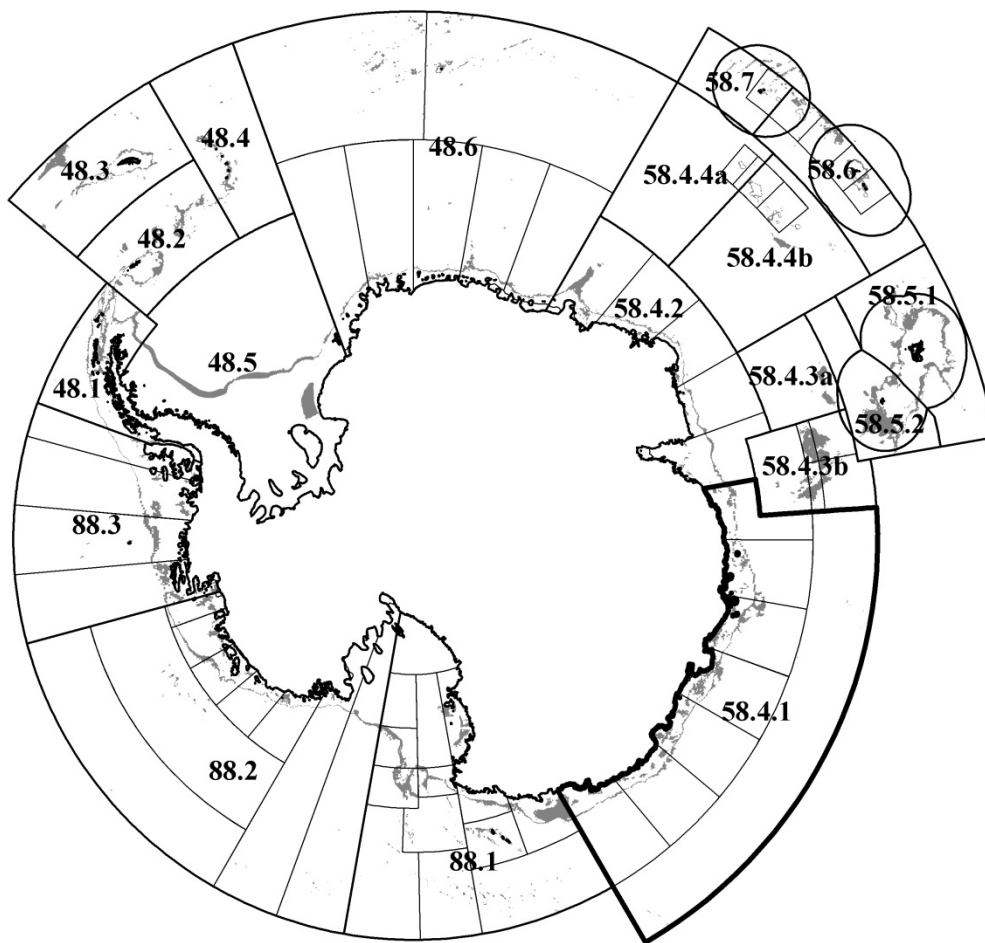


**Fishery Report 2013: Exploratory fishery for
Dissostichus spp. in Division 58.4.1**



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The map on the cover page shows the management areas within the CAMLR Convention Area, the specific region related to this report is outlined in bold. Depths between 600 and 1 800m (the ‘fishable depths’ for *Dissostichus* spp.) are shaded.

Throughout this report the CCAMLR fishing season is represented by the year in which that season ended, e.g. 2013 represents the 2012/13 CCAMLR fishing season (from 1 December 2012 to 30 November 2013).

FISHERY REPORT 2013: EXPLORATORY FISHERY FOR *DISSOSTICHUS* SPP. IN DIVISION 58.4.1

Introduction to the fishery

1. This report describes the exploratory longline fishery for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in Division 58.4.1. This fishery was first agreed by the Commission in 1999 (Conservation Measure (CM) 166/XVII) and licensed vessels have operated in this fishery since 2005, targeting primarily Antarctic toothfish (*D. mawsoni*).
2. The current limits on the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1 are described in CM 41-11. Since 2009 the precautionary catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. has remained at 210 tonnes. In 2013 this applied to small-scale research units (SSRUs) as follows: 84 tonnes in SSRU C and 42 tonnes in each of SSRUs E, G and H. Four other SSRUs (A, B, D and F) were closed to fishing.
3. In 2013, the fishery was limited to one Japanese, one Korean and one Spanish flagged vessel using longlines only, although only the latter two Members participated in the fishery with Spain conducting a depletion experiment.
4. For 2014, one vessel from Japan, one from the Republic of Korea (subsequently withdrawn) and one from Spain have notified their intention to participate in the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1.

