

MoP-07-43

7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties of the South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement  
(MoP7)  
17-20 November 2020 (online)

## Proposal to amend CMM 2019/15 on Management of Demersal Stocks

*Relates to agenda item: 9*

Working paper  Info paper

### Delegation of the European Union

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#### Abstract

Despite the extensive discussions that preceded the adoption of CMM 2019/15 at MOP6, some of the provisions relating to the Williams Ridge fishery are being implemented differently by the CCPs involved in this fishery. The EU therefore propose a number of amendments to these provisions to clarify that a fishing vessel is entitled to:

- set a line in a grid cell (A), leave grid cell A to set a line in another grid cell (B), and then return to grid cell A to haul the line it set there. When returning to grid cell A to haul its first line, the vessel is entitled to set a second line, leave grid cell A for another grid cell (B or still another grid cell C) and then return to grid cell A to haul its second line; or
- set 2 lines in grid cell A, leave to set (a) line(s) in one or more other grid cells, and then return to grid cell A to haul the two lines it set there.

The EU would note that, while the vessel is setting or hauling lines in a given grid cell, no other vessel can fish there. At the same time, it would be important to clarify that vessels can transit through grid cells that are being fished.

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#### Recommendations *(working papers only)*

1. The MOP7 to review and adopt the proposed amendments
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## **CMM 2019/15**

### **Conservation and Management Measure for the Management of Demersal Stocks in the Agreement Area (Management of Demersal Stocks)**

#### **The Meeting of the Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;**

*RECOGNISING* that Article 4(a) of the *Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement* (the Agreement) calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the duty to cooperate, to adopt measures on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to ensure the long-term conservation of fishery resources, taking into account the sustainable use of such resources and implementing an ecosystem approach to their management;

*FURTHER RECOGNISING* Articles 4(c), (e) and (f) of the Agreement which call on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach and the principles that fishing practices and management measures shall take due account of the need to minimise the harmful impact that fishing activities may have on the marine environment and that biodiversity in the marine environment shall be protected;

*FURTHER RECOGNISING* Articles 6(1)(d) and (e) of the Agreement which provide that the Meeting of the Parties shall adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) necessary for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fishery resources, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity, based on the best scientific evidence available and adopt generally recommended international minimum standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations;

*MINDFUL* of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on Contracting Parties, acting jointly under the Agreement, to cooperate closely with other international fisheries and related organisations in matters of mutual interest;

*COMMITTED* to ensuring that bottom fishing undertaken in the Agreement Area is consistent with the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and the protection of the marine environment;

#### **ADOPTS the following CMM in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement:**

##### **Objective**

1. The objective of this CMM is to promote the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries resources in the Agreement Area, including target fish stocks and non-target species.

##### **General provisions**

2. This CMM applies to all fishing vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party, cooperating non-Contracting Party, participating fishing entity or cooperating non-participating fishing entity (collectively CCPs) to the Agreement engaging or intending to engage in bottom fishing in the Agreement Area.

##### **Status of Stocks**

3. The Scientific Committee shall provide annual reports, based on the best available science, on the status of the demersal fisheries resources targeted in the Agreement Area, relative to available and/or relevant reference points. The reports shall include, where possible, projections of stock status over a period no less than 20 years, with 5 years steps, relative to a range of fishing mortality. In addition to the annual report on stock status, the Scientific

Committee will provide management advice relative to available and/or relevant reference points.

## Orange Roughy

### *Fishing season*

4. For the purposes of this CMM, the fishing season for *Hoplostethus atlanticus* in the Agreement area shall be defined as the period from 1st January to 31 December both dates inclusive.
5. *Stock assessment* The orange roughy stocks shall be the subject of a full stock assessment to be assessed every three to five years. In the interim period available information on ORY stocks shall be presented annually.
6. The SC shall provide a summary of future data needs to improve assessment accuracy, as well as provide a summary to MoP-7 on progress against the ORY workplan.

