

Conservation Measure 22-04 (2010)
Interim prohibition of deep-sea gillnetting

Species	all
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	gillnet

The Commission,

Concerned that there have been sightings of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessels fishing in the Convention Area using gillnetting,

Also concerned that deep-sea gillnetting in the Convention Area and the associated ghost-fishing by lost or discarded nets has serious detrimental effects on the marine environment and many species of marine living resources,

Aware of the large quantities of non-target species, especially sharks and rays, that are killed by deep-sea gillnetting, and greatly concerned by the impacts on their populations,

Desiring to clearly indicate to the international community that the Commission considers deep-sea gillnetting to be a potentially destructive fishing method, and a practice which may undermine the ability of the Commission to achieve its conservation objective,

Noting that any application in respect of scientific research is subject to the requirements of Conservation Measure 24-01,

hereby adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Article IX of the Convention:

1. The use of gillnets¹ in the Convention Area, for purposes other than scientific research, is prohibited until such time as the Scientific Committee has investigated and reported on the potential impacts of this gear and the Commission has agreed on the basis of advice from the Scientific Committee that such a method may be used in the Convention Area.
2. The use of gillnets for scientific research shall be permitted subject to the requirements of Conservation Measure 24-01.
3. Any vessel seeking to transit the Convention Area carrying gillnets with a total cumulative area measuring greater than 100 m² must give advance notice of its intent, including the expected dates and route of its passage through the Convention Area, to the Secretariat. Any vessel in possession of gillnets with a total cumulative area measuring greater than 100 m² within the Convention Area which has not given such advance notice shall be in breach of this conservation measure.

¹ Gillnets are strings of single, double or triple netting walls, vertical, near the surface, in midwater or on the bottom, in which fish will gill, entangle or enmesh. Gillnets have floats on the upper line (headrope) and, in general, weights on the groundline (footrope). Gillnets consist of single or, less commonly, double or triple netting (known as 'trammel net') mounted together on the same frame ropes. Several types of nets may be combined in one gear (for example, trammel net combined with gillnet). These nets can be used either alone or, as is more usual, in large numbers placed in line ('fleets' of nets). The gear can be set, anchored to the bottom or left drifting, free or connected with the vessel.