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Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries  
[PART 300—INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES REGULATIONS](#)

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### Subpart G—Antarctic Marine Living Resources

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*, 31 U.S.C. 9701 *et seq.*

#### **§300.100 Purpose and scope.**

- (a) This subpart implements the Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (Act).
- (b) This subpart regulates—
  - (1) The harvesting of Antarctic marine living resources or other associated activities by any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or by any vessel of the United States.
  - (2) The importation into the United States of any Antarctic marine living resource.

#### **§300.101 Definitions.**

In addition to the terms defined in §300.2, in the Act, and in the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, done at Canberra, Australia, May 7, 1980 (Convention).

Convention, the terms used in this subpart have the following meanings. If a term is defined differently in §300.2, such Act, or such Convention, the definition in this section shall apply.

ACA means the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2401 *et seq.*).

*Antarctic convergence* means a line joining the following points along the parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude:

<i>Lat.</i>	<i>Long.</i>
50° S.	0.
50° S.	30° E.
45° S.	30° E.
45° S.	80° E.
55° S.	80° E.
55° S.	150° E.
60° S.	150° E.
60° S.	50° W.
50° S.	50° W.
50° S.	0.

*Antarctic finfishes* include the following:

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Gobionotothen gibberifrons</i>	Humped rockcod.
<i>Notothenia rossii</i>	Marbled rockcod.
<i>Lepidorhirus squamifrons</i>	Grey rockcod.
<i>Lepidonotothen kempfi</i>	Striped-eyed rockcod.
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Patagonian toothfish.
<i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i>	Antarctic toothfish.
<i>Electrona carlsbergi</i>	Lanternfish.
<i>Patagonothen brevicauda guntheri</i>	Patagonian rockcod.
<i>Pleuragramma antarcticum</i>	Antarctic silverfish.
<i>Trematomus spp.</i>	Antarctic cods.
<i>Chaenocephalus aceratus</i>	Blackfin icefish.
<i>Chaenodraco wilsoni</i>	Spiny icefish.
<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>	Mackerel icefish.
<i>Chionodraco rastrospinosus</i>	Ocellated icefish.

<i>Pseudochaenichthys georgianus</i>	South Georgia icefish.
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*Antarctic marine living resources or AMLR(s)* means:

(1) The populations of finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other species of living organisms, including birds, found south of the Antarctic Convergence;

(2) All parts or products of those populations and species set forth in paragraph (1) of this definition.

*Centralized Vessel Monitoring System (C-VMS)* means a system that uses satellite-linked vessel monitoring devices to allow for the reporting of vessel positional data, either directly to the CCAMLR Secretariat or to the CCAMLR Secretariat through the relevant Flag State.

*Commission* means the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources established under Article VII of the Convention.

*Convention waters* means all waters south of the Antarctic Convergence.

*Dealer* means the person who first receives AMLRs from a harvesting vessel or transshipment vessel or who imports AMLRs into, or re-exports AMLRs from, the United States.

*Directed fishing*, with respect to any species or stock of fish, means any fishing that results in such fish comprising more than 1 percent by weight, at any time, of the catch on board the vessel.

*Dissostichus catch document (DCD)* means the uniquely numbered catch documentation form approved by the Commission and issued by a flag state to its vessels authorized to harvest *Dissostichus* species.

*Dissostichus species* means Patagonian toothfish and/or Antarctic toothfish and their parts or products.

*Export* as used in §300.107(c) means any movement of a catch in its harvested or processed form from a territory under the control of the State or free trade zone of landing, or, where that State or free trade zone forms part of a customs union, any other Member State of that customs union.

*Fish* means finfish, mollusks, and crustaceans.

*Fishery* means:

(1) One or more stocks of fish that can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and that are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational, and economic characteristics.

(2) Any fishing for such stocks.

*Harvesting vessel* means any vessel of the United States (this includes any boat, ship, or other craft), that is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type that is normally used for harvesting.

*Import* as used in §§300.107(c) and 300.114 means the physical entering or bringing of a catch into any part of the geographical territory under the control of a State, except where the catch is landed or transshipped within the definitions of landing or transshipment.

*Individual permit* means an NSF permit issued under 45 CFR part 670; or an NSF award letter (demonstrating that the individual has received an award from NSF to do research in the Antarctic); or

a marine mammal permit issued under §216.31 of this chapter; or an endangered species permit issued under §222.21 of this chapter.

*Inspection vessel* means a vessel carrying a CCAMLR inspector and displaying the pennant approved by the Commission to identify such vessel.

*International observer* means a scientific observer operating in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation and the terms of a bilateral arrangement concluded between the United States and a Member of CCAMLR for the placement of a U.S. national onboard a vessel flagged by a Member of CCAMLR or for the placement of the national of a Member of CCAMLR onboard a U.S. flagged vessel.

*Land or Landing* means to begin offloading any fish, to arrive in port with the intention of offloading any fish, or to cause any fish to be offloaded; except for purposes of catch documentation as provided for in §300.107(c), land or landing means the initial transfer of catch in its harvested or processed form from a vessel to dockside or to another vessel in a port or free trade zone where the catch is certified by an authority of the Port State as landed.

*Mobile transceiver unit* means a vessel monitoring system or VMS device, as set forth at §300.116, installed on board a vessel that is used for vessel monitoring and transmitting the vessel's position as required by this subpart.

*National observer* means a U.S. national placed and operating onboard a U.S. flagged vessel as a scientific observer or a foreign flagged vessel in accordance with §300.113.

*NSF* means National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

*Office for Law Enforcement (OLE)* refers to the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office for Law Enforcement, Northeast Division.

*Port State* means the State that has control over a particular port area or free trade zone for the purposes of landing, transshipment, importing, exporting and re-exporting and whose authority serves as the authority for landing or transshipment certification.

*Port-to-port* means from the time the vessel leaves port to the time that the vessel returns to port and at all points in between.

*Real-time* means as soon as possible, but at least every 4 hours with no more than a 4-hour delay.

*Recreational fishing* means fishing with hook and line for personal use and not for sale.

*Re-export* as used in §§300.107(c) and 300.114 means any movement of a catch in its harvested or processed form from a territory under the control of a State, free trade zone, or Member State of a customs union of import unless that State, free trade zone, or any Member State of that customs union of import is the first place of import, in which case the movement is an export within the definition of export.

*Scientific research activity* means any activity for which a person has a permit from NMFS under §216.31 of this title or an award letter from NSF or a permit from the NSF under 45 CFR part 670. Scientific research activities may also include harvesting or other associated activities if such activities are designated as scientific research activities by the Assistant Administrator.

*Seal excluder device* means a barrier within the body of a trawl comprised of a metal frame, nylon mesh, or any material that results in an obstruction to seals between the mouth opening and the cod end of the trawl. The body of the trawl net forward of the barrier must include an escape opening through which seals entering the trawl can escape.

*Specially Validated Dissostichus Catch Document (SVDCD)* means a *Dissostichus* catch document that has been specially issued by a State to accompany seized or confiscated catch of *Dissostichus* spp. offered for sale or otherwise disposed of by the State.

*Transship or transshipment* means the transfer of fish or fish products from one vessel to another; Except for purposes of catch documentation as provided for in §§300.107(c) and 300.114, transship or transshipment means the transfer at sea of a catch in its harvested or processed form from a vessel to another vessel or means of transport and, where such transfer takes place within the territory under the control of a Port State, for the purposes of effecting its removal from that State. Temporarily placing a catch on land or on an artificial structure to facilitate such transfer does not prevent the transfer from being a transshipment where the catch is not landed with the definition of landing.

*Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)* means a system that uses a mobile transceiver unit on vessels that take AMLR, and that allows a Flag State, through the installation of satellite-tracking devices on board its fishing vessels, to receive automatic transmission of positional and other information, consistent with relevant CCAMLR conservation measures.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 65 FR 30015, May 10, 2000; 68 FR 23227, May 1, 2003; 72 FR 48508, Aug. 23, 2007; 75 FR 18111, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.102 Relationship to other treaties, conventions, laws, and regulations.**

(a) Other conventions and treaties to which the United States is a party and other Federal statutes and implementing regulations may impose additional restrictions on the harvesting and importation into the United States of AMLRs.

(b) The ACA implements the Antarctic Treaty Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora (12 U.S.T. 794). The ACA and its implementing regulations (45 CFR part 670) apply to certain defined activities of U.S. citizens south of 60° S. lat.

(c) The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*), and their implementing regulations also apply to the harvesting and importation of AMLRs.