Reported catches

5. Reported catches of *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1 peaked at 634 tonnes in 2007, which exceeded the catch limit set for that year by 6%. The catch limit was again exceeded in 2009 and 2011 by 6% and 2% respectively (Table 1).
6. In 2013, the Republic of Korea and Spain conducted fishery-based research in SSRUs 5841C, G and H. The total catch was 48 tonnes (Table 1), taken as follows: 3 tonnes by Korea in SSRU C (4% of the catch limit) and 23 and 21 tonnes by Spain in SSRUs G and H respectively (54% of the catch limit).

Table 1: Catch history for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1. (Source: STATLANT data for past seasons and catch and effort reports for current season, past reports for IUU catch.)

Season	Catch limit (tonnes)	Reported catch (tonnes)			Estimated IUU catch (tonnes)
		<i>D. mawsoni</i>	<i>D. eleginoides</i>	Total	
2005	600	479	1	480	-
2006	600	421	0	421	597
2007	600	540	94 ¹	634	626
2008	600	410	1	410	136
2009	210	222	0	222	152
2010	210	194	2	196	910
2011	210	214	0	214	*
2012	210	157	0	157	*
2013	210	48	0	48	*

¹ This catch of *D. eleginoides* was reported by the *Paloma V* and is under investigation.

* Not estimated.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

7. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Indian Ocean sector of the Convention Area remains an issue for the Commission. Estimates of IUU fishing in Division 58.4.1 indicate that >2 400 tonnes of *Dissostichus* spp. have been taken illegally since the fishery began (Table 1). In Division 58.4.1, IUU fishing was first detected in 2006 and data from vessel sightings and the recovery of IUU fishing gear (gillnets) indicate that IUU activity may have increased in recent years. The high levels of IUU fishing in 2006, 2007 and 2010 resulted in estimates of the total removals in this division being well in excess of the catch limits. However, since 2011, following the recognition of methodological issues in its assessment, no estimates of the IUU catch of *Dissostichus* spp. have been provided for this division (SC-CAMLR-XXIX, paragraph 6.5).

Data collection

8. Catch limits for CCAMLR's fisheries for *D. mawsoni* and *D. eleginoides* for the 'assessed' fisheries in Subareas 48.3, 88.1 and 88.2 and Division 58.5.2 are set using fully integrated assessments; more basic approaches are used for the 'data-poor' fisheries (in Subarea 48.6 and in Area 58 outside the exclusive economic zones (EEZs)). The management of these data-poor fisheries has been a major focus of attention in CCAMLR in recent years after the acknowledgement that commercial fishing by itself had resulted in too few data to develop a full assessment of the targeted stocks in these areas. CCAMLR has developed a framework for designing and undertaking research fishing designed to lead to an assessment of these toothfish stocks in the short to medium term, established under the provisions of CM 41-01. This research planning framework has three phases: prospecting phase, biomass estimation phase and assessment development phase, with a set of decisions and review for the progression between stages.

9. In order to obtain the data necessary for a stock assessment, catch limits for research fishing by commercial vessels are set at a level intended to provide sufficient information (including sufficient recaptures of tagged fish) to achieve a stock assessment within a time period of 3 to 5 years. These catch limits are also set so that they provide reasonable certainty that exploitation rates at the scale of the stock or research unit will not negatively impact the stock. Appropriate exploitation rates are based on estimates from areas with assessed fisheries and are not more than 3–4% of the estimated stock size. In 2012 and 2013, CCAMLR put in place a more structured approach to setting catch limits, and spatially constraining research, in data-poor fisheries. This process attempts to use all available information combined with a regular review process to make progress while recognising the inherent uncertainties and data limitations in data-poor fisheries.

Biological data

10. The collection of biological data under CM 23-05 is conducted as part of the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation. In exploratory longline fisheries targeting *D. mawsoni* and *D. eleginoides*, biological data collection includes representative samples of length, weight, sex and maturity stage, as well as collection of otoliths for age determination of the target and most frequently taken by-catch species.

Length distributions of catches

11. The length-frequency distributions of *D. mawsoni* caught in this fishery are presented, in Figure 1, for all years in which the number of that species measured was more than 150 fish. These length-frequency distributions are unweighted (i.e. they have not been adjusted for factors such as the size of the catches from which they were collected). The interannual variability exhibited in the figure may reflect differences in the fished population but is also likely to reflect changes in the gear used, the number of vessels in the fishery and the spatial and temporal distribution of fishing.