## Toothfish

7. The objectives of this section are to:
  - a. ensure collaborative and complementary arrangements are in place for *D. eleginoides* between SIOFA and the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR); and
  - b. ensure that fishing mortality of *D. eleginoides* on William's Ridge in the Agreement Area<sup>1</sup> and Del Cano Rise do not cause biologically sustainable catch levels to be exceeded, taking into account population links.
8. The catch limit for *Dissostichus spp.* on Del Cano Rise, and research catch limit for *Dissostichus spp.* on William's Ridge as specified in paragraphs 16 and 37 shall apply until:
  - a. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *D. eleginoides* occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise and other appropriate management measures which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR taking into account the advice and recommendations of the SIOFA Scientific Committee and
  - b. the Meeting of the Parties has adopted appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including measures to minimize the incidental catch of seabirds which are comparable in effectiveness to those in force in CCAMLR consistent with the advice provided by the Scientific Committee.
9. The Scientific Committee shall, by no later than the close of its 7<sup>th</sup> ordinary meeting in 2022, provide advice and recommendations on:
  - a. a biologically appropriate catch limit for the populations of *D. eleginoides* occurring in the SIOFA portion of Williams Ridge and Del Cano Rise;
  - b. appropriate bycatch mitigation measures, including for benthic bycatch and seabirds; and

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<sup>1</sup> The portion of Williams Ridge in the Agreement Area is bounded by the area 80E to 85E and 52S to 55S.

c. any other matter that the Scientific Committee determines as relevant or necessary for the sustainable management of the *D. eleginoides* populations.

10. In formulating its advice and recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties in respect of this CMM, the SIOFA Scientific Committee shall take full account of relevant CCAMLR Scientific Committee material.
11. CCPs with an interest in this stock shall cooperate to ensure scientific collaboration between CCAMLR and SIOFA to ensure long-term sustainable management for *D. eleginoides* stocks which takes due account of relevant rights and responsibilities under international law, and which does not undermine the conservation status of the stock.

### General Provisions

12. Fishing with demersal longlines shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 500m. in order to protect benthic communities and juvenile *Dissostichus* spp.

### Management measures for toothfish in the Del Cano Area [FAO Subarea 51.7]

#### Definitions

13. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp.
14. For the purpose of this fishery, the Del Cano Rise area is defined as the area set out in Figure A.

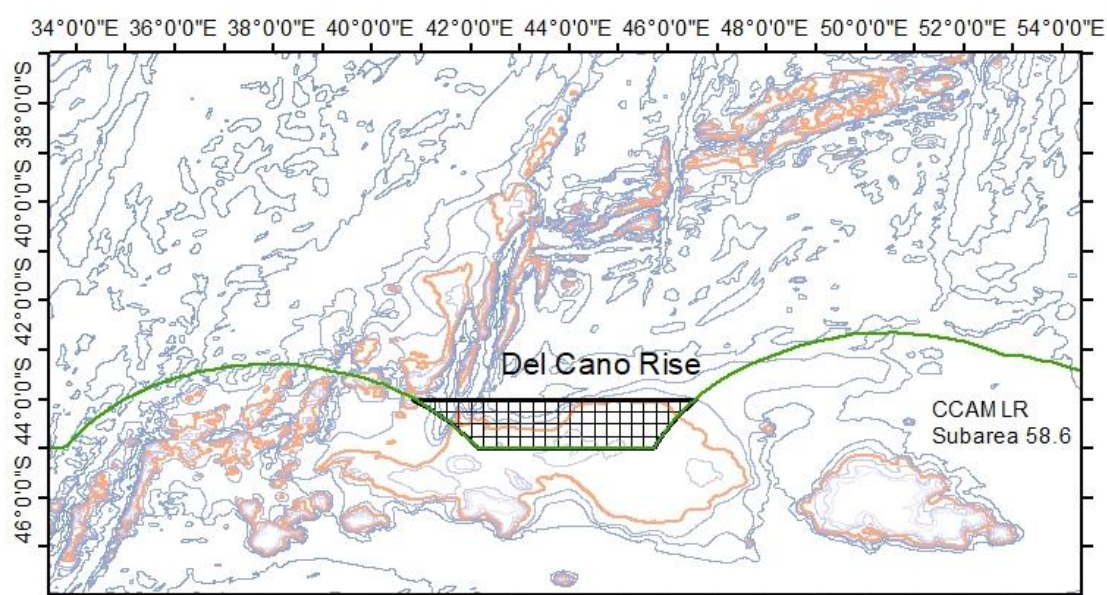


Figure A: Extent of the proposed Del Cano Rise area. The area is bounded between -44S and -45S latitude, and the adjacent EEZ to the east and west. The red bathymetry line denotes depth at -2000 m.

#### Season

15. For the purpose of the longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp in [FAO Subarea 51.7], the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November both dates inclusive.