### **§300.103 Procedure for according protection to CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program Sites.**

(a) *General.* (1) Any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States must apply for and be granted an entry permit authorizing specific activities prior to entering a CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) Protected Site designated in accordance with the CCAMLR Conservation Measure describing the Procedures for According Protection for CEMP Sites.

(2) If a CEMP Protected Site is also a site specially protected under the Antarctic Treaty (or the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its Annexes, when it enters into force), an applicant seeking to enter such a Protected Site must apply to the Director of the NSF for a permit under applicable provisions of the ACA or any superseding legislation. The permit granted by NSF shall constitute a joint CEMP/ACA Protected Site permit and any person holding such a permit must comply with the appropriate CEMP Protected Site Management Plan. In all other cases, an applicant seeking a permit to enter a CEMP Protected Site must apply to the Assistant Administrator for a CEMP permit in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(b) *Responsibility of CEMP permit holders and persons designated as agents under a CEMP permit.* (1) The CEMP permit holder and person designated as agents under a CEMP permit are jointly and severally responsible for compliance with the Act, this subpart, and any permit issued under this subpart.

(2) The CEMP permit holder and agents designated under a CEMP permit are responsible for the acts of their employees and agents constituting violations, regardless of whether the specific acts were authorized or forbidden by the CEMP permit holder or agents, and regardless of knowledge concerning their occurrence.

(c) *Prohibitions regarding the Antarctic Treaty System and other applicable treaties and statutes.* Holders of permits to enter CEMP Protected Sites are not permitted to undertake any activities within a CEMP Protected Site that are not in compliance with the provisions of:

(1) The Antarctic Treaty, including the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora (including the Protocol on the Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and its Annexes when it enters into force), as implemented under by the ACA and any superseding legislation. (Persons interested in conducting activities subject to the Antarctic Treaty or the Protocol should contact the Office of Polar Programs, NSF).

(2) The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals.

(3) The Convention and its Conservation Measures in force, implemented under the Act.

(d) *Prohibitions on takings.* Permits issued under this section do not authorize any takings as defined in the applicable statutes and implementing regulations governing the activities of persons in Antarctica.

(e) *Issuance criteria.* Permits designated in this section may be issued by the Assistant Administrator upon a determination that:

(1) The specific activities meet the requirements of the Act.

(2) There is sufficient reason, established in the permit application, that the scientific purpose for the intended entry cannot be served elsewhere.

(3) The actions permitted will not violate any provisions or prohibitions of the Protected Site's Management Plan submitted in compliance with the CCAMLR Conservation Measure describing the Procedures for According Protection to CEMP Sites.

(f) *Application process.* An applicant seeking a CEMP permit from the Assistant Administrator to enter a CEMP Protected Site shall include the following in the application.

(1) A detailed justification that the scientific objectives of the applicant cannot be accomplished elsewhere and a description of how said objectives will be accomplished within the terms of the Protected Site's Management Plan.

(2) A statement signed by the applicant that the applicant has read and fully understands the provisions and prohibitions of the Protected Site's Management Plan. Prospective applicants may obtain copies of the relevant Management Plans and the CCAMLR Conservation Measure describing the Procedures for According Protection to CEMP Sites by requesting them from the Assistant Administrator.

(g) *Conditions.* CEMP permits issued under this section will contain special and general conditions including a condition that the permit holder shall submit a report describing the activities conducted under the permit within 30 days of the expiration of the CEMP permit.

(h) *Duration.* Permits issued under this section are valid for a period of up to five years. Applicants requesting a permit to reenter a Protected Site must include the most recent report required by the general condition in the previously issued CEMP permit describing the activities conducted under authority of that permit.

(i) *Transfer.* CEMP permits are not transferable or assignable. A CEMP permit is valid only for the person to whom it is issued.

(j) *Modification.* (1) CEMP permits can be modified by submitting a request to the Assistant Administrator. Such requests shall specify:

(i) The action proposed to be taken along with a summary of the reasons therefore.

(ii) The steps that the permit holder may take to demonstrate or achieve compliance with all lawful requirements.

(2) If a requested modification is not in compliance with the terms of the Protected Site's Management Plan, the Assistant Administrator will treat the requested modification as an application for a new CEMP permit and so notify the holder. Modifications will be acted upon within 30 days of receipt. The CEMP permit holder must report to the Assistant Administrator any change in previously submitted information within 10 days of the change.

(3) Additional conditions and restrictions. The Assistant Administrator may revise the CEMP permit effective upon notification of the permit holder, to impose additional conditions and restrictions as necessary to achieve the purposes of the Convention, the Act and the CEMP Management Plan. The CEMP permit holder must, as soon as possible, notify any and all agents operating under the permit of any and all revisions or modifications to the permit.

(k) *Revocation or suspension.* CEMP permits may be revoked or suspended based upon information received by the Assistant Administrator and such revocation or suspension shall be effective upon notification to the permit holder.

(1) A CEMP permit may be revoked or suspended based on a violation of the permit, the Act, or this subpart.

(2) Failure to report a change in the information submitted in a CEMP permit application within 10 days of the change is a violation of this subpart and voids the application or permit, as applicable. Title 15 CFR part 904 governs permit sanctions under this subpart.

(l) *Exceptions.* Entry into a Protected Site described in this section is lawful if committed under emergency conditions to prevent the loss of human life, compromise human safety, prevent the loss of vessels or aircraft, or to prevent environmental damage.

(m) *Protected sites.* (1) Sites protected by the Antarctic Treaty and regulated under the ACA are listed at 45 CFR part 670 subparts G and H.

(2) The following sites have been identified as CEMP Protected Sites subject to the regulatory authority of the Act:

(i) *Seal Islands, South Shetland Islands*—The Seal Islands are composed of islands and skerries located approximately 7 km north of the northwest corner of Elephant Island, South Shetland Islands. The Seal Islands CEMP Protected Site includes the entire Seal Islands group, which is defined as Seal Island plus any land or rocks exposed at mean low tide within a distance of 5.5 km of the point of highest elevation on Seal Island. Seal Island is situated at 60°59'14" S. lat., 55°23'04" W. long.

(ii) *Cape Shirreff and the San Telmo Islands.* This designation takes effect on May 1, 1995. Cape Shirreff is a low, ice-free peninsula towards the western end of the north coast of Livingston Island,

South Shetland Islands, situated at 62°29' S. lat., 60°47' W. long., between Barclay Bay and Hero Bay. San Telmo Island is the largest of a small group of ice-free rock islets, approximately 2 km west of Cape Shirreff. The boundaries of the Cape Shirreff CEMP Protected Site are identical to the boundaries of the Site of Special Scientific Interest No. 32, as specified by ATCM Recommendation XV-7. No manmade boundary markers indicate the limits of the SSSI or protected site. The boundaries are defined by natural features and include the entire area of the Cape Shirreff peninsula north of the glacier ice tongue margin, and most of the San Telmo Island group. For the purposes of the protected site, the entire area of Cape Shirreff and the San Telmo Island group is defined as any land or rocks exposed at mean low tide within the area delimited by the map of SSSI No. 32 and available from the Assistant Administrator.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 68 FR 23227, May 1, 2003]



#### **§300.104 Scientific research.**

(a) The management measures issued pursuant to the procedures at §300.111 do not apply to catches of less than 5 tons taken by any vessel for research purposes, unless otherwise indicated.

(b) Catches taken by any vessel for research purposes will be considered as part of any catch limit.

(c) The catch reporting procedure identified in management measures issued pursuant to the procedures at §300.111 applies whenever the catch within any 5-day reporting period exceeds 5 tons, unless more specific reporting requirements apply to the species being fished.

(d) Any person, organization or institution planning to use a vessel for research purposes, when the estimated catch is expected to be less than 50 tons, must provide the following vessel and research notification to the Assistant Administrator at least 2 months in advance of the planned research:

- (1) Name and registration number of vessel.
- (2) Division and subarea in which research is to be carried out.
- (3) Estimated dates of entering and leaving CCAMLR Convention Area.
- (4) Purposes of research.
- (5) Fishing equipment to be used (bottom trawl, midwater trawl, longline, crab pots, other).

(e) The following measures apply to any person planning to use any vessel for research purposes, when the estimated catch is expected to be more than 50 tons:

(1) The person must use the CCAMLR Format for Reporting Plans for Finfish Surveys in the Convention Area when the Total Catch is Expected to be More Than 50 Tons to report the details of the research plan to the Assistant Administrator at least 7 months in advance of the planned starting date for the research. A copy of the format is available from the Assistant Administrator.