12. The majority of *D. mawsoni* caught in the Division 58.4.1 fishery ranged from 100 to 170 cm in length, with a relatively consistent broad mode at approximately 125–150 cm (Figure 1).

13. Length-frequency distributions of *D. eleginoides* have not been presented for Division 58.4.1 as the data from the year in which more than 150 fish were measured is under review.

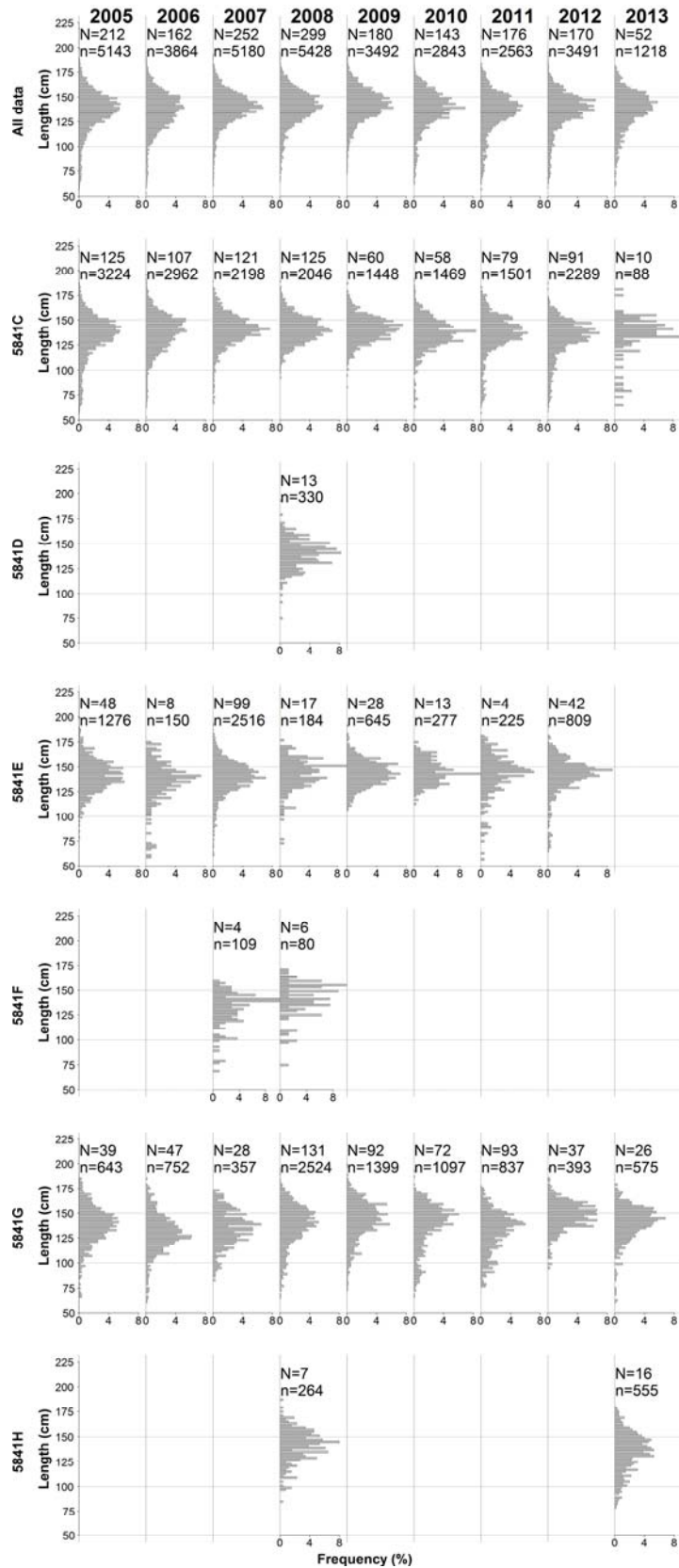


Figure 1: Annual length-frequency distributions of *Dissostichus mawsoni* caught in Division 58.4.1 (top panel) and in each SSRU (lower panels). The number of hauls from which fish were measured (N) and the number of fish measured (n) in each year are provided. Note: length-frequency distributions are only presented for those years/SSRUs in which the number of fish measured was >150.