### **Effort/catch and operational limits**

16. CCPs shall ensure that the total annual catches of *Dissostichus* spp in the Del Cano Rise area do not exceed 55 tonnes. Without prejudice to any future sharing arrangement of the catch opportunities, this catch shall be equally shared between those CCPs which have historical catches declared to SIOFA up to 2016 in the Del Cano Rise area. Any excess by a given CCP in a given year shall be deducted from its following year catch share.
17. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp catches to the Secretariat. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
18. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines.
19. Longlines shall not exceed 3000 hooks per line and shall be set at minimum 3 nautical miles from each other.

### **By-catch limits**

20. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp may not exceed 0.5 t per season.
21. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp reach the *Dissostichus* spp limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Del Cano area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

### **Mitigation of depredation**

22. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged to not haul longlines in the presence of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
23. Should killer whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessels are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the killer whales are no longer near the line.
24. To further reduce potential for depredation, vessels are encouraged to set lines at depths exceeding 1000 m.

### **VMS polling**

25. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp in this area to report VMS data automatically to their FMC at least every hour when they are present in the Del Cano area.

### **Observers**

26. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

### **Tagging and release**

27. *Dissostichus* spp specimens shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more *Dissostichus* spp specimens have been caught.

## **Scientific committee**

28. In 2020 the SC shall make recommendations in order to build an area wide habitat model, a spatial and temporal CPUE analysis, an estimate and map of local abundancies and a local population assessment. It shall further advise on any necessary improvements to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.
29. The SC shall also address the issues related to depredation
30. At its ordinary meeting in 2020 the Scientific Committee will advise on the appropriate limits for relevant species caught as bycatch in *Dissostichus* spp. fisheries.

## **Review**

31. The provisions above shall be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp that are shared by the two organisations.

## **Management & research measures for toothfish in Williams Ridge [FAO Subarea 57.4]**

### **Definitions**

32. For the purpose of this fishery, the target species are *Dissostichus mawsoni* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*, defined as *Dissostichus* spp.

### **Area and purpose**

33. For the purpose of this fishery, Williams Ridge is defined as the area set out in Figure B and Table 2, and divided into a 15'x15' grid for spatial management. This grid is in place to address the risk of localised depletion and ensure representative data collection throughout the SIOFA part of Williams Ridge.

### **Season**

34. For the purpose of the new longline fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge, the season is defined as the period from 1 December to 30 November (both dates inclusives).

### **Data collection for fisheries research**

35. Toothfish shall be tagged and released at a rate of at least 5 fish per tonne green weight caught. A minimum overlap statistic of at least 60% shall apply for tag release, once 30 or more toothfish have been caught.
36. Representative data and samples of length, weight, sex, maturity stage, gonad weight and otoliths shall be collected to contribute to the work of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific Committee, and in particular to contribute to assessing the risk to localised depletion.

### **Effort/catch and operational limits**

37. Total annual research catches in this area shall not exceed 140 tonnes. Any excess in a given year shall be deducted from that CCP from the following year.

38. CCPs shall send monthly reports of their *Dissostichus* spp catches to the Secretariat. As soon as 90% of the catch limit is reached, the Secretariat shall notify the CCPs of the closure of the fishery.
39. Only one fishing vessel at a time can fish for *Dissostichus* spp. in a given grid cell. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the secretariat as soon as they enter a grid cell to fish for *Dissostichus* spp. and as soon as they exit any fished grid cell. The Secretariat shall inform the vessel as soon as possible ~~if the grid cell has been fished during that season or is currently fished by another vessel~~ of the number of lines that have been set in that grid cell during that season and whether it is currently being fished by another vessel.
40. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels shall not fish in a grid cell before having received the confirmation from the Secretariat that ~~the grid cell concerned has not been fished in that season~~ two lines have not already been set in that grid cell during that season and that it is not currently being fished by another fishing vessel. Fishing vessels shall be entitled to transit through a grid cell, including while these are being fished, to reach another grid cell and shall inform the Secretariat as soon as they enter and exit a grid cell for that purpose.
41. Longlines shall not exceed 6250 hooks per line.
42. CCPs shall ensure that their fishing vessels inform the Secretariat daily on start and end points of set longlines.
43. CCPs shall ensure that no more than two lines in total are set per grid for the duration of the fishing season.
44. After ~~leaving two lines have been set in a fished~~ Williams Ridge grid cell, a fishing vessel shall not be entitled to ~~fish again set any more lines~~ in that grid cell within the same fishing season. ~~After leaving a fished Williams Ridge grid cell, a~~ fishing vessel can fish in any other Williams Ridge grid cell ~~that has not been fished where two lines have not been set~~ in that season.
45. Once ~~a grid cell has been fished~~ two lines have been set in a grid cell by a fishing vessel it cannot be fished by another fishing vessel during that same season.
46. CCPs shall require their flagged vessels fishing for *Dissostichus* spp. in Williams Ridge to apply a break of a minimum of 30 days between consecutive fishing trips to Williams Ridge;

### **By-catch limits**

47. Toothfish caught by vessels not targeting *Dissostichus* spp. may not exceed 0.5 tonnes per season.
48. Should a vessel fishing for species other than *Dissostichus* spp reach the *Dissostichus* spp limit of 0.5 tonnes, the Williams Ridge area shall be closed for this vessel for that season.