(2) The format requires:

- (i) The name of the CCAMLR Member.
- (ii) Survey details.



- (iii) Description of the vessel.
- (iv) Description of the fishing gear to be used.
- (v) Description of acoustic gear to be used.
- (vi) Survey design and methods of data analyses.
- (vii) Data to be collected.

(3) A summary of the results of any research fishing subject to these provisions must be provided to the Assistant Administrator within 150 days of the completion of the research fishing and a full report must be provided within 11 months.

(4) Catch and effort data resulting from the research fishing must be reported to the Assistant Administrator using the CCAMLR C4 haul-by-haul reporting format for research vessels.



### **§300.105 Initiating a new fishery.**

(a) A new fishery, for purposes of this section, is a fishery on a species using a particular method in a statistical subarea for which:

(1) Information on distribution, abundance, demography, potential yield and stock identity from comprehensive research/surveys or exploratory fishing has not been submitted to CCAMLR;

(2) Catch and effort data have never been submitted to CCAMLR; or

(3) Catch and effort data from the two most recent seasons in which fishing occurred have not been submitted to CCAMLR.

(b) An individual subject to these regulations intending to develop a new fishery shall notify the Assistant Administrator no later than July 1 of the year in which he or she intends to initiate the fishery and shall not initiate the fishery pending CCAMLR review.

(c) The notification shall be accompanied by information on:

(1) The nature of the proposed fishery, including target species, methods of fishing, proposed region and any minimum level of catches that would be required to develop a viable fishery.

(2) Biological information from comprehensive research/survey cruises, such as distribution, abundance, demographic data and information on stock identity.

(3) Details of dependent and associated species and the likelihood of them being affected by the proposed fishery.

(4) Information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere that may assist in the valuation of potential yield.



### **§300.106 Exploratory fisheries.**

(a) An exploratory fishery, for purposes of this section, is a fishery that was previously defined as a new fishery under §300.105.

(b) A fishery will continue to be classified as an exploratory fishery until sufficient information is available to:

(1) Evaluate the distribution, abundance, and demography of the target species, leading to an estimate of the fishery's potential yield.

(2) Review the fishery's potential impacts on dependent and related species.

(3) Allow the CCAMLR Scientific Committee to formulate and provide advice to the Commission on appropriate harvest catch levels and fishing gear.

(c) The operator of any vessel engaging in an exploratory fishery must submit, by the date specified in the operator's harvesting permit, catch, effort, and related biological, ecological, and environmental data as required by a data collection plan for the fishery formulated by the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.

(d) In addition to the requirements in §300.112, any individual planning to enter an exploratory fishery must notify the Assistant Administrator no later than 4 months in advance of the annual meeting of CCAMLR. The Assistant Administrator will not issue a permit to enter an exploratory fishery until after the requirements of §300.112 have been met and the meeting of CCAMLR, which receives and considers the notice made to the Assistant Administrator, has been concluded.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 72 FR 48509, Aug. 23, 2007]



### **§300.107 Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.**

(a) *Vessels*. The operator of any vessel required to have a harvesting permit under this subpart must:

(1) Accurately maintain on board the vessel all CCAMLR reports and records required by its permit.

(2) Make such reports and records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector.

(3) Within the time specified in the permit, submit a copy of such reports and records to NMFS at an address designated by NMFS.

(4) Install a NMFS approved VMS unit on board U.S. vessels harvesting AMLR for use in real-time C-VMS port-to-port reporting to a NMFS-designated land-based fisheries monitoring center or centers. The requirements for the installation and operation of the VMS are set forth in §300.116.

(b) *Dealers*. Dealers of AMLRs required to have a permit under this subpart must:

(1) Accurately maintain all reports and records required by their permits;

(2) Make such reports and records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector; and

(3) Within the time specified in the permit, submit a copy of such reports and records to NMFS at an address designated by NMFS.

(c) *Catch documentation*—(1) *General*. (i) The CCAMLR DCD must accompany all shipments of *Dissostichus* species as required in this paragraph (c).

(ii) No shipment of *Dissostichus* species shall be released for entry into the United States unless accompanied by a complete and validated CCAMLR DCD.

(iii) No shipment of *Dissostichus* species identified as originating from a high seas area designated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as Statistical Area 51 or Statistical Area 57 in the eastern and western Indian Ocean outside and north of the Convention Area shall be issued a preapproval.

(2) *Harvesting vessels*. (i) In addition to any AMLR harvesting permit or a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act permit issued pursuant to §300.12, a U.S. vessel harvesting or attempting to harvest *Dissostichus* species, wherever found, must possess a DCD issued by NMFS which is non-transferable. The master of the harvesting vessel must ensure that catch information specified on the DCD is accurately recorded.

(ii) Prior to offloading of *Dissostichus* species, the master of the harvesting vessel must:

(A) electronically convey by the most rapid means possible catch information to NMFS and record on the DCD a confirmation number received from NMFS;

(B) Obtain on the DCD (or copies thereof) the signature(s) of the following persons: if catch is offloaded for transshipment, the master of the vessel(s) to which the catch is transferred; or if catch is offloaded for landing, the signature of both the responsible official(s) designated by NMFS in the harvesting permit, and the dealer(s) that receives the catch at the port(s) of landing; and

(C) Sign the DCD (or copies thereof), electronically convey by the most rapid means possible each copy to NMFS, and provide a copy to each recipient of the catch.

(iii) The master of the harvesting vessel must submit the original DCD (or all copies thereof with original signatures) to NMFS no later than 30 days after the end of the fishing season as authorized for that vessel on its harvesting permit.

(3) *Transshipment vessels*. (i) The master of a U.S. vessel issued a permit to transship *Dissostichus* species must, upon receipt of *Dissostichus* species, sign each DCD provided by the master of the harvesting vessel.

(ii) Prior to landing *Dissostichus* species, the master of the transshipping vessel must:

(A) Obtain on each DCD (or copies thereof) the signature(s) of both the responsible official(s) designated by NMFS in the permit, and the dealer(s) that receives the catch at the port(s) of landing and

(B) Sign each DCD (or copies thereof), and electronically convey by the most rapid means possible each copy to NMFS and to the flag state(s) of the harvesting vessel(s) and provide a copy to each dealer receiving *Dissostichus* species.

(iii) The master of the transshipping vessel must submit all DCDs with original signatures to NMFS no later than 30 days after offloading and retain copies for a period of 2 years.

(4) *Receivers upon landing*. Any dealer who receives *Dissostichus* species from a harvesting vessel or from a transshipment vessel must sign the DCD(s) provided by the master of the vessel.

(5) *Import*. (i) In order to import frozen *Dissostichus* species into the United States, any dealer must:

(A) Submit a preapproval application including the document number and export reference number on the DCD corresponding to the intended import shipment and, if necessary, additional information for NMFS to verify the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port regardless of where the fish were harvested; and receive preapproval from NMFS.

(B) Ensure that the quantity of toothfish listed on the DCD (or *Dissostichus* re-export document if product is to be re-exported) matches the quantity listed on the preapproval application within a variance of 10 percent,

(C) The document and export reference numbers described in paragraph (c)(5)(i)(A) of this section must be entered by the dealer on the preapproval application for the shipment and sent to the address designated by NMFS so that NMFS receives the documentation at least 15 working days prior to import.

(D) Retain a copy of the DCD for his/her records and provide copies to exporters as needed.

(ii) Dealers must retain at their place of business a copy of the DCD for a period of 2 years from the date on the DCD.

(iii) Any dealer who imports fresh *Dissostichus* species must complete a report of each shipment and submit the report to NMFS within 24 hours following importation. Verification of the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port is not required for imports of fresh *Dissostichus* species.

(6) *Re-export.* (i) In order to re-export *Dissostichus* species, any dealer must:

(A) Submit to NMFS a completed paper-based NMFS application for a *Dissostichus* re-export document that includes the following information:

(1) The species, product type, and amount from the original DCD(s) that is requested for export in the particular export shipment;

(2) The number of the original DCD(s);

(3) The name and address of the importer and point of import for the original import into the United States, or by submitting a copy of the preapproval issued for the original import;

(4) One of the following:

(i) The Container Number for the shipment if shipment is to be re-exported by vessel;

(ii) The Flight Number and Airway Bill/Bill of Lading if shipment is to be re-exported by air;

(iii) The Truck Registration Number and Nationality if shipment is to be re-exported by ground transportation; or

(iv) The Railway Transport Number if shipment is to be re-exported by rail.