Tagging

14. Since 2012, vessels have been required to tag and release *Dissostichus* spp. at a rate of five fish per tonne of green weight caught (Table 2). The tag-overlap statistic estimates the representative similarity between the size distributions of those fish that are tagged by a vessel and of all the fish that are caught by that vessel. Each vessel catching more than 10 tonnes of each species of *Dissostichus* is required to achieve a minimum tag-overlap statistic¹ of 60% (Annex 41-01/C).

15. In 2013, both vessels which fished in Division 58.4.1 exceeded the minimum tagging rate and the *Tronio*, the only vessel to have caught more than 10 tonnes of *D. mawsoni*, achieved a tag-overlap statistic of 68% (Table 2).

16. To date, a total of 6 827 *D. mawsoni* and 318 *D. eleginoides* have been tagged and 26 *D. mawsoni* and one *D. eleginoides* have been recaptured in Division 58.4.1 (Tables 3(a) and 3b). All of the fish that have been recaptured in Division 58.4.1 were also tagged in that division.

Life-history parameters

Data collection

17. The life histories of *D. mawsoni* and *D. eleginoides* are characterised by slow growth, low fecundity and late maturity. Both *D. mawsoni* and *D. eleginoides* appear to have protracted spawning periods, taking place mainly in winter, but which may start as early as late autumn and extend into spring. However, as this is the period least accessible to fishing, and thus the collection of biological data, specific life-history traits for these species are limited (WG-FSA-08/14). The areas that are considered to be the most likely spawning grounds for *D. mawsoni* include the north of the Ross Sea associated with the Pacific–Antarctic Ridge (SSRUs 881B–C) and the Amundsen Ridge (SSRU 881E) in the Amundsen Sea. In the Cooperation Sea, *D. mawsoni* most likely spawn on the BANZARE Bank (Division 58.4.3b). *Dissostichus eleginoides* are thought to spawn in deep water around South Georgia Island (Subarea 48.3), Bouvet Island (Subarea 48.6) and on the Kerguelen Plateau (Divisions 58.5.1 and 58.5.2).

Parameter estimates

18. There are no specific life-history parameters for either *D. mawsoni* or *D. eleginoides* in this division; the parameters used in assessed fisheries can be found in the ‘Stock assessment’ appendices of the relevant Fishery Reports.

¹ The tag-overlap statistic estimates the similarity in size distributions of fish that are tagged and all fish caught by a vessel (Annex 41-01/C, footnote 3).

Table 2: Annual tagging rate, reported by vessel, operating in the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1. The tag-overlap statistics (CM 41-01) for *D. mawsoni* and *D. eleginoides* respectively are provided in brackets. Values for the tag-overlap statistic are not calculated for catches of less than 10 tonnes (*).

Flag State	Vessel name	Season								
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Chile	<i>Globalpesca I</i>		1.6							
	<i>Globalpesca II</i>	0.6	0.6							
Japan	<i>Shinsei Maru No. 3</i>						3.1(57,*)			
Korea, Republic of	<i>Bonanza No. 707</i>	1.4								
	<i>Hong Jin No. 701</i>							4.5 (70, -)	5.2 (89, -)	
	<i>Insung No. 1</i>			>500 (29, 100)	3 (25, -)	3.8 (19, -)				
	<i>Insung No. 2</i>		1.2		2.9 (27, *)		3.3 (33,-)			
	<i>Insung No. 22</i>					8.9 (29, 100)				
	<i>Insung No. 3</i>									9.5 (*, -)
	<i>Insung No. 7</i>							3.3 (70, -)		
	<i>Yeon Seong No. 829</i>	1.1								
Namibia	<i>Antillas Reefer</i>			0.1 (27, -)	1.2 (30, -)					
	<i>Paloma V</i>				3.4 (21,*)					
New Zealand	<i>Janas</i>	2.7								
	<i>San Aspiring</i>	1.1	^a							
Spain	<i>Arnela</i>	0.9								
	<i>Galaecia</i>	1.1								
	<i>Tronio</i>		1.1	>500 (31, 100)	3 (21, *)			3.1 (52, -)		5.2 (68, *)
Uruguay	<i>Banzare</i>				1 (*, -)	3.4 (36, -)				
	<i>Paloma V</i>	0.8		2.3						
Required tagging rate		1	1	3	3	3	3	3	5	5

^a No catch data provided.

Table 3: The number of individuals of (a) *Dissostichus mawsoni* and (b) *D. eleginoides* tagged in each year. The number of fish recaptured by each vessel/year is provided in brackets.

