

Conservation Measure 42-01 (2023)
Limits on the fishery for *Champocephalus gunnari*
in Statistical Subarea 48.3 in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons

Species	icefish
Area	48.3
Season	2023/24, 2024/25
Gear	trawl

The Commission hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 31-01:

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| Access | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.3 shall be conducted by vessels using trawls only. The use of bottom trawls in the directed fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.3 is prohibited. 2. Fishing for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> shall be prohibited within 12 n miles of the coast of South Georgia during the period 1 March to 31 May. |
| Catch limit | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The total catch of <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.3 in the 2023/24 season shall be limited to 5 138 tonnes and in the 2024/25 season shall be limited to 3 579 tonnes. 4. Where any haul contains more than 100 kg of <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>, and more than 10% of <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> by number are smaller than 240 mm total length, the fishing vessel shall move to another fishing location at least 5 n miles distant¹. The fishing vessel shall not return to any point within 5 n miles of the location where the catch of small <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> exceeded 10% for a period of at least five days². The location where the catch of small <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> exceeded 10% 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. |
| Season | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. For the purpose of the trawl fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.3, the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons are defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November in each season, or until the catch limit is reached, whichever is sooner. |
| By-catch | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The by-catch in this fishery shall be regulated as set out in Conservation Measure 33-01. If, in the course of the directed fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>, the by-catch in any one haul of any of the species named in Conservation Measure 33-01 is greater than 100 kg and exceeds 5% of the total catch of all fish by weight, or is equal to, or greater than, 2 tonnes, then the fishing vessel shall move to another location at least 5 n miles distant¹. The fishing vessel shall not return to any point within 5 n miles of the location where the by-catch of species named in Conservation Measure 33-01 exceeded 5% for a period of at least five days². The location where the by-catch exceeded 5% 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. |

- Mitigation
7. The operation of this fishery shall be carried out in accordance with Conservation Measure 25-03 so as to minimise the incidental mortality of seabirds in the course of the fishery. Vessels shall use net binding³ and consider adding weight to the codend to reduce seabird captures during shooting operations.
8. Should any vessel catch a total of 20 seabirds in a season, it shall cease fishing and shall be excluded from further participation in the fishery in that season.
- Observers
9. Each vessel participating in this fishery shall have at least one scientific observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and, where possible, one additional scientific observer, on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period.
- Data:
catch/effort
10. For the purpose of implementing this conservation measure in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons, the following shall apply:
- (i) the Five-day Catch and Effort Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 23-01;
- (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.
11. For the purpose of Conservation Measures 23-01 and 23-04, the target species is *Champscephalus gunnari* and ‘by-catch species’ are defined as any species other than *Champscephalus gunnari*.
- Data:
biological
12. Fine-scale biological data shall be collected, recorded and reported in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation.
- Environ-
mental
protection
13. Conservation Measure 26-01 applies.
- ¹ 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.
- ² 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.
- ³ The following guidelines are provided to assist in the uptake of best-practice mitigation measures:
- (i) When the net is on the deck, prior to shooting, the application of 3-ply sisal string (which typically has a breaking strength of around 110 kg), or a similar organic/biodegradable material, at intervals of 5 m or less prevents the net from spreading and lofting at the surface. Net binding should be applied to mesh ranging from 120 to 800 mm. These mesh sizes have been shown to cause the majority of entanglements of white-chinned petrels and black-browed

albatrosses, which are the species most vulnerable to this form of mortality in Statistical Subarea 48.3.

- (ii) When applying the 'string', tie an end to the net to prevent the string from slipping down the net and ensure that it can be removed when the net is hauled.
- (iii) Since 2003, weights of 200–1 250 kg have been added to the codend, belly, mouth and groundrope of the net to increase the sink rate and increase the angle of the net's ascent during hauling, thus minimising surface net time. Evidence suggests that this has been effective in reducing bird entanglements during the haul. Vessels are encouraged to further experiment with appropriate net weighting.
- (iv) Net cleaning should be used in conjunction with added weight and net binding to reduce seabird captures during shooting operations.
- (v) Other additional steps should be taken to minimise the time that the net is on the water's surface during shooting and hauling.