

**CONSERVATION MEASURE 22-06 (2008)<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**Bottom fishing in the Convention Area**

Species	all
Area	see paragraphs 1, 2
Season	all
Gear	bottom fishing

The Commission,

Recognising the commitment made by Members to implement the CCAMLR precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management by embracing principles of conservation as stated in Article II of the Convention,

Conscious of the urgent need to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing activities that have significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems,

Noting that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105, adopted on 8 December 2006, calls on regional fisheries management organisations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries to adopt and implement measures to prevent significant adverse impacts of bottom fisheries on VMEs and noting further that all CCAMLR Members joined in the consensus by which this resolution was adopted,

Noting also the importance of Article IX of the Convention, including the use of the best scientific evidence available,

Aware of the steps already taken by CCAMLR to address the impacts of deep-sea gillnetting and bottom trawling in the Convention Area, through the implementation of Conservation Measures 22-04 and 22-05 respectively,

Recognising that CCAMLR has responsibilities for the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources, part of which include the attributes of a regional fisheries management organisation,

Noting that all CCAMLR conservation measures are published on the CCAMLR website,

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

Management of bottom fishing

1. This conservation measure applies to areas in the Convention Area south of 60°S, and to the rest of the Convention Area with the exception of subareas and divisions where an established fishery was in place in 2006/07 with a catch limit greater than zero.
2. This conservation measure also applies to the area of Division 58.4.1 north of 60°S.
3. For the purposes of this measure, the term ‘vulnerable marine ecosystems’ in the context of CCAMLR includes seamounts, hydrothermal vents, cold water corals and sponge fields.
4. For the purposes of this measure, the term ‘bottom fishing activities’ includes the use of any gear that interacts with the bottom.

5. Until 30 November 2008, bottom fishing activities shall be limited to those areas for which bottom fishing activities were approved by the Commission in the 2006/07 fishing season.
6. Contracting Parties whose vessels wish to engage in any bottom fishing activities, beginning 1 December 2008, shall follow the procedures described in paragraphs 8 to 12 below.
7. Contracting Parties shall authorise vessels flying their flag to participate in bottom fishing activities only in accordance with the provisions of this conservation measure and Conservation Measure 10-02.

#### Assessment of bottom fishing

8. All individual bottom fishing activities commencing 1 December 2008 and thereafter shall be subject to assessment by the Scientific Committee, based on the best available scientific information, to determine if such activities, taking account of the history of bottom fishing in the areas proposed, would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and to ensure that if it is determined that these activities would make such contributions, that they are managed to prevent such impacts or are not authorised to proceed. The assessments shall include the following procedures:
  - (i) Each Contracting Party proposing to participate in bottom fishing shall submit to the Scientific Committee and Commission information and a preliminary assessment based on the pro forma in Annex 22-06/A, with the best available data, of the known and anticipated impacts of its bottom fishing activities on VMEs, including benthos and benthic communities, no less than three months in advance of the next meeting of the Commission. These submissions shall also include the mitigation measures proposed by the Contracting Party to prevent such impacts.
  - (ii) The Scientific Committee shall undertake an assessment, according to procedures and standards it develops, and provide advice to the Commission as to whether the proposed bottom fishing activity would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on VMEs and, if so, whether the proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts. The Scientific Committee may use in its assessment additional information available to it, including information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere.
  - (iii) The Commission shall, taking account of advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Committee concerning bottom fishing activities, including data and information arising from reports pursuant to paragraph 8, adopt conservation measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, that as appropriate:
    - (a) allow, prohibit or restrict bottom fishing activities within particular areas;
    - (b) require specific mitigation measures for bottom fishing activities;
    - (c) allow, prohibit or restrict bottom fishing with certain gear types; and/or
    - (d) contain any other relevant requirements or restrictions to prevent significant adverse impacts to VMEs.

## Encounters with VMEs

9. Annex 22-06/B provides a notification form for Contracting Parties to use to notify the Secretariat when evidence of VMEs has been encountered, and has not otherwise been reported under Conservation Measure 22-07.
10. Contracting Parties, in the absence of site-specific or other conservation measures to prevent significant adverse impact on VMEs, shall require vessels flying their flag to cease bottom fishing activities in any location where evidence of a VME is encountered in the course of fishing operations, and to report the encounter to the Secretariat in accordance with the schedule of the Catch and Effort Reporting System (Conservation Measures 23-01, 23-02 or 23-03, whichever is applicable), so that appropriate conservation measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site.
11. The Scientific Committee shall provide advice to the Commission on the known and anticipated impacts of bottom fishing activities on VMEs, and recommend practices, including ceasing fishing operations if needed, when evidence of a VME is encountered in the course of bottom fishing operations. Taking account of this advice, the Commission shall adopt conservation measures to be applied when evidence of a VME is encountered in the course of fishing operations.