(a) *D. mawsoni*

Flag State	Vessel name	Season								
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Chile	<i>Globalpesca I</i>		12 (0)							
	<i>Globalpesca II</i>	93 (0)	23 (0)							
Japan	<i>Shinsei Maru No. 3</i>						263 (2)			
Korea, Republic of	<i>Bonanza No. 707</i>	17 (0)								
	<i>Hong Jin No. 701</i>							180 (2)	812 (0)	
	<i>Insung No. 1</i>			723 (2)	370 (2)	418 (2)				
	<i>Insung No. 2</i>		182 (0)		441 (0)		352 (1)			
	<i>Insung No. 3</i>									29 (0)
	<i>Insung No. 7</i>							335 (1)		
	<i>Insung No. 22</i>					519 (6)				
	<i>Yeon Seong No. 829</i>	166 (0)								
Namibia	<i>Antillas Reefer</i>			3 (1)	56 (2)					
	<i>Paloma V</i>				42 (0)					
New Zealand	<i>Janas</i>	1 (0)								
	<i>San Aspiring</i>	22 (0)	1 (0)							
Spain	<i>Arnela</i>	25 (0)								
	<i>Galaecia</i>	116 (0)								
	<i>Tronio</i>		249 (0)	497 (1)	195 (2)			232 (2)		227 (0)
Uruguay	<i>Banzare</i>				10 (0)	176 (0)				
	<i>Paloma V</i>		1 (0)	39 (0)						
Total		440 (0)	468 (0)	1262 (4)	1114 (6)	1113 (8)	615 (3)	747 (5)	812 (0)	256 (0)

(b) *D. eleginoides*

Flag State	Vessel name	Season								
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Chile	<i>Globalpesca I</i>									
	<i>Globalpesca II</i>	1 (0)								
Japan	<i>Shinsei Maru No. 3</i>						12 (1)			
Korea, Republic of	<i>Bonanza No. 707</i>									
	<i>Hong Jin No. 701</i>									
	<i>Insung No. 1</i>			9 (0)						
	<i>Insung No. 2</i>				8 (0)					
	<i>Insung No. 3</i>									
	<i>Insung No. 7</i>									
	<i>Insung No. 22</i>					14 (0)				
	<i>Yeon Seong No. 829</i>	1 (0)								
Namibia	<i>Antillas Reefer</i>									
	<i>Paloma V</i>				5 (0)					
New Zealand	<i>Janas</i>									
	<i>San Aspiring</i>	2 (0)								
Spain	<i>Arnela</i>									
	<i>Galaecia</i>	18 (0)								
	<i>Tronio</i>			5 (0)	7 (0)					4 (0)
Uruguay	<i>Banzare</i>									
	<i>Paloma V</i>		1 (0)	231 (0)						
Total		22 (0)	1 (0)	245 (0)	20 (0)	14 (0)	12 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)

Stock assessment status

19. There has been no integrated stock assessment for this data-poor exploratory fishery. Research in this fishery is in the biomass estimation phase and includes depletion experiments and tag-based research (details of ongoing and proposed research can be found in the report of WG-FSA-13).

By-catch of fish and invertebrates

Fish by-catch

20. Catch limits for by-catch species groups (macrourids, rajids and other species) are defined in CM 33-03 and provided in Table 4. Within these catch limits, the total catch of by-catch species in any SSRU or combination of SSRUs, as defined in relevant conservation measures, shall not exceed the following limits:

- skates and rays (rajids) – 5% of the catch limit of *Dissostichus* spp. or 50 tonnes, whichever is greater
- *Macrourus* spp. – 16% of the catch limit for *Dissostichus* spp. or 20 tonnes, whichever is greater
- all other species combined – 20 tonnes.

Table 4: Catch history for by-catch species (macrourids, rajids and other species), including catch limits and number of rajids released alive, in Division 58.4.1. Catch limits are for the whole fishery (see CM 33-03 for details). (Source: fine-scale data.)

Season	Macrourids		Rajids			Other species	
	Catch limit (tonnes)	Reported catch (tonnes)	Catch limit (tonnes)	Reported catch (tonnes)	Number released	Catch limit (tonnes)	Reported catch (tonnes)
2005	96	17	50	0	-	60	1
2006	96	15	50	0	-	60	1
2007	96	41	50	0	-	60	2
2008	96	36	50	0	-	60	1
2009	33	8	50	0	-	60	<1
2010	33	6	50	0	-	60	<1
2011	33	3	50	0	-	60	<1
2012	33	2	50	0	-	60	<1
2013	33	5	50	0	-	80	<1

21. If the by-catch of any one species is equal to, or greater than, 1 tonne in any one haul or set, then the fishing vessel must move at least 5 n miles away for a period of at least five days.

