



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 06/36
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Draft policy on the publication of aggregated fine-scale catch and effort data

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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Draft policy on the publication of aggregated fine-scale catch and effort data

In accordance with the Commission's request (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.62), the Secretariat has prepared a draft policy governing the presentation and publication of aggregated fine-scale data in CCAMLR's *Statistical Bulletin*. Background information and the draft policy are attached.

The draft policy allows all fine-scale catch and effort data to be aggregated and published as follows:

- (i) where fishing occurs frequently (three or more vessels per aggregated record), the data would be published by fine-scale rectangle;
- (ii) where fishing is sparse (fewer than three vessels per aggregated record), data would be published by 2.5° latitude x 5.0° longitude rectangle;
- (iii) where the number of vessels is not reported (e.g. some historical data), data would be published by fine-scale rectangle.

The draft policy would require some small change to the presentation of the catch distribution maps in the bulletin. Some maps would include distributional information by fine-scale rectangle and 2.5° latitude x 5.0° longitude rectangle. A graphic example is also attached.

Members are requested to consider the draft policy. Comments and further advice may be provided to the Secretariat intersessionally, or provided to the Scientific Committee and Commission at the 2006 meetings.

Members are also advised that Volume 18 of the *Statistical Bulletin* (1996–2005) has been published; the pdf version is on the CCAMLR website (see Publications). An abridged database version of the bulletin is also available from the website. The database version does not contain fine-scale data.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Fine-scale catch and effort data are submitted by Members in accordance with Conservation Measure 23-04 and related measures. Most fine-scale data are reported on a haul-by-haul basis. Fine-scale data are confidential and subject to the Rules for Access and Use of CCAMLR Data.

Aggregated fine-scale data have been published in CCAMLR's *Statistical Bulletin* in graphic form since 1990; these data provide the information used in the maps depicting 'fine-scale catches of selected species'.

In 2005, the Secretariat developed a new, trial electronic version of the *Statistical Bulletin* (eSB). This new version allows users to access the tables and figures contained in the hardcopy, as well as the complete underlying dataset of statistics which may be summarised or extracted by user-defined queries (see SC-CAMLR-XXIV/5). The underlying data comprise STATLANT data and aggregated fine-scale data. The underlying fine-scale data are highly aggregated and do not allow users to obtain vessel-specific, location-specific or country-specific information. The aggregated fine-scale data available in the eSB are limited to the following fields:

- Species (code, name)
- Area (subarea, division)
- Coordinates of the fine-scale rectangle
- Season
- Month
- Quarter
- Catch (tonne).

The Scientific Committee considered the eSB and expressed the following views and concerns (SC-CAMLR-XXIV, paragraphs 12.24 to 12.26):

12.24 The Scientific Committee noted that aggregated fine-scale data for target species in Area 48 have been published in the bulletin in graphic form since 1990, and in digital format since 2002 (in the Excel version of the electronic volume). These data do not contain any effort information and could not be used to calculate catch rates.

12.25 The Scientific Committee noted the comments of WG-FSA on the publication of aggregated fine-scale data in the eSB (Annex 5, paragraphs 14.10 to 14.13):

- (i) the concern by some Members that these data, although aggregated, may provide information which may be used by IUU fishing vessels and that it may also divulge proprietary information;
- (ii) the trade-off between protecting confidential information and providing detailed information to users;

- (iii) the three options for addressing these concerns:
 - (a) accept that the aggregated fine-scale data were sufficiently aggregated to protect the interests of Members;
 - (b) categorise the catch reported in the aggregated fine-scale data using a scale similar to that currently used to plot catches for Area 48;
 - (c) make the data available to Members only, according to the Data Access Rules;
- (iv) the need for the Scientific Committee and the Commission to address this issue and decide on an appropriate approach concerning fine-scale data.

12.26 The Scientific Committee agreed that the policy governing the publication of aggregated fine-scale data should be uniformly applied to all fisheries in all areas.

The Commission noted the Scientific Committee's concerns regarding the trial eSB. Some Members were concerned that the aggregated catch data in the eSB may provide information which could be used by IUU fishing vessels and/or may divulge proprietary information (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.61).

The Commission asked that the Secretariat draft a policy governing the presentation and publication of aggregated fine-scale data, and the degree of aggregation required to alleviate Members' concerns. The Commission agreed that such a policy should be uniformly applied to all fisheries in the Convention Area (CCAMLR-XXIV, paragraph 4.62).

DRAFT POLICY

Subject to the criteria outlined below, aggregated fine-scale catch and effort data may be published electronically in the CCAMLR *Statistical Bulletin*.

Fine-Scale Data

The types of fine-scale data to be published are:

- Species (code, name)
- Area (subarea, division)
- Coordinates of each fine-scale rectangle
- Season
- Month
- Quarter
- Catch (tonne).

Data Aggregation

At a minimum, fine-scale data will be aggregated as follows:

- Spatial resolution Fine-scale rectangle (0.5° latitude x 1.0° longitude)
All depths combined
- Temporal resolution Month
- Species resolution Species
- Vessel resolution 3 vessels.

Sparse Data

If the aggregated catch and effort data are from fewer than three vessels, then the spatial level of aggregation will be increased to a resolution of 2.5° latitude x 5.0° longitude. Aggregated data at this resolution may be published even if they represent catch and effort data from fewer than three vessels.

Incomplete Data

If the number of vessels is not reported in the fine-scale data, then the associated aggregated catch and effort data will be assumed to have originated from three or more vessels.

Publication

Aggregated fine-scale catch and effort data which meet these criteria may be published in the *Statistical Bulletin* and released electronically into the public domain.

GRAPHIC EXAMPLE

Maps showing the distribution of toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in the Convention Area (Statistical Areas 48, 58 and 88), based on fine-scale data aggregated in accordance with the draft policy.