(5) The dealer/exporter's name, address, and AMLR permit number; and

(6) The dealer's signature.

(B) Obtain validation by a responsible official(s) designated by NMFS and receive an electronically-generated *Dissostichus* re-export document.

(ii) For frozen *Dissostichus* species, re-export documents will be generated upon verification of the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port except for *Dissostichus* species harvested during fishing trips that began prior to September 24, 2007.

(iii) Dealers must include the original validated *Dissostichus* re-export document with the re-export shipment.

(iv) Any dealer who re-exports *Dissostichus* species must retain a copy of the re-export document at his/her place of business for a period of 2 years from the date on the DCD.

(7) *Export.* (i) In order to export U.S.-harvested *Dissostichus* species, any dealer must:

(A) Submit to NMFS a completed paper-based NMFS application for a *Dissostichus* export document that includes the following information:

(1) The species, product type, and amount from the original DCD(s) that is requested for export in the particular export shipment;

(2) The number of the original DCD(s);

(3) One of the following:

(i) The Container Number for the shipment if shipment is to be exported by vessel;

(ii) The Flight Number and Airway Bill/Bill of Lading if shipment is to be exported by air;

(iii) The Truck Registration Number and Nationality if shipment is to be exported by ground transportation; or

(iv) The Railway Transport Number if shipment is to be exported by rail.

(4) The dealer/exporter's name, address, and AMLR permit number;

(5) For frozen *Dissostichus* species, verification of the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port except for *Dissostichus* species harvested during fishing trips that began prior to September 24, 2007; and

(6) The dealer's signature.

(B) Obtain validation by a responsible official(s) designated by NMFS and receive an electronically-generated *Dissostichus* export document.

(ii) Dealers must include the original validated *Dissostichus* export document with the export shipment.

(iii) Any dealer who exports *Dissostichus* species must retain a copy of the export document at his/her place of business for a period of 2 years from the date on the DCD.

[65 FR 30016, May 10, 2000, as amended at 68 FR 23228, May 1, 2003; 72 FR 48509, Aug. 23, 2007; 75 FR 18112, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.108 Vessel and gear identification.**

(a) *Vessel identification.* (1) The operator of each harvesting vessel assigned an IRCS must display that call sign amidships on both the port and starboard sides of the deckhouse or hull, so that it

is visible from an enforcement or inspection vessel, and on an appropriate weather deck so that it is visible from the air.

(2) The operator of each harvesting vessel not assigned an IRCS, such as a small trawler associated with a mothership or one of a pair of trawlers, must display the IRCS of the associated vessel, followed by a numerical suffix specific for the non-assigned vessel.

(3) The vessel identification must be in a color in contrast to the background and must be permanently affixed to the harvesting vessel in block roman alphabet letters and arabic numerals at least 1 m in height for harvesting vessels over 20 m in length, and at least 0.5 m in height for all other harvesting vessels.

(b) *Navigational lights and shapes.* Each harvesting vessel must display the lights and shapes prescribed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (TIAS 8587, and 1981 amendment TIAS 10672), for the activity in which the harvesting vessel is engaged (as described at 33 CFR part 81).

(c) *Gear identification.* (1) The operator of each harvesting vessel must ensure that all deployed fishing gear that is not physically and continuously attached to a harvesting vessel is clearly marked at the surface with a buoy displaying the vessel identification of the harvesting vessel (see paragraph (a) of this section) to which the gear belongs, a light visible for 2 miles at night in good visibility, and a radio buoy. Trawl codends passed from one vessel to another are considered continuously attached gear and do not have to be marked.

(2) The operator of each harvesting vessel must ensure that deployed longlines, strings of traps or pots, and gillnets are marked at the surface at each terminal end with a buoy displaying the vessel identification of the harvesting vessel to which the gear belongs (see paragraph (a) of this section), a light visible for 2 miles at night in good visibility, and a radio buoy.

(3) Unmarked or incorrectly identified fishing gear may be considered abandoned and may be disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal regulations by any authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector.

(d) *Maintenance.* The operator of each harvesting vessel must:

(1) Keep the vessel and gear identification clearly legible and in good repair.

(2) Ensure that nothing on the harvesting vessel obstructs the view of the markings from an enforcement or inspection vessel or aircraft.

(3) Ensure that the proper navigational lights and shapes are displayed for the harvesting vessel's activity and are properly functioning.



### **§300.109 Gear disposal.**

(a) The operator of a harvesting vessel may not dump overboard, jettison or otherwise discard any article or substance that may interfere with other fishing vessels or gear, or that may catch fish or cause damage to any marine resource, including marine mammals and birds, except in cases of emergency involving the safety of the ship or crew, or as specifically authorized by communication from the appropriate USCG commander or authorized officer. These articles and substances include, but are not limited to, fishing gear, net scraps, bale straps, plastic bags, oil drums, petroleum containers, oil, toxic chemicals or any manmade items retrieved in a harvesting vessel's gear.

(b) The operator of a harvesting vessel may not abandon fishing gear in Convention waters.

(c) The operator of a harvesting vessel must provide a copy of the CCAMLR information brochure "Marine Debris—A Potential Threat to Antarctic Marine Mammals" to each member of the crew of the harvesting vessel and must display copies of the CCAMLR placard "Avoidance of Incidental Mortality of Antarctic Marine Mammals" in the wheelhouse and crew quarters of the harvesting vessels. Copies of the brochure and placard will be provided to each holder of a harvesting permit by NMFS when issuing the permit.



### **§300.110 Mesh size.**

(a) The use of pelagic and bottom trawls having the mesh size in any part of a trawl less than indicated is prohibited for any directed fishing for the following Antarctic finfishes:

(1) *Notothenia rossii* and *Dissostichus eleginoides*—120 mm.

(2) *Champscephalus gunnari*—90 mm.

(3) *Gobionotothen gibberifrons*, *Notothenia kempfi* and *Lepidorhirus squamifrons*—80 mm.

(b) Any means or device that would reduce the size or obstruct the opening of the meshes is prohibited.

(c) The following procedure will be used for determining compliance with mesh size requirements.

(1) *Description of gauges.* (i) Gauges for determining mesh sizes will be 2 mm thick, flat, of durable material and capable of retaining their shape. They may have either a series of parallel-sided sides connected by intermediate tapering edges with a taper of one to eight on each side, or only tapering edges with the taper defined above. They will have a hole at the narrowest extremity.

(ii) Each gauge will be inscribed on its face with the width in millimeters both on the parallel-sided section, if any, and on the tapering section. In the case of the latter, the width will be inscribed every 1 mm interval, but the indication of the width may appear at regular intervals other than 1 mm.

(2) *Use of the gauge.* (i) The net will be stretched in the direction of the long diagonal of the meshes.

(ii) A gauge as described in paragraph (c)(1) of this section will be inserted by its narrowest extremity into the mesh opening in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the net.

(iii) The gauge may be inserted into the mesh opening either with a manual force or using a weight or dynamometer, until it is stopped at the tapering edges by the resistance of the mesh.

(3) *Selection of meshes to be measured.* (i) Meshes to be measured will form a series of 20 consecutive meshes chosen in the direction of the long axis of the net, except that the meshes to be measured need not be consecutive if the application of paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section prevents it.

(ii) Meshes less than 50 cm from lacings, ropes, or codline will not be measured. This distance will be measured perpendicular to the lacings, ropes or codline with the net stretched in the direction of that measurement. No mesh will be measured which has been mended or broken or has attachments to the net fixed at that mesh.

(iii) Nets will be measured only when wet and unfrozen.

(4) The measurement of each mesh will be the width of the gauge at the point where the gauge is stopped, when using this gauge in accordance with paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(5) Determination of the mesh size of the net will be the arithmetical mean in millimeters of the measurements of the total number of meshes selected and measured as provided for in paragraphs (c) (3) and (4) of this section, the arithmetical mean being rounded up to the next millimeter.

(6) *Inspection procedure.* (i) One series of 20 meshes, selected in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section, will be measured by inserting the gauge manually without using a weight or dynamometer. The mesh size of the net will then be determined in accordance with paragraph (c)(5) of this section. If the calculation of the mesh size shows that the mesh size does not appear to comply with the rules in force, then two additional series of 20 meshes selected in accordance with paragraph (c)(3) of this section will be measured. The mesh size will then be recalculated in accordance with paragraph (c)(5) of this section, taking into account the 60 meshes already measured; this recalculation will be the mesh size of the net.

(ii) If the captain of the vessel contests the mesh size determined in accordance with paragraph (c)(6)(i) of this section, such measurement will not be considered for the determination of the mesh size and the net will be remeasured.