22. If the catch of *Macrourus* spp. taken by a single vessel in any two 10-day periods in a single SSRU exceeds 1 500 kg in a 10-day period and exceeds 16% of the catch of *Dissostichus* spp. in that period, the vessel shall cease fishing in that SSRU for the remainder of the season.

23. The by-catch in Division 58.4.1 consists predominantly of macrourids with a maximum of 41 tonnes being reported in 2007 (Table 4). In 2013, five tonnes of macrourids were reported, which represents 15% of the catch limit of that group and ~10% of the total catch of target and by-catch species combined. No rajids have been reported in the catches of Division 58.4.1.

Invertebrate by-catch including VME taxa

24. All Members are required to submit, within their general new (CM 21-01) and exploratory (CM 21-02) fisheries notifications, information on the known and anticipated impacts of their gear on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), including benthos and benthic communities such as seamounts, hydrothermal vents and cold-water corals. All of the VMEs in CCAMLR's VME Register are currently afforded protection through specific area closures.

25. There are two VMEs in SSRU 5841H (identified through a national research program); the locations and other details can be found in Annex 22-09/A. There have been no VME Risk Areas designated in Division 58.4.1.

Incidental mortality of birds and mammals

Incidental mortality

26. Since 2005 when two southern giant petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*) and three sooty shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) were reported injured or killed, there have been no observed incidental mortalities of seabirds in Division 58.4.1.

27. There have been no observed incidental mortalities of marine mammals in Division 58.4.1.

Mitigation measures

28. The requirements of CM 25-02 'Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds in the course of longline fishing or longline fishing research in the Convention Area' apply to this fishery. There is an exemption to the requirement for night setting by achieving the sink rates described in CM 24-02 and subject to a seabird by-catch limit.

29. The risk level for seabirds in the fishery in Division 58.4.1 is category 2 (average to low) (SC-CAMLR-XXX, Annex 8, paragraph 8.1).

Ecosystem implications and effects

30. There is no formal evaluation available for this fishery.

Current management advice and conservation measures

31. The limits on the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1 are defined in CM 41-11. The limits in force and the advice of WG-FSA to the Scientific Committee for the forthcoming season are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Limits on the exploratory fishery for *Dissostichus* spp. in Division 58.4.1 in force (CM 41-11) and advice to the Scientific Committee.

Element	Limit in force	Advice for 2014
Access	Fishing for <i>Dissostichus</i> spp. in Division 58.4.1 shall be limited to the exploratory longline fishery by Japan and Spain. The fishery shall be conducted by one (1) Japanese and one (1) Spanish flagged vessel using longlines only.	Carry forward
Catch limit	The total catch of <i>Dissostichus</i> spp. in Division 58.4.1 in 2014 shall not exceed a precautionary catch limit of 724 tonnes, applied as follows: SSRU A – 0 tonnes SSRU B – 0 tonnes SSRU C – 257 tonnes ¹ SSRU D – 42 tonnes ¹ SSRU E – 315 tonnes SSRU F – 0 tonnes SSRU G – 68 tonnes ¹ SSRU H – 42 tonnes ¹ .	
Season	1 December to 30 November	Same period
Fish by-catch	Regulated by CM 33-03	Carry forward
Seabird mitigation	In accordance with CM 25-02, except paragraph 5 if requirements of CM 24-02 are met Limit of three (3) seabirds per vessel during daytime setting	Carry forward Carry forward
Observers	At least two (2) scientific observers, one of whom shall be appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation	Carry forward
Data	Daily and five-day catch and effort reporting Haul-by-haul catch and effort data Biological data reported by the CCAMLR scientific observer	Carry forward Carry forward Carry forward
Research	Fishery-based research in accordance with Annex 41-07/A and CM 41-01, including the collection of detailed catch, effort and biological data (Annex 41-01/A), setting of research hauls (Annex 41-01/B) and tagging (Annex 41-01/C), and CM 24-01. Toothfish tagged at a rate of at least five fish per tonne of green weight caught	Carry forward Carry forward
Other environmental protection	Regulated by CMs 22-06, 22-07, 22-08 and 26-01	Carry forward

¹ Includes a catch limit of 42 tonnes to permit Spain to undertake a depletion experiment in 2014.