## Monitoring and control of bottom fishing activities

12. Notwithstanding Members' obligations pursuant to Conservation Measure 21-02, all Contracting Parties whose vessels participate in bottom fisheries shall:
  - (i) ensure that their vessels are equipped and configured so that they can comply with all relevant conservation measures;
  - (ii) ensure that each vessel carries at least one CCAMLR-designated scientific observer to collect data in accordance with this and other conservation measures;
  - (iii) submit data pursuant to Data Collection Plans for bottom fisheries to be developed by the Scientific Committee and included in conservation measures;
  - (iv) be prohibited from continuing participation in the relevant bottom fishery if data arising from conservation measures relevant to that bottom fishery have not been submitted to CCAMLR pursuant to paragraph 12(iii) for the most recent season in which fishing occurred, until the relevant data have been submitted to CCAMLR and the Scientific Committee has been allowed an opportunity to review the data.
13. The Secretariat shall annually compile a list of vessels authorised to fish pursuant to this conservation measure and shall make this list publicly available on CCAMLR's website.

## Data collection and sharing and scientific research

14. The Scientific Committee shall, based on the best available scientific information, advise the Commission on where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur, and advise on potential mitigation measures. Contracting Parties shall provide the Scientific

Committee with all relevant information to assist in this work. The Secretariat shall maintain an inventory including digital maps of all known VMEs in the Convention Area for circulation to all Contracting Parties and other relevant bodies.

15. Scientific bottom fishing research activities notified under Conservation Measure 24-01, paragraph 2, shall proceed according to Conservation Measure 24-01 and shall be undertaken with due regard to potential impacts on VMEs. Scientific bottom fishing research activities notified under Conservation Measure 24-01, paragraph 3, shall be treated in accordance with all aspects of paragraph 9 of this conservation measure, notwithstanding the procedures in Conservation Measure 24-01. Consistent with existing reporting requirements in Conservation Measure 24-01, paragraph 4, information regarding the location and the type of any VME encountered, in the course of scientific bottom fishing research activities, shall be reported to the Secretariat.

#### Review

16. This conservation measure will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the Commission, based on the findings of the Scientific Committee. In addition, beginning in 2009 and biennially thereafter, the Commission will examine the effectiveness of relevant conservation measures in protecting VMEs from significant adverse impacts, based on advice from the Scientific Committee.

<sup>1</sup> Except for waters adjacent to the Kerguelen and Crozet Islands

<sup>2</sup> Except for waters adjacent to the Prince Edward Islands

**PRO FORMA FOR SUBMITTING PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS OF  
THE POTENTIAL FOR PROPOSED BOTTOM FISHING ACTIVITIES  
TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS ON  
VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VMEs)**

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**1. Preliminary assessment of bottom fishing activities – Required Information**

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**1.1 Scope**

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- 1.1.1 Fishing method(s) to be used  
*Longline type (Spanish/auto/trotline/pots)*
- 1.1.2 Subarea/division  
*e.g. 88.1 and 88.2*
- 1.1.3 Period of application  
*Year*
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**1.2 Proposed fishing activity**

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- 1.2.1 Detailed description of gear  
*Please provide a detailed diagram of the gear configuration to be used (see WG-FSA-08/60 for example or diagrams available in the CCAMLR observer logbook). Include details of line type; line length (length range if necessary); hook type(s); numbers per line and spacing of hooks within a line (per vertical line for trotlines); weight material and mass; spacing of weights; anchor type; floats and spacing etc. for **each vessel** included in this application/notification.*
- 1.2.2 Scale of proposed activity  
*Please provide estimates of total numbers of hooks and/or lines to be deployed.*
- 1.2.3 Spatial distribution of activity  
*Please provide details of SSRUs or geographical regions within the subarea/division in which activities will take place including the depth range of fishing activities.*
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**1.3 Mitigation measures to be used**

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*Please provide details of modifications to gear configuration or methods of deployment aimed at preventing or reducing adverse impacts to VMEs.*

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**2. Preliminary assessment of bottom fishing activities – Supporting Information**

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**2.1 Assessment of known/anticipated impacts on VMEs**