(A) A weight or dynamometer attached to the gauge will be used for remeasurement. The choice of weight or dynamometer is at the discretion of the inspectors. The weight will be fixed to the hole in the narrowest extremity of the gauge using a hook. The dynamometer may either be fixed to the hole in the narrowest extremity of the gauge or be applied at the largest extremity of the gauge.

(B) The accuracy of the weight or dynamometer must be certified by the appropriate national authority.

(C) For nets of a mesh size of 35 mm or less as determined in accordance with paragraph (c)(6)(i) of this section, a force of 19.61 newtons (equivalent to a mass of 2 kg) will be applied, and for other nets, a force of 49.03 newtons (equivalent to a mass of 5 kg).

(D) For the purposes of determining the mesh size in accordance with paragraph (c)(5) of this section, when using a weight or dynamometer, one series of 20 meshes only will be measured.



### **§300.112 Harvesting permits.**

(a) *General.* (1) Every vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States that attempts to reduce or reduces any AMLR to possession must have a harvesting permit authorizing the attempt or reduction, unless the attempt or reduction occurs during recreational fishing or is covered by an individual permit. Boats launched from a vessel issued a harvesting permit do not require a separate permit, but are covered by the permit issued the launching vessel. Any enforcement action that results from the activities of a launched boat will be taken against the launching vessel.

(2) Permits issued under this section do not authorize vessels or persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to harass, capture, harm, kill, harvest, or import marine mammals. No marine mammals may be taken in the course of commercial fishing operations unless the taking is allowed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and/or the Endangered Species Act pursuant to an exemption or permit granted by the appropriate agency.

(b) *Responsibility of owners and operators.* (1) The owners and operators of each harvesting vessel are jointly and severally responsible for compliance with the Act, this subpart, and any permit issued under the Act and this subpart.



(2) The owners and operators of each such vessel are responsible for the acts of their employees and agents constituting violations, regardless of whether the specific acts were authorized or forbidden by the owners or operators, and regardless of knowledge concerning their occurrence.

(3) The owner of such vessel must report any sale, change in ownership, or other disposition of the vessel to the Assistant Administrator within 15 days of the occurrence.

(4) The owners and operators of each krill harvesting vessel using trawl gear in Convention Area fisheries must install a seal excluder device.

(c) *Application.* Application forms for harvesting permits are available at [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/gpea\\_forms.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/gpea_forms.htm).

(1) A separate fully completed and accurate application must be completed and received by NMFS for each vessel for which a harvesting permit is requested.

(2) Applications for permits to harvest species other than krill must be received by NMFS at least 90 days before the date anticipated for the beginning of harvesting.

(3) Applications for a permit to harvest krill must be received by NMFS no later than June 1 immediately prior to the season in which the harvesting would occur. The applications must, to the extent possible, identify the products to be derived from the anticipated krill catch.

(d) *Issuance.* The Assistant Administrator may issue a harvesting permit to a vessel if the Assistant Administrator determines that the harvesting described in the application will meet the requirements of the Act and will not:

(1) Decrease the size of any harvested population to levels below those that ensure its stable recruitment. For this purpose, the Convention recommends that its size not be allowed to fall below a level close to that which ensures the greatest net annual increment.

(2) Upset the ecological relationships between harvested, dependent, and related populations of AMLRs and the restoration of depleted populations to levels that will ensure stable recruitment.

(3) Cause changes or increase the risk of changes in the marine ecosystem that are not potentially reversible over 2 or 3 decades, taking into account the state of available knowledge of the direct and indirect impact of harvesting, the effect of the introduction of alien species, the effects of associated activities on the marine ecosystem and of the effects of environmental changes, with the aim of making possible the sustained conservation of AMLRs.

(4) Violate the management measures issued pursuant to §300.111 of this subpart.

(5) Violate any other conservation measures in force with respect to the United States under the Convention or the Act.

(e) *Duration.* A harvesting permit is valid from its date of issuance to its date of expiration unless it is revoked or suspended.

(f) *Transfer.* Permits are not transferable or assignable. A permit is valid only for the vessel to which it is issued.

(g) *Display.* Each harvesting vessel when engaged in harvesting must either have on board an up-to-date copy of its harvesting permit or a fully completed and up-to-date harvesting vessel certificate and the vessel operator must produce it for inspection upon the request of an authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector. In order for the certificate to be considered complete, the vessel owner or operator must enter on it the name and IRCS of the vessel issued the harvesting permit, the number of the harvesting permit and its date of issuance and expiration, the harvesting authorized by

the permit, and all conditions and restrictions contained in the permit. Blank certificates are available from the Assistant Administrator.

(h) *Changes in information submitted by permit applicants or holders—(1) Changes in pending applications.* Applicants for a harvesting permit must report to the Assistant Administrator in writing any change in the information contained in the application. The processing period for the application will be extended as necessary to review the change.

(2) *Changes occurring after permit issuance—(i) Changes other than in the manner and amount of harvesting.* The owner or operator of a vessel that has been issued a harvesting permit must report to the Assistant Administrator in writing any change in previously submitted information other than a proposed change in the location, manner, or amount of harvesting within 15 days of the change. Based on such reported information, the Assistant Administrator may revise the permit effective upon notification to the permit holder. As soon as possible, the vessel owner or operator must revise any harvesting vessel certificate evidencing the permit, accordingly.

(ii) *Requested changes in the location, manner, or amount of harvesting.* Any changes in the manner or amount of harvesting must be proposed in writing to the Assistant Administrator and may not be undertaken unless authorized by the Assistant Administrator through a permit revision or issuance of a new permit. If a requested change in the location, manner, or amount of harvesting could significantly affect the status of any Antarctic marine living resource, the Assistant Administrator will treat the requested change as an application for a new permit and so notify the holder.

(i) *Additional conditions and restrictions.* The Assistant Administrator may revise the harvesting permit, effective upon notification to the permit holder, to impose additional conditions and restrictions on the harvesting vessel as necessary to achieve the purposes of the Convention or the Act. The permit holder must, as soon as possible, direct the vessel operator to revise the harvesting vessel certificate, if any, accordingly.

(j) *Revision, suspension, or revocation for violations.* A harvesting permit may be revised, suspended, or revoked if the harvesting vessel is involved in the commission of any violation of its permit, the Act, or this subpart. Failure to report a change in the information contained in an application within 15 days of the change is a violation of this subpart and voids the application or permit, as applicable. If a change in vessel ownership is not reported, the violation is chargeable to the previous owner. Title 15 CFR part 904 governs permit sanctions under this subpart.

(k) *Transshipment vessels.* Any U.S. flagged vessel that receives or attempts to receive *Dissostichus* species from a harvesting vessel at sea, regardless of whether such transshipment occurs in waters under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR, must obtain from NMFS a harvesting permit authorizing transshipment. Transshipment vessels must comply with the permitting provisions of this section with respect to harvesting vessels.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 65 FR 30017, May 10, 2000; 72 FR 48509, Aug. 23, 2007; 75 FR 18112, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.113 Scientific observers.**

This section applies to national and international observers as defined in §300.101.

(a) This section applies to a national observer aboard U.S. vessels harvesting in the Convention Area, national observers placed on foreign flagged vessels and international observers placed on U.S. vessels harvesting in the Convention Area.

(b) All U.S. vessels fishing in the Convention Area must carry one or more scientific observers as required by CCAMLR conservation and management measures or as specified in a NMFS-issued AMLR Harvesting Permit.

(c) All U.S. vessels conducting longline sink rate testing outside the Convention area and pursuant to CCAMLR protocols must carry one or more scientific observers as specified in a NMFS-issued AMLR Harvesting Permit.

(d) *Procurement of observers by vessel.* Owners of vessels required to carry scientific observers under this section must arrange for observer services in coordination with the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division. The vessel owner is required to pay for observer services through an observer service provider who has provided observer services to the Federal government within the past year. In situations where no qualified observer is available through a qualified observer provider, the Secretary may authorize a vessel owner to arrange for an observer by alternative methods. An observer may not be paid directly by the vessel owner.

(e) *Insurance.* The observer service provider or vessel owner must provide insurance for observers that provides compensation in the event of an injury or death during the entire deployment, from the point of hire location to return, equivalent to the standards of the North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program set forth in §679.80 of this title.

(f) *Educational requirements.* National observer candidates must:

(1) Have a Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in one of the natural sciences; or

(2) Have successfully completed a minimum of 30 semester hours or equivalent in applicable biological sciences with extensive use of dichotomous keys in at least one course.

