



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 09/132
SC CIRC 09/68

Tuesday, 1 December 2009

Responses to Consolidated Revision of Report on Preliminary Impact Assessment for New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2009/10

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**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

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**Responses to Consolidated Revision of Report on Preliminary Impact Assessment
for New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2009/10**

In accordance with CCAMLR-XXVIII, paragraph 12.18(vii), the European Community and the USA have submitted the attached letters and requested that they be circulated to Members.

Dr D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary

Attch.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES


INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND MARKETS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAW OF THE SEA AND REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANISATIONS

Brussels, 30.11.2009 D 13617
MARE B-1/AK/el D (2009)

Dr. Denzil MILLER
Executive Secretary CCAMLR
P.O. Box 213
North Hobart, Tasmania 7002
Australia

Subject: Response to Consolidated Revision of Report on Preliminary Impact Assessment for New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2009/2010


Dear Dr. Miller,

With regards to the Preliminary Impact Assessment for New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2009/2010, the European Community notes with regret Korea's incomplete submission of the bottom fishing activities assessment with relation to Divisions 58.4.3a and 58.4.3b, for which Korea had notified vessels.

The failure to provide such assessments did not allow the Scientific Committee to evaluate whether the proposed bottom fishing activities would contribute to significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems or whether the proposed mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.


In the absence of such information, and bearing in mind the agreement spelled out in paragraph 12.18 of the report of CCAMLR XVIII, the European Community would encourage Korea to act in a precautionary manner and withdraw notifications for the remaining 3 vessels in Divisions 58.4.3a and 58.4.3b.

In this respect, the EC would like to acknowledge Korea's withdrawal of 2 vessels from Division 58.4.3b, 2 vessels from Subarea 88.1 and 1 vessel from Subarea 88.2 as well as providing preliminary assessments for bottom fishing activities for the vessels Jung Woo No 2 and Jung Woo No 3, in line with the agreement reached at CCAMLR XXVIII.

This view is agreed and supported by the eight EC Member States which are CCAMLR Members (BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, PL, SE, UK).

I would be grateful if you could have this letter distributed to CCAMLR Members and Contracting Parties.

Yours sincerely,



Roberto CESARI
Head of EC Delegation
to CCAMLR

C.c. M Alexandrou, Ms Kordecka (MARE B1)



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 30, 2009

Dr. D.G.M. Miller
Executive Secretary
CCAMLR
North Hobart, TAS 7002
Australia

Subject: Missing bottom fishing assessments for 2009/10

Dear Denzil,

The United States has reviewed the "Consolidated Revision of Report on Preliminary Assessment for New and Exploratory Fisheries in 2009/10" presented in Commission Circular 09/128.

It is our understanding that the Republic of Korea did not submit preliminary impact assessments for the intended new and exploratory fisheries notified by Korea in Divisions 58.4.3a and 58.4.3b. The absence of these assessments prevents the necessary scientific review required in accordance with the terms of Conservation Measure 22-06.

Furthermore, this deficiency prevents commencement of the review process agreed upon by the Commission (CCAMLR-XXVIII Report, paragraph 12.18), and leaves both the Scientific Committee and the Commission unable to evaluate the proposed bottom fishing activities, their potential contribution to significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, or any proposed mitigation measures to prevent such impacts.

Therefore, and consistent with the views we expressed at the Commission plenary (CCAMLR-XXVIII Report, paragraph 8.27), the United States considers that bottom fishing by vessels flagged to the Republic of Korea in those two divisions would contravene Conservation Measure 22-06.

The United States notes that this is consistent with the draft UN General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries agreed last week in New York by all participating governments at the informal consultations to negotiate that resolution, in which States noted with concern that urgent actions called for in the UNGA resolution 61/105 have not been sufficiently implemented in all cases, and called on all flag States to, *inter alia*, ensure that vessels do not engage in bottom fishing until assessments related to vulnerable marine ecosystems have been carried out.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the other Members of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan T. Bloom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Evan T. Bloom
U.S. Commissioner to CCAML