### **Mitigation of depredation**

49. To reduce likelihood of depredation, vessels are encouraged not to haul longlines in the presence of sperm whales (*Physetes catodon*) and are discouraged from hauling longlines in presence of any odontocete (toothed) whales.
50. Should sperm whales arrive during hauling operations, the vessel are encouraged to cease hauling, tie off the longline with a buoy, and move on. The vessel may only retrieve the tied-off line once the sperm whales are no longer near the line.

### **Observers**

51. Each vessel participating in the fishery shall have at least one scientific observer on board throughout all fishing activities within the fishing period. The observer shall have a target of observing 25% of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment.

**Review**

52. The level of fishing on Williams Ridge shall be reviewed annually. This CMM may be reviewed annually until a collaborative approach involving SIOFA and CCAMLR is established. This shall include sharing of relevant data, undertaking collaboratively the stock assessments and agreeing in coherent, fair and scientifically sound conservation and management measures for the *Dissostichus* spp that are shared by the two organisations.

Table 2: Williams Ridge Fishing Area Coordinates

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	-52.5	80.0
2	-55	80.0
3	-55	85.0
4	-52.5	85.0

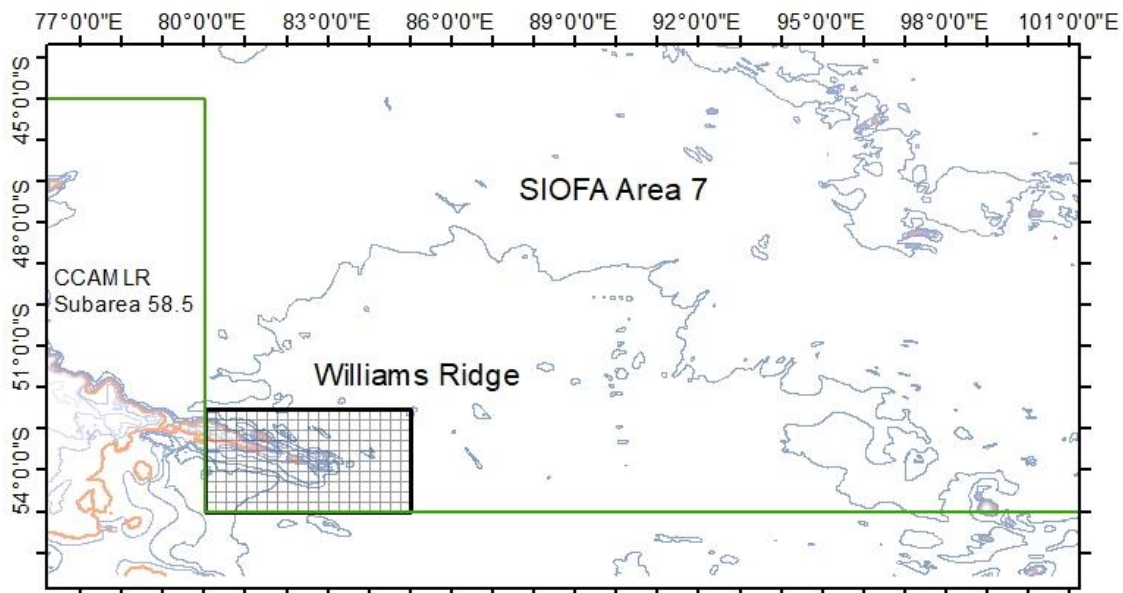


Figure B Extent of Williams Ridge. The area boundaries are given in Table 1. The red bathymetry line denotes depth at -2000 m.

**Management plan for Alfonsino**

*Season*

53. For the purpose of fishery for *Beryx splendens* in SIOFA area the season is defined as the period from 1 January to 31 December both dates inclusives.

*Stock assessment*

54. The *Beryx splendens* stocks shall be assessed in 2020 at the ordinary meeting of the Scientific Committee and provide advice on assessment time frames



55. The Scientific Committee shall provide clear advice and guidance on any necessary changes to data collection in order to reduce future assessment uncertainty.