(g) *Health requirements.* National observers must have a signed and dated statement from a licensed physician that he or she has physically examined the observer. The statement must confirm that, based upon the physical examination, the observer does not have any health problems or conditions that would jeopardize that individual's safety or the safety of others while deployed, or prevent the observer from performing his or her duties satisfactorily. The statement must declare that prior to the examination; the physician was made aware of the duties of an observer and the dangerous, remote and rigorous nature of the work. The physician's statement must be submitted to the NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division program office prior to approval of an observer. The physical exam must have occurred during the 12 months prior to the observer's deployment. The physician's statement will expire 12 months after the physical exam occurred. A new physical exam must be performed, and accompanying statement submitted, prior to any deployment occurring after the expiration of the statement.

(h) *Vessel responsibilities.* An operator of a vessel required to carry one or more scientific observers must:

(1) *Accommodations and food.* Provide, at no cost to the observers or the United States, accommodations and food on the vessel for the observer or observers that are equivalent to those provided for officers of the vessel; and

(2) *Safe conditions.* (i) Maintain safe conditions on the vessel for the protection of observers including adherence to all U.S. Coast Guard and other applicable rules, regulations, or statutes pertaining to safe operation of the vessel.

(ii) Have on board:

(A) A valid Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal issued within the past 2 years that certifies compliance with regulations found in 33 CFR chapter I and 46 CFR chapter I. NMFS will grant a waiver from the Voluntary Safety decal provision if the vessel is in compliance with the standards of the observer vessel safety check list developed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/> or equivalent certification issued by the Flagging State;

(B) A certificate of compliance issued pursuant to 46 CFR 28.710; or

(C) A valid certificate of inspection pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 3311.

(3) *Health and safety regulations.* Comply with the Observer health and safety regulations at part 600 of this title. NMFS will grant a waiver from the Voluntary Safety decal provision if the vessel is in compliance with the standards of the observer vessel safety check list.

(4) *Transmission of data.* Facilitate transmission of observer data by allowing observers, on request, to use the vessel's communications equipment and personnel for the confidential entry, transmission, and receipt of work-related messages.

(5) *Vessel position.* Allow observers access to, and the use of, the vessel's navigation equipment and personnel, on request, to determine the vessel's position, course and speed.

(6) *Access.* Allow observers free and unobstructed access to the vessel's bridge, trawl or working decks, holding bins, processing areas, freezer spaces, weight scales, cargo holds, and any other space that may be used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish or fish products at any time.

(7) *Prior notification.* Notify observers at least 15 minutes before fish are brought on board, or fish and fish products are transferred from the vessel, to allow sampling the catch or observing the transfer, unless the observers specifically request not to be notified.

(8) *Records.* Allow observers to inspect and copy the vessel's CCAMLR DCD, product transfer forms, any other logbook or document required by regulations, printouts or tallies of scale weights, scale calibration records, bin sensor readouts, and production records.

(9) *Assistance.* Provide all other reasonable assistance to enable observers to carry out their duties, including, but not limited to:

(i) Measuring decks, codends, and holding bins;

(ii) Providing the observers with a safe work area adjacent to the sample collection site;

(iii) Collecting bycatch when requested by the observers;

(iv) Collecting and carrying baskets of fish when requested by observers; and

(v) Allowing observers to determine the sex of fish when this procedure will not decrease the value of a significant portion of the catch.

(10) *Transfer at sea.* (i) Ensure that transfers of observers at sea via small boat or raft are carried out during daylight hours, under safe conditions, and with the agreement of observers involved.

(ii) Notify observers at least 3 hours before observers are transferred, such that the observers can collect personal belongings, equipment, and scientific samples.

(iii) Provide a safe pilot ladder and conduct the transfer to ensure the safety of observers during transfers.

(iv) Provide an experienced crew member to assist observers in the small boat or raft in which any transfer is made.

(i) *Standards of observer conduct—(1) Observers:* (i) Must not have a direct financial interest in the fishery being observed, including but not limited to:

(A) Any ownership, mortgage holder, or other secured interest in a vessel, shoreside or floating stationary processor facility involved in the catching, taking, harvesting or processing of fish;

(B) Any business involved with selling supplies or services to any vessel, shoreside or floating stationary processing facility; or

(C) Any business involved with purchasing raw or processed products from any vessel, shoreside or floating stationary processing facilities.

(ii) Must not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gratuity, gift, favor, entertainment, loan, or anything of monetary value from anyone who either conducts activities that are regulated by NMFS or has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the observers' official duties.

(iii) May not serve as observers on any vessel or at any shoreside or floating stationary processing facility owned or operated by a person who previously employed the observers.

(iv) May not solicit or accept employment as a crew member or an employee of a vessel, shoreside processor, or stationary floating processor while employed by an observer provider.

(2) Provisions for remuneration of observers under this section do not constitute a conflict of interest.

(j) *Standards of observer behavior.* Observers must avoid any behavior that could adversely affect the confidence of the public in the integrity of the Observer Program or of the government, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Observers must perform their assigned duties as described in the CCAMLR Scientific Observers Manual and must complete the CCAMLR Scientific Observer Logbooks and submit them to the CCAMLR Data Manager at the intervals specified by the Data Manager.

(2) Observers must accurately record their sampling data, write complete reports, and report accurately any observations of suspected violations of regulations relevant to conservation of marine resources or their environment.

(3) Observers must not disclose collected data and observations made on board the vessel or in the processing facility to any person except the owner or operator of the observed vessel or processing facility, or NMFS.

(4) Observers must refrain from engaging in any illegal actions or any other activities that would reflect negatively on their image as professional scientists, on other observers, or on the Observer Program as a whole. This includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Engaging in the use, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs; or

(ii) Engaging in physical sexual contact with personnel of the vessel or processing facility to which the observer is assigned, or with any vessel or processing plant personnel who may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the observer's official duties.

(k) *Sampling station.* (1) Minimum work space aboard at sea processing vessels. The observer must have a working area of 4.5 square meters, including the observer's sampling table, for sampling and storage of fish to be sampled. The observer must be able to stand upright and have a work area at least 0.9 m deep in the area in front of the table and scale.

(2) Table aboard at-sea processing vessels. The observer sampling station must include a table at least 0.6 m deep, 1.2 m wide and 0.9 m high and no more than 1.1 m high. The entire surface area of the table must be available for use by the observer. Any area for the observer sampling scale is in addition to the minimum space requirements for the table. The observer's sampling table must be secured to the floor or wall.

(3) Other requirement for at-sea processing vessels. The sampling station must be in a well-drained area that includes floor grating (or other material that prevents slipping), lighting adequate for day or night sampling, and a hose that supplies fresh or sea water to the observer.

[72 FR 48510, Aug. 23, 2007]



### **§300.114 Dealer permits and preapproval.**

(a) *General.* (1) A dealer intending to import or re-export AMLR must obtain an AMLR dealer permit valid for one year. Preapproval from NMFS is required for each shipment of frozen *Dissostichus* species. The permit holder may only conduct those specific activities stipulated by the permit.

(2) An AMLR may be imported into the United States if its harvest has been authorized by a U.S.-issued individual permit issued under §300.112(a)(1) or its importation has been authorized by a NMFS-issued dealer permit and preapproval issued under §300.114(a)(1). AMLRs may not be released for entry into the United States unless accompanied by the harvesting permit or the individual permit or dealer permit and, in the case of frozen *Dissostichus* species, the preapproval certification granted by NMFS to allow import. NMFS will only accept electronic catch documents for toothfish imports.

(3) In no event may a marine mammal be imported into the United States unless authorized and accompanied by an import permit issued under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and/or the Endangered Species Act.

(4) A dealer permit or preapproval issued under this section does not authorize the harvest or transshipment of any AMLR by or to a vessel of the United States.

(b) *Application.* Application forms for AMLR dealer permits and preapproval are available from NMFS. With the exception of the U.S. Customs 7501 entry number, a complete and accurate application must be received by NMFS for each preapproval at least 15 working days before the anticipated date of the first receipt, importation, or re-export. Dealers must supply the U.S. Customs 7501 entry number at least three working days prior to a *Dissostichus* species shipment's arrival.

(c) *Fees.* A fee to recover the administrative expenses associated with processing preapproval applications will be charged. The amount of the fee will be determined in accordance with procedures specified in the NOAA Finance Handbook for calculating administrative costs of special products and services. The fee is specified with the preapproval application form. The appropriate fee must accompany each application and be paid by check, draft, or money order.

