

**Conservation Measure 26-01 (2019)<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**General environmental protection during fishing**

Species	all
Area	all
Season	all
Gear	all

The Commission,

Concerned that certain activities associated with fishing may affect the Antarctic marine environment and that these activities have played a notable role in CCAMLR's efforts to minimise incidental mortality of non-target species such as seabirds and seals,

Noting that CCAMLR recommendations, and the provisions of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and its annexes, prohibit the disposal of all plastics at sea, including within the CAMLR Convention Area,

Noting various provisions of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, in particular its annexes as well as related Recommendations and Measures of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings,

Recollecting that advice from the Scientific Committee has indicated that significant numbers of Antarctic fur seals have been entangled and killed in plastic packaging bands in the Convention Area, and that entanglement of fur seals is still continuing,

Recognising that the bait boxes used on fishing vessels in particular, and other packages in general, need not be secured by plastic packaging bands because suitable alternatives exist,

Adopts the following conservation measure to minimise possible effects on the marine environment arising from fishing-related activities in the context of mitigating incidental mortality of non-target species and protecting the marine environment in accordance with Article IX of the Convention.

Disposal of Plastics

1. Vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall be prohibited from discharging plastics<sup>3</sup> into the sea, in accordance with MARPOL Annex V on Regulations from the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from ships.
2. Consistent with MARPOL Annex V, paragraph 1 shall not apply to:
  - (i) the discharge of plastics from a vessel necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a vessel and those on board or saving life at sea; or
  - (ii) the accidental loss of plastics resulting from damage to a vessel or its equipment provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken before and after the occurrence of the damage, to prevent or minimise the accidental loss; or
  - (iii) the accidental loss of fishing gear consisting of or containing plastic from a vessel provided that all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent such loss; or
  - (iv) the discharge of fishing gear consisting of or containing plastic from a vessel for the protection of the marine environment or for the safety of that vessel or its crew.

3. The use on fishing vessels of plastic packaging bands to secure bait boxes shall be prohibited.
4. The use of other plastic packaging bands for other purposes on fishing vessels which do not use on-board incinerators (closed systems) shall be prohibited.
5. Any packaging bands, once removed from packages, shall be cut into approximately 30 cm sections, so that they do not form a continuous loop and at the earliest opportunity burned in the on-board incinerator.
6. Any plastic residue shall be stored on board the vessel until it can be discharged at adequate port reception facilities and in no case discarded at sea.

#### Prohibition of Discharge

7. Vessels fishing in the Convention Area shall be prohibited from dumping or discharging oil or fuel products or oily mixtures into the sea, in accordance with MARPOL Annex I.
8. Vessels fishing south of 60°S shall also be prohibited from dumping or discharging:
  - (i) garbage;
  - (ii) food wastes not capable of passing through a screen with openings no greater than 25 mm;
  - (iii) poultry or parts (including egg shells);
  - (iv) sewage within 12 n miles of land or ice shelves, or sewage while the vessel is travelling at a speed of less than 4 knots;
  - (v) incineration ash.
9. Vessels fishing south of 60°S shall further be prohibited from dumping or discharging:
  - (i) offal<sup>4</sup>
  - (ii) discards<sup>5</sup>.
10. Fish or other organisms taken during fishing operations with high expectation of survival<sup>6</sup>, and other benthic organisms<sup>7</sup> may be returned to the sea, only after fulfilling the relevant requirements of Conservation Measure 22-07; paragraph 7 of Conservation Measure 41-01; and the relevant reporting requirements of other conservation measures.

#### Translocation of Poultry

11. Live poultry or other living birds shall not be brought into areas south of 60°S, and any dressed poultry not consumed shall be removed from those areas.

<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

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of this conservation measure, the definition of plastics in MARPOL Annex V applies.

<sup>4</sup> 'Offal' is defined as bait and by-products from the processing of fish and other organisms, including parts or sections of fish or organisms which are by-products of processing.

- <sup>5</sup> 'Discards' are defined as whole fish or other organisms returned to the sea dead or with low expectation of survival, as described in the Observer Longline Logbook 'Observed Haul Catch' form instructions.
- <sup>6</sup> As described in the Observer Longline Logbook 'Observed Haul Catch' form instructions.
- <sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this conservation measure, 'other benthic organisms' refers to benthic organisms as defined in the CCAMLR VME Taxa Classification Guide and other habitat forming taxa, which are not included in the definitions of offal and discards in footnotes 3 and 4 respectively.