

SC 12 – WP 13

1. SUCCINCT DESCRIPTION – Korean proposal

Paragraph 5 of CMM13 requires any Member or CNCP seeking to permit a vessel that flies its flag to fish in an exploratory fishery, or to fish in an exploratory fishery with a gear type that has not been used in that fishery for the previous ten years to submit no less than 120 days prior to the next annual meeting of the Scientific Committee a succinct description of their intended Fisheries Operation Plan for information purposes.

Member/CNCP	Republic of Korea
Area	<p><u>FAO Fishing Area 81</u></p> <p>The proposed research block is within a large area of features forming a box follows:</p> <p>Corner coordinates of the research block: 56°S 155°W; 56°S 145°W; 52°S 145°W; 52°S 115°W; 60°S 115°W; 60°S 155° W</p>
Target Species	Patagonian Toothfish (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>) and Antarctic Toothfish (<i>D. mawsoni</i>)
Proposed Methods of fishing	The F.V. <i>Greenstar</i> , belonging to TNS Industries Inc., will target Patagonian toothfish (<i>D. eleginoides</i>) and Antarctic Toothfish (<i>D. mawsoni</i>) employing a Trotline system, demersal longlining using 5-10 kg of steel weight with an interval of 22-35 metres (the same as used in CCAMLR).
Proposed maximum catch limit	240 tonnes (in green weight)
Expected operation period	2025 to 2027 (for three years)
Submission date	31 May 2024

2. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This checklist is for the Scientific Committee to complete to ensure that all aspects of the Fisheries Operation Plan and the Data Collection Plan have been assessed. To assist the Scientific Committee with their deliberations, please pre-fill the Rationale column with a brief justification of how your Fisheries Operation Plan and Data Collection Plan address the Scientific Committee consideration. The Scientific Committee will complete the Assessment column.

5.1 Fisheries Operation Plan checklist

Fisheries Operation Plan Considerations	Rationale	Assessment
a) management strategies or plans for fishery resources; [Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean as having a clear objective for the fishery]	The objectives are outlined in sections 6 and 7 of the proposal.	Yes
b) reference points, including precautionary reference points as described in Annex II of the 1995 Agreement;	No reference points have been defined for toothfish stock in this fishing region. Therefore, we propose to apply a stepwise research design and implementation approach for exploratory toothfish fisheries.	Partial
c) an appropriate precautionary catch limit;	See section 2.1 of the proposal	Yes
d) the cumulative impacts of all fishing activity in the area of the exploratory fishery;	The Scientific Committee has agreed to develop a tiered assessment framework (Nicol et al. 2017, paper SC-05-DW-04) and information gathered during the proposed exploratory fishing should help to inform that initiative.	Yes
e) the impact of the proposed fishing on the marine ecosystem;	See section 2.9 of the proposal	Yes
f) the sufficiency of information available to inform the level of precaution required and the degree of certainty with which the Scientific Committee's advice is provided;	Data Collection Plan and Fisheries Operation Plan explain the processes and information that will be gathered during the exploratory fishing. These plans include biological data of target and bycatch species, tagging which contribute to the scientific understanding necessary to make precautionary decisions.	Yes
g) the degree to which the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its	The precautionary limits, spatial separations of lines, and mitigations put in place should ensure this from the onset. The data collection will continue to inform precautionary development throughout the	Yes

<i>nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention¹; and</i>	3 years of the proposal (2025-27) and beyond.	
<i>h) in respect of a Fisheries Operation Plan that proposes any bottom fishing activity, advice and recommendations in accordance with paragraph 20 (b) of CMM 03-2020 (Bottom Fishing)².</i>	See section 2.5 of the proposal	Yes

5.2 Data Collection Plan checklist

Data Collection Plan considerations	Rationale	Assessment
<i>a) a description of the catch, effort and related biological, ecological and environmental data required to undertake the evaluations described in paragraph 24;</i>	A full fisheries operation plan is presented in section 2, 4 and 7 of the proposal.	Yes
<i>b) the dates by which the data must be provided to the Commission;</i>	See section 4.2 of the proposal	Yes
<i>c) a plan for directing fishing effort in an exploratory fishery to allow for the acquisition of relevant data to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target and associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impact;</i>	A full fisheries operation plan is presented in section 2, 4 and 7 of the proposal.	Yes
<i>d) where appropriate, a plan for the acquisition of any other research data obtained by fishing vessels, including activities that may require the cooperative activities of scientific observers and the vessel, as may be required by the Scientific Committee to evaluate the fishery potential and the ecological relationships among harvested, non-target, associated and dependent populations and the likelihood of adverse impacts; and</i>	A data collection plan is included in section 4 of the proposal.	Yes
<i>e) an evaluation of the time scales involved in determining the responses of harvested, dependent and related populations to fishing activities</i>	See section 4.2 of the proposal	Yes

¹ The objective of this Convention is, through the application of the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

² The Scientific Committee shall undertake a review of the proposed assessment and provide advice to the Commission on:

- i. whether the proposed bottom fishing would contribute to having significant adverse impacts on deep sea fish stocks for which no stock assessment has been completed, bycatch species and/or VMEs and, if so,
- ii. whether any proposed or additional mitigation measures would prevent such impacts.

[Note that SC has previously interpreted this as to mean “when will data be analysed and available”]		
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5.3 Scientific Committee recommendations (SC to complete)

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and Agreed that the approach outlined in the Fisheries Operation Plan is likely to ensure that the exploratory fishery is developed consistently with its nature as an exploratory fishery, and consistently with the objectives of Article 2 of the Convention, with the following requested modifications (*to be added if necessary*):

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Or:

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and recommended that a small working group [led by xxx and composed of xxx] meet post SC and to provide additional advice on the proposal, noting that the work is likely to extend intersessionally and would be expected to result in a revised proposal being provided to the next meeting of the Scientific Committee. Aspects of the proposal which are currently deficient include

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Or:

The SC discussed the [insert Member/CNCP] Fisheries Operational Plan and Data Collection plan and agreed that the proposal was lacking critical information in several important areas and was not consistent with the SPRFMO objective. The SC noted that the Fisheries Operational Plan in its current form would require substantive modification to ensure that sufficient information would be available to enable the SC to evaluate the long-term potential and impacts, of the proposed exploratory fishery, and to ensure that the fishery resources would be developed on a precautionary and gradual basis a required by the CMM.