(d) *Issuance.* NMFS may issue a dealer permit or preapproval if it determines that the activity proposed by the dealer meets the requirements of the Act and that the resources were not or will not be harvested in violation of any CCAMLR conservation measure or in violation of any regulation in this subpart. No preapproval will be issued for *Dissostichus* species without verifiable documentation, to include VMS reports with vessel location and messages, of the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port by the vessel that harvested such *Dissostichus* species, except for *Dissostichus* species harvested during fishing trips that began prior to September 24, 2007.

(e) *Duration.* A permit issued under this section is valid from its date of issuance to its date of expiration unless it is revoked or suspended. A preapproval is valid until the product is imported (and re-exported, if applicable).

(f) *Transfer.* A permit issued under this section is not transferable or assignable.

(g) *Changes in information*—(1) Pending applications. Applicants for permits and preapproval under this section must report in writing to NMFS any change in the information submitted in their permit and preapproval applications. The processing period for the application may be extended as necessary to review and consider the change.

(2) Issued permits and preapprovals. Any entity issued a permit or preapproval under this section must report in writing to NMFS any changes in previously submitted information. Any changes that would result in a change in the receipt or importation authorized by the preapproval, such as harvesting vessel or country of origin, type and quantity of the resource to be received or imported, and Convention statistical subarea from which the resource was harvested, must be proposed in writing to NMFS and may not be undertaken unless authorized by NMFS through issuance of a revised or new preapproval.

(h) *Revision, suspension, or revocation*. A permit or preapproval issued under this section may be revised, suspended, or revoked, based upon a violation of the permit, the Act, or this subpart. Failure to report a change in the information contained in a permit or preapproval application voids the application, permit, or preapproval as applicable. Title 15 CFR part 904 governs permit sanctions under this subpart.

(i) *Exception*. Preapproval is not required for shipments of fresh *Dissostichus* species. A report of a shipment of fresh *Dissostichus* species must be completed and submitted to NMFS within 24 hours following import.

(j) *SVDCD*. Dealer permits will not be issued for *Dissostichus* spp. offered for sale or other disposition under a Specially Validated DCD.

(k) *Registered agent*. Foreign entities shall, as a condition of possessing a dealer permit, designate and maintain a registered agent within the United States that is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of that entity. Foreign based importers of record may identify to NMFS the registered agent identified for Customs Service purposes.

[68 FR 23228, May 1, 2003. Redesignated and amended at 72 FR 48510, 48511, Aug. 23, 2007; 75 FR 18112, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.115 Appointment of a designated representative.**

(a) All holders of permits authorizing fishing in subarea 48.3 must appoint a designated representative in the United States.

(b) The designated representative will be notified of closures under §300.111 and must transmit this information to the vessel on the grounds.

(c) The designated representative may receive catch reports from the vessel and transmit the reports to NMFS in writing.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996. Redesignated at 72 FR 48510, Aug. 23, 2007]



### **§300.116 Requirements for a vessel monitoring system for U.S. vessels.**

(a) *Requirement for use*. Within 30 days after NMFS publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a list of approved transmitting units and associated communications service providers for the AMLR fishery, an owner or operator of a vessel that has been issued a harvesting permit for AMLR must ensure that such vessel has a NMFS-approved, operating VMS on board when on any fishing trip involving the

harvesting of AMLR. An operating VMS includes an operating mobile transmitting unit on the vessel and a functioning communication link between the unit and NMFS as provided by a NMFS-approved communication service provider.

(b) *Installing and activating the VMS.* Only a VMS that has been approved by NMFS for use in the AMLR fishery may be used. When installing and activating the NMFS-approved VMS, or when reinstalling and reactivating such VMS, the vessel owner or operator must—

(1) Follow procedures indicated on an installation and activation checklist, which is available from OLE; and

(2) Submit to OLE a statement certifying compliance with the checklist, as prescribed on the checklist.

(c) *Interference with the VMS.* No person may interfere with, tamper with, alter, damage, disable, or impede the operation of the VMS, or attempt any of the same.

(d) *Interruption of operation of the VMS.* When a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner or operator must immediately contact OLE, and follow instructions from that office. If notified by NMFS that a vessel's VMS is not operating properly, the owner and operator must follow instructions from that office. In either event, such instructions may include, but are not limited to, manually communicating to a location designated by NMFS the vessel's positions or returning to port until the VMS is operable.

(e) *Access to position data.* As a condition of authorized fishing for or possession of AMLR, a vessel owner or operator subject to the requirements for a VMS in this section must allow NMFS, the USCG, and their authorized officers and designees access to the vessel's position data obtained from the VMS.

(f) *Installation and operation of the VMS.* NMFS has authority over the installation and operation of the VMS unit. NMFS may authorize the connection or order the disconnection of additional equipment, including a computer, to any VMS unit when deemed appropriate by NMFS.

[72 FR 48511, Aug. 23, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 18113, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.117 Prohibitions.**

In addition to the prohibitions in §300.4, it is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Reduce to possession or attempt to reduce to possession any AMLRs without a permit for such activity as required by §300.112.

(b) Import into or export from the United States any AMLRs taken by vessels without a permit to harvest those resources as required by §300.112 (a)(1), or without applicable catch documentation as required by §300.107 (c)(1), or without a dealer permit as required by §300.113 (a)(1), or in violation of the terms and conditions for such import or export as specified on the permit.

(c) Engage in harvesting or other associated activities in violation of the provisions of the Convention or in violation of a conservation measure in force with respect to the United States under Article IX of the Convention.

(d) Ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export or have custody, control or possession of, any AMLR that he or she knows, or reasonably should have known, was harvested in violation of a conservation measure in force with respect to the United States under article IX of the



Convention or in violation of any regulation promulgated under this subpart, without regard to the citizenship of the person that harvested, or vessel that was used in the harvesting of, the AMLR.

(e) Refuse to allow any CCAMLR inspector to board a vessel of the United States or a vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States for the purpose of conducting an inspection authorized by the Act, this subpart, or any permit issued under the Act.

(f) Refuse to provide appropriate assistance, including access as necessary to communications equipment, to CCAMLR inspectors.

(g) Refuse to sign a written notification of alleged violations of Commission measures in effect prepared by a CCAMLR inspector.

(h) Assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with a CCAMLR inspector in the conduct of any boarding or inspection authorized by the Act, this subpart, or any permit issued under the Act.

(i) Use any vessel to engage in harvesting after the revocation, or during the period of suspension, of an applicable permit issued under the Act.

(j) Fail to identify, falsely identify, fail to properly maintain, or obscure the identification of a harvesting vessel or its gear as required by this subpart.

(k) Fish in a closed area.

(l) Trawl with a mesh size in any part of the trawl net smaller than that allowed for any directed fishing for Antarctic finfishes as specified in management measures issued pursuant to §300.111.

(m) Use any means or device that would reduce the size or obstruct the opening of the trawl meshes specified in management measures issued pursuant to §300.111.

(n) Possess fish in violation of the catch limit specified in management measures issued pursuant to §300.111.

(o) Discard netting or other substances in the Convention Area in violation of §300.109.

(p) Violate or attempt to violate any provision of this subpart, the Act, any other regulation promulgated under the Act or any permit issued under the Act.

(q) Provide incomplete or inaccurate information about the harvest, transshipment, landing, import or re-export of applicable species on any document required under this subpart.

(r) Receive AMLRs from a vessel without a dealer or harvesting permit issued under this subpart.

(s) Import *Dissostichus* spp. with a Specially Validated DCD.

(t) Import shipments of frozen *Dissostichus* spp. without a preapproval issued under §300.114.

(u) Assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, harass, bribe, or interfere with an observer.

(v) Interfere with or bias the sampling procedure employed by an observer, including physical, mechanical, or other sorting or discarding of catch before sampling.

(w) Tamper with, destroy, or discard an observer's collected samples, equipment, records, photographic film, papers, or personal effects without the express consent of the observer.

(x) Prohibit or bar by command, impediment, threat, coercion, or by refusal of reasonable assistance, an observer from collecting samples, conducting product recovery rate determinations, making observations, or otherwise performing the observer's duties.

(y) Harass an observer by conduct that has sexual connotations, has the purpose or effect of interfering with the observer's work performance, or otherwise creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. In determining whether conduct constitutes harassment, the totality of the circumstances, including the nature of the conduct and the context in which it occurred, will be considered. The determination of the legality of a particular action will be made from the facts on a case-by-case basis.

(z) Fish for or process fish without observer coverage required under §300.113.

