

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Bangkok (Thailand), 2-14 October 2004

Interpretation and implementation of the Convention

Species trade and conservation issues

CONSERVATION OF AND TRADE IN *DISSOSTICHUS* SPECIES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. At its 12th meeting (Santiago, 2002), the Conference of the Parties adopted Resolution Conf. 12.4 on Cooperation between CITES and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources regarding trade in toothfish; as well as the following Decisions:

12.57 Parties should, by the end of 2003, report to the Secretariat their use of the Dissostichus Catch Document used by CCAMLR, and their verification requirements for such Catch Documents.

12.58 The Secretariat shall compile the information on the use of and verification requirements for Dissostichus Catch Documents provided by Parties and send this information to CITES Parties and to CCAMLR yearly, and report on this at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12.59 The Secretariat shall invite CCAMLR to consider, at its 22nd Commission meeting, how further cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR could be progressed.

Decisions 12.57 and 12.58

3. On 16 December 2003, as no reports pursuant to Decision 12.57 had been received, the Secretariat issued Notification to the Parties No. 2003/081 reminding Parties that such reports were due by 31 December 2003. Reports thereafter were received from Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, Peru, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, the United States of America and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union. On the basis of these reports, the Secretariat has compiled information on the use of and verification requirements for *Dissostichus* Catch documents, in accordance with Decision 12.58, and this is contained in the Annex to this document. Copies of the full submissions were also provided to the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR.

Decision 12.59

4. The Secretary-General wrote to the Executive Secretary of CCAMLR on 14 April 2003 and provided the texts of Resolution Conf. 12.4 and Decisions 12.57, 12.58 and 12.59. He expressed the Secretariat's interest in working with CCAMLR on their implementation and invited the Executive Secretary to consider how CCAMLR, at its 22nd Commission meeting, could progress such cooperation. The Secretary-General also thanked the Executive Secretary for sharing information on the electronic web-based Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) that was being developed under CCAMLR.
5. The Deputy Secretary-General attended CCAMLR's 22nd Commission meeting (Hobart, Australia, 27 October to 7 November 2003) and, suggested to the Commission that the meeting provided an opportunity to progress cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR. The Commission agreed that,

pending any formal cooperation on matters related to Resolution Conf. 12.4, the CCAMLR Secretariat could continue exchanging information with the CITES Secretariat on:

- a) various steps taken by CITES on implementing the CDS by CITES Parties;
- b) CCAMLR implementation of CDS and other measures aimed at IUU fishing in the Convention Area; and
- c) Communication of any other matters of relevance to the two organisations in the context of improving their cooperation.

Conclusion

6. As CCAMLR members have not yet addressed the nature of and mechanism for formal cooperation with CITES, it is not possible for CITES to provide much assistance to CCAMLR beyond the exchange of relevant information. Moreover, the tools of the Convention cannot be used in relation to toothfish because *Dissostichus* species are not listed in the CITES Appendices.

Recommendations

7. The Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties delete Decisions 12.57, 12.58 and 12.59 because they have been implemented and there does not appear to be any value in extending their operation. Nevertheless, information exchange and general cooperation between CITES and CCAMLR should continue under Resolution Conf. 12.4.

Compilation of reports submitted under Decision 12.57

Source	Use of CDS scheme	Number of permits issued	Vessel licensing	Scientific observers	Vessel monitoring system	Port Inspection	Validated DCD	Reporting to CCAMLR
Australia	Yes	35 (since 2000) ¹	Yes	?	Yes ²	Yes ³	Yes	Yes
Brazil	No ⁴	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada	Yes ⁵	0	?	?	?	?	?	?
New Zealand	Yes	15 (in 2003) ⁶	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Peru	Yes	?	Yes	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Federation	Yes ⁷	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Spain	Yes	120 ⁸	Yes	Implied	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	No ⁹	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
United States of America	Yes ¹⁰	1596 in 2002; 1500+ in 2003 (estimated)	Yes ¹¹	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Commission	Yes ¹²	?	Yes	implied	Yes	Yes	Yes ¹³	Yes

¹ Thirty-one of these documents related to catches inside the Convention Area, two related to catches outside the Convention Area and two related to catches both inside and outside the Convention Area.

² Used in conjunction with logbook data.

³ Emphasis is placed on determining the species landed, the location of the harvest and accurate weights.

⁴ There is no specific fishing fleet for this species and there are no data on its capture.

⁵ On 1 April 2004 and on a voluntary basis, Canada initiated implementation of CCAMLR/CDS and a Statistical Document Programme requesting verification that toothfish are legally harvested. No details were provided, however.

⁶ During 2003 New Zealand also verified catches by Australia and South Africa and recorded four imports.

⁷ No details were provided regarding the number of permits issued or verification requirements.

⁸ Forty-six additional documents issued to Spanish vessels were not used and therefore were annulled.

⁹ Sweden has no vessels or fishing in the Convention Area, so there is no use for CDS.

¹⁰ Copies were provided of implementing regulations (Code of Federal Regulations Chapter III, Subpart G). These included amendments published on 1 May 2003 which establish a pre-approval system for toothfish imports.

¹¹ There is also provision for the marking of vessels and gear.

¹² Copies were provided of EC Regulation 1035/2001 and EC Regulation 669/2003.

¹³ The EC has adopted specific TARIC codes for each *Dissostichus* species product to facilitate its prompt identification.