i> spp., in accordance with Conservation Measure 10-05. |
| Research | 12. Each vessel participating in this exploratory fishery shall conduct fishery-based research in accordance with the Research Plan and Tagging Program described in Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex 41-01/B and Annex 41-01/C respectively. The setting of research hauls (Conservation Measure 41-01, Annex 41-01/B, paragraphs 3 and 4) is not required. |
| | 13. The tagging rate and the tag-overlap statistic shall be calculated for each area in paragraphs 2(i, ii and iii) and as described in paragraph 3 in accordance with the research plan. |

In the N70 management area (paragraph 2i): Toothfish shall be tagged at a rate of at least one fish per tonne green weight caught.

In the S70 management area (paragraph 2ii): Toothfish shall be tagged at a rate of at least one fish per tonne green weight caught.

In the SRZ management area (paragraph 2iii): Toothfish shall be tagged at a rate of at least three fish per tonne green weight caught.

- Data:
catch/effort
14. For the purpose of implementing this conservation measure in the 2023/24 season, the following shall apply:
- (i) the Daily Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 23-07;
 - (ii) the Monthly Fine-scale Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 23-04. Fine-scale data shall be submitted on a haul-by-haul basis.
15. For the purpose of Conservation Measures 23-07 and 23-04, the target species is *Dissostichus mawsoni* (any *Dissostichus eleginoides* caught shall be counted towards the overall catch limit for *Dissostichus mawsoni*) and ‘by-catch species’ are defined as any species other than *Dissostichus* spp.
- Data:
biological
16. Fine-scale biological data shall be collected, recorded and reported in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.
- Environ-
mental
protection
17. Conservation Measure 26-01 applies.
18. Conservation Measures 22-06, 22-07, 22-08 and 22-09 apply.

¹ Total green weight caught, excluding individuals released alive.

² For the purposes of this conservation measure, for a longline, each haul applies to a single longline regardless of how contiguous sections of gear are connected.

³ This provision concerning the minimum distance separating fishing locations is adopted pending the adoption of a more appropriate definition of a fishing location by the Commission.

⁴ The specified period is adopted in accordance with the reporting period specified in Conservation Measure 23-01, pending the adoption of a more appropriate period by the Commission.

⁵ For a longline, the path is defined from the point at which the first anchor of a set was deployed to the point at which the last anchor of that set was deployed.

⁶ A 10-day period is defined as day 1 to day 10, day 11 to day 20, or day 21 to the last day of the month.

⁷ The exact times of nautical twilight are set forth in the Nautical Almanac tables for the relevant latitude, local time and date. A copy of the algorithm for calculating these times is available from the CCAMLR Secretariat. All times, whether for ship operations or observer reporting, shall be referenced to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

⁸ Wherever possible, when night setting, setting of lines should be completed at least three hours before sunrise (to reduce loss of bait to/catches of white-chinned petrels).