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*Please provide data or information available on the current state of knowledge of impacts of proposed fishing activities on VMEs within the area of activity.*

- 2.1.1 Estimated spatial effort footprint  
*Please provide details of % area covered by fishing effort.*
- 2.1.2 Summary of potential VMEs present within areas of activity  
*e.g. biogenic/geological; habitat area coverage/distribution; fragility/vulnerability and resilience of habitats; species composition/endemism; life-history traits. Please provide details.*
- 2.1.3 Probability of impacts  
*e.g. low/medium/high/unknown. Please provide details.*
- 2.1.4 Magnitude/severity of the interaction of the proposed fishing gear with VMEs  
*e.g. associated mortality and spatial extent of impacts. Please provide details.*
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2.1.5 Physical and biological/ecological consequences of impact  
*e.g. loss of physical habitat structure or of keystone species or extinctions.*

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**2.2 Estimated cumulative footprint**

*Please provide an estimated cumulative impact derived from information provided under 2.1.1 to 2.1.5 above and any additional information available from the Secretariat (e.g. historical fishing effort; habitat maps).*

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**2.3 Research activities related to provision of new information on VMEs**

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2.3.1 Previous research

*Please provide a summary of research previously carried out in the proposed area of activity by your Member State (including national/regional/international research programs). This should include data collected in the previous season under 2.3.2 and details of data submitted to the secretariat such as:*

- *Indirect evidence (e.g. by-catch observation; species identification through sample collection and genetic and morphological analysis; acoustic or geomorphic data collection; other)*
- *Direct evidence (e.g. observations using camera gear or ROVS; other)*

2.3.2 In-season research

*Please summarise details of the research planned during the proposed fishing activities by your Member State (including national/regional/international research programs). Please provide details of what data will be collected in order to document evidence of or further knowledge on VMEs within the areas of activities including:*

- *Indirect evidence (see examples above)*
- *Direct evidence (see examples above)*

2.3.3 Follow-on research

*Please provide details of potential future research resulting from previous/in-season research, including collaborative work with other Member States or as part of national/regional/international research programs including:*

- *Indirect evidence (see examples above)*
  - *Direct evidence (see examples above)*
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**CCAMLR Data Form VME Encounter v2009**  
**NOTIFICATION OF ENCOUNTER**  
**VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VME)**



**CCAMLR**  
 Ph: 61 3 6210 1111  
 Fax: 61 3 6224 8744  
 Email: [data@ccamlr.org](mailto:data@ccamlr.org)

*Guidelines for completing this notification are given in Conservation Measure 22-06  
 To be completed when evidence of VMEs has been encountered, and has not otherwise been reported under Conservation Measure 22-07*

**Please submit all data to [data@ccamlr.org](mailto:data@ccamlr.org)**  
**For information click here to see field names in 'Instructions'**

**(1) GENERAL INFORMATION**

Date of preparation	
Vessel flag	
Vessel name	
Vessel call sign	
Name of observer	
Name of person filling in this form	
Email address of person responsible for data enquiries	

**(2) VME Location**

*Insert additional columns as required*

Haul number (link to C1, C2 or C5 data - where applicable)							
Subarea or Division							
SSRU or MA							
Start position	date (dd-mm-yy)						
	time (hh:mm)						
	Latitude (S) - degrees						
	minutes						
	Longitude (+/-) - degrees						
End position	minutes						
	Seafoor depth (m)						
	Latitude (S) - degrees						
	minutes						
	Longitude (+/-) - degrees						
minutes							
Seafoor depth (m)							
Fishing or sampling gear							

**Method of determining the encounter - Enter 'X' if method used**

(a) in-situ photographic observation							
(b) Presence of VME-associated organisms in the catch							
(c) Acoustic profile							
(d) Presence of habitat feature							

**Type of VME**

**(3) Habitat-forming organisms - Complete this section if methods (a) or (b) used, Enter 'X' if present**

Large/erect sponges							
Small/low sponges							
Stalked Crinoids							
Gorgonians							
Seawhips							
Seapens							
Hydrocoral (stylasterinid)							
Black Coral (antipatharian)							
Hard coral (scleractinian)							
Low encrusting (bryozoans, ascidians)							
Erect bryozoan							
Tubeworms							
Bivalve bed							
Brachiopod bed							
Bioturbators							
Other (please specify)							

**(4) Habitat feature - Complete this section if method (d) used, Enter 'X' if present**

Seamount							
Hydrothermal vent							
Cold seep							
Canyon system							
Other (please specify)							

**(5) Comments**

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