

Conservation Measure 33-03 (2025)^{1,2}**Limitation of by-catch in new and exploratory fisheries in the 2025/26 season**

Species	by-catch
Area	various
Season	2025/26
Gear	all

1. This conservation measure applies to new and exploratory fisheries in the 2025/26 season, except where specific by-catch limits apply. Directed fishing shall not take place in the 2025/26 season in Statistical Divisions 58.4.1 and 58.4.3a.
2. The catch limits for all by-catch are set out in Annex 33-03/A. Within these catch limits, the total catch³ of by-catch, excluding individuals released alive in any small-scale research unit (SSRU), group of SSRUs or research block for which a specific catch limit (including a zero catch limit) is in place as defined in relevant conservation measures, shall not exceed the following limits:
 - skates and rays: 5% of the catch limit of *Dissostichus* spp.
 - *Macrourus* spp.: 16% of the catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp.
 - all other species 16% of the catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp.
3. For the purposes of this measure ‘*Macrourus* spp.’ and ‘skates and rays’ should each be counted as a single species.
4. 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.
5. If the by-catch of any one species is equal to, or greater than, 1 tonne in any one haul or set⁴, then the fishing vessel shall move to another location at least 5 n miles⁵ 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 days⁶. The location where the by-catch exceeded 1 tonne is defined as the path⁷ followed by the fishing vessel.

¹ Except for waters adjacent to the Kerguelen and Crozet Islands.

² Except for waters adjacent to the Prince Edward Islands.

³ Total green weight caught, excluding individuals released alive.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ For a trawl, the path is defined 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. 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.

Annex 33-03/A

Table 1: By-catch catch limits for new and exploratory fisheries in 2025/26.

Subarea/ division	Research block	<i>Dissostichus</i> spp. catch limit (tonnes)	By-catch catch limit		
			Skates and rays (tonnes)	<i>Macrourus</i> spp. (tonnes)	Other species (tonnes)
48.6	486_2	182	9	29	29
48.6	486_3	60	3	9	9
48.6	486_4	181	9	28	28
48.6	486_5	290	14	46	46
58.4.1	5841_1	112	5	17	17
58.4.1	5841_2	80	4	12	12
58.4.1	5841_3	79	3	12	12
58.4.1	5841_4	46	2	7	7
58.4.1	5841_5	116	5	18	18
58.4.1	5841_6	50	2	8	8
58.4.2	5842_1	149	7	23	23
58.4.2	5842_2	132	6	21	21
58.4.3a	5843a_1	0	0	0	0
88.2	882_1	184	9	29	29
88.2	882_2	454	22	72	72
88.2	882_3	468	23	74	74
88.2	882_4	319	15	51	51
88.2	SSRU H	199	9	31	31