



CCAMLR

COMM CIRC 13/26
SC CIRC 13/15

Thursday, 14 February 2013

Notification for Scientific Research in 2012/13 - information submitted by Argentina - response by the UK

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

In response to COMM CIRC 13/12-SC CIRC 13/07, the UK has provided the attached letter for circulation to all Members of the Commission and the Scientific Committee.

Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary

Attch.

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Andrew Wright
Executive Secretary
CCAMLR Secretariat
181 Macquarie Street
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Tasmania 7000

By e-mail: ccamlr@ccamlr.org

14 February 2013

Dear Drew,

REFERENCE COMMCIRC 13/12; SC CIRC 13/07 - NOTIFICATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN 2012/13 – INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY ARGENTINA

The United Kingdom received the Argentine notification to undertake research in CCAMLR sub-area 48.3 (South Georgia), as circulated by the Secretariat on 25 January 2013.

As all CCAMLR Members are well aware, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom. We are therefore surprised and disappointed that Argentina had not paid us the courtesy of engaging with us previously about the research they propose to undertake in our jurisdictional waters. We successfully collaborate with many other CCAMLR Members who have, and will be, undertaking marine research in our waters, both under UNCLOS and CCAMLR.

Had Argentina contacted us about their proposals earlier, it would have been possible to have invited them to participate on the British research programme, which recently took place around South Georgia (as notified under CommCirc 12/147 on 12 November 2012). This research programme around 48.3 was highly successful. However, as the results are processed, our scientists will consider whether it may be necessary to undertake further work in the coming months.

The objectives of the British research overlap to some extent with Argentina's notified research. We therefore hope that Argentina's scientists will collaborate directly with our scientists in the spirit of scientific cooperation fostered by the CCAMLR Convention. Through this collaboration, we would hope that any unnecessary duplication can be avoided and that the results can be presented in a collective and meaningful way to CCAMLR in October.

As CCAMLR Members will also be aware, including from our informal presentation on the margins of CCAMLR XXXI, the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands declared a sustainable-use Marine Protected Area across the whole of its jurisdictional waters last year. The designation is wholly consistent with the objectives of CCAMLR and followed extensive scientific work to determine the most vulnerable marine areas, and to impose the highest standards of fisheries management (for which SGSSI is internationally renowned). The MPA prohibits the use of bottom trawls and any kind of fishing activity in certain areas, including 12 nautical miles around South Georgia, Shag Rocks and Clarke Rocks, except in accordance with a permit.

Argentina's research notification to CCAMLR lacks any detail about their precise area of operation during their research. We would be most disappointed if they choose to ignore the potential harmful damage of their proposed survey on the most vulnerable areas around South Georgia and very much hope that they will engage with us to ensure that a broader environmental assessment of their proposed activities (which follow so closely from similar British research) can be considered. That said, the United Kingdom has always supported marine scientific research, and we wish to ensure that we provide support to Argentina's endeavours. The Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands has therefore consented to issue a permit for Argentina's notified research to proceed, and this is attached.

In addition to the notified Argentine vessel, there will be other (British and other flagged) vessels around South Georgia during the period 6 March to 8 April, including cruise vessels and other research vessels (although none have currently notified an intention to undertake research on marine living resources).

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter to all CCAMLR Members and all Members of the CCAMLR Scientific Committee.

Kind regards,

Jane Rumble

Jane Rumble
UK CCAMLR Commissioner



South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner
Government House,
Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011

Permit Number WPA/2013/011

In accordance with section 21 of the Wildlife and Protected Areas Ordinance 2011, I hereby authorise:

the fisheries research vessel *Dr Eduardo L. Holmberg*

to undertake:

scientific research, as notified to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) in Commission Circular 13/12 and Scientific Committee Circular 13/07, dated 25 January 2013

including, where necessary for the achievement of the objectives set out in the abovementioned CCAMLR Circular, activities that would otherwise be prohibited by the Ordinance.

The reporting requirements for this research programme are as specified in CCAMLR Conservation Measure 24-01 (2012), paragraph 4.

I am satisfied that the activities authorised under this permit comply with section 21(7).

Signed

Nigel Hay
Commissioner GSGSSI

Date

12 Feb 13

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