(aa) Require, pressure, coerce, or threaten an observer to perform duties normally performed by crew members, including, but not limited to, cooking, washing dishes, standing watch, vessel maintenance, assisting with the setting or retrieval of gear, or any duties associated with the processing of fish, from sorting the catch to the storage of the finished product.

(bb) *Vessel monitoring systems.* (1) Use any vessel registered to an AMLR harvesting permit to conduct fishing operations unless that vessel carries an OLE type-approved mobile transceiver unit and complies with the requirements described in this subpart.

(2) Fail to install, activate, repair or replace a mobile transceiver unit prior to leaving port as specified in this subpart.

(3) Fail to operate and maintain a mobile transceiver unit on board the vessel at all times as specified in this subpart.

(4) Tamper with, damage, destroy, alter, or in any way distort, render useless, inoperative, ineffective, or inaccurate the VMS, mobile transceiver unit, or VMS signal required to be installed on or transmitted by a vessel as specified in this subpart.

(5) Fail to contact OLE or follow OLE instructions when automatic position reporting has been interrupted as specified in this subpart.

(6) Register a VMS transceiver unit registered to more than one vessel at the same time.

(7) Connect or leave connected additional equipment to a VMS unit without the prior approval of the OLE.

(8) Make a false statement, oral or written, to an authorized officer regarding the installation, use, operation, or maintenance of a VMS unit or communication service provider.

(9) Fail to use real-time C-VMS port-to-port on board U.S. vessels harvesting AMLR in the Convention Area.

(cc) Fail to use the mitigation measures required in the course of longline fishing or longline fishing research in the Convention Area to minimize the incidental mortality of seabirds.

(dd) Fail to use the mitigation measures required in the Convention Area to minimize the incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in the course of trawl fishing.

(ee) Set longlines in Subareas 48.6, 88.1 and 88.2 Divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2, 58.4.3a, 58.4.3b and 58.5.2 during daylight hours without following the CCAMLR protocol designed to mitigate seabird interactions.

(ff) Trawl for krill in Convention Area fisheries without a seal excluder device.

(gg) Harvest any AMLR in Convention waters without a harvesting permit required by this subpart.

(hh) Ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, re-export or have custody, control, or possession of, any frozen *Dissostichus* species without verifiable documentation of the use of real-time C-VMS port-to-port by the vessel that harvested such *Dissostichus* species unless the *Dissostichus* species was harvested during a fishing trip that began prior to September 24, 2007.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 65 FR 30017, May 10, 2000; 68 FR 23229, May 1, 2003. Redesignated and amended at 72 FR 48510, 48512, Aug. 23, 2007; 75 FR 18113, Apr. 9, 2010]



### **§300.118 Facilitation of enforcement and inspection.**

In addition to the facilitation of enforcement provisions of §300.5, the following requirements apply to this subpart.

(a) *Access and records.* (1) The owners and operator of each harvesting vessel must provide authorized officers and CCAMLR inspectors access to all spaces where work is conducted or business papers and records are prepared or stored, including but not limited to personal quarters and areas within personal quarters. If inspection of a particular area would interfere with specific on-going scientific research, and if the operator of the harvesting vessel makes such assertion and produces an individual permit that covers that specific research, the authorized officer or CCAMLR inspector will not disturb the area, but will record the information pertaining to the denial of access.

(2) The owner and operator of each harvesting vessel must provide to authorized officers and CCAMLR inspectors all records and documents pertaining to the harvesting activities of the vessel, including but not limited to production records, fishing logs, navigation logs, transfer records, product receipts, cargo stowage plans or records, draft or displacement calculations, customs documents or records, and an accurate hold plan reflecting the current structure of the vessel's storage and factory spaces.

(3) Before leaving vessels that have been inspected, the CCAMLR inspector will give the master of the vessel a Certificate of Inspection and a written notification of any alleged violations of Commission measures in effect and will afford the master the opportunity to comment on it. The ship's master must sign the notification to acknowledge receipt and the opportunity to comment on it.

(b) *Reports by non-inspectors.* All scientists, fishermen, and other non-inspectors present in the Convention area and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States are encouraged to report any violation of Commission conservation and management measures observed in the Convention area to the Office of Ocean Affairs (CCAMLR Violations), Department of State, Room 5801, Washington, DC 20520.

(c) *Storage of AMLRs.* The operator of each harvesting vessel storing AMLRs in a storage space on board the vessel must ensure that non-resource items are neither stowed beneath nor covered by resource items, unless required to maintain the stability and safety of the vessel. Non-resource items include, but are not limited to, portable conveyors, exhaust fans, ladders, nets, fuel bladders, extra bin boards, or other moveable non-resource items. These non-resource items may be in a resource storage space when necessary for the safety of the vessel or crew or for the storage of the items. Lumber, bin boards, or other dunnage may be used for shoring or bracing of product to ensure the safety of crew and to prevent shifting of cargo within the space.

(d) *Disposition of resources denied entry.* [Reserved]

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996, as amended at 65 FR 30017, May 10, 2000. Redesignated at 72 FR 48510, Aug. 23, 2007]



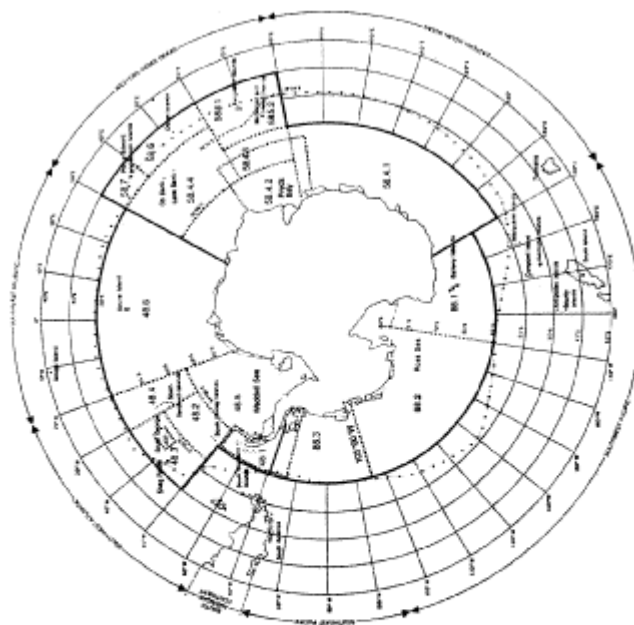
### §300.119 Penalties.

Any person or harvesting vessel found to be in violation of the Act, this subpart, or any permit issued under this subpart will be subject to the civil and criminal penalty provisions and forfeiture provisions prescribed in the Act, 15 CFR part 904, and other applicable laws.

[61 FR 35550, July 5, 1996. Redesignated at 72 FR 48510, Aug. 23, 2007]



**Figure 1 to Subpart G of Part 300—Boundaries of the Statistical Reporting Area in the Southern Ocean**



Boundaries of the Statistical Reporting Area in the Southern Ocean

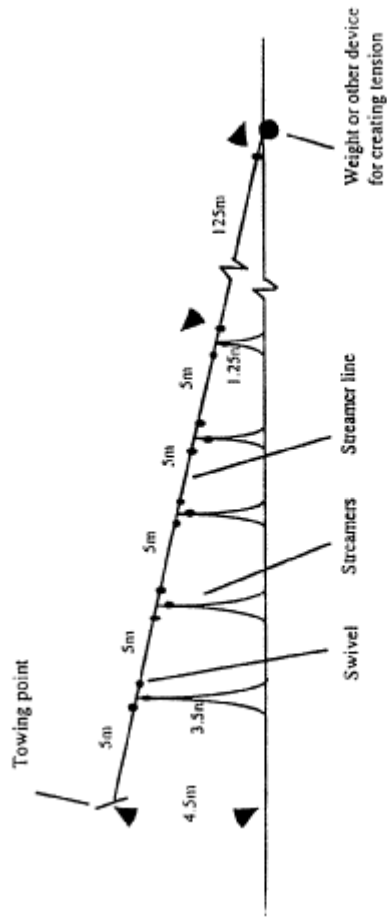


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF STATISTICS  
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
SOUTHERN OCEAN STATISTICAL REPORTING AREA

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**Figure 2 to Subpart G of Part 300—The Use of Streamer Lines To Minimize the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in the Course of Longline Fishing or Longline Fishing Research Operations in the Convention Area**



The Use of Streamer Lines to Minimize the Incidental Mortality of Seabirds in the Course of Longline Fishing or Longline Fishing Research Operations in the Convention Area.

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