High Seas Antarctic Living Marine Resources Fisheries

Fishing gear type: Pelagic and bottom trawl, trap/pot, gillnet, and longline.

Current category: Category II

Basis for current classification on the LOF:
While a formal observer program exists for fisheries in the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) region, information on marine mammal stock abundance in the area is scarce and observer reports of fishery interactions are not yet specific enough to determine the level of marine mammal serious injury and mortality. Prior to 2004, Antarctic fur seals were observed injured/killed by U.S. vessels in the CCAMLR trawl fishery for krill. The takes were drastically reduced in the 2004/2005 fishing season due to a requirement to include a seal excluder device on trawls. Due to the large population size of this species, the currently low rate of serious injury and mortality is likely not a conservation risk. There are no documented interactions between other marine mammal species and U.S. vessels using other gear types in the CCAMLR region.

Current list of marine mammal species/stocks injured/killed:
Trawl: Antarctic fur seals.

Estimated number of current participants: 0

Take Reduction Teams/Plans that affect this fishery: N/A

Year added to the LOF: 2009

Category when originally listed: Category II

Basis for original classification on the LOF: While a formal observer program existed for fisheries in the CCAMLR region, information on marine mammal stock abundance in the area was scarce and observer reports of fishery interactions were specific enough to determine the level of marine mammal serious injury and mortality. Therefore, all gear types were listed as Category II, the appropriate classification for new fisheries on the LOF for which there is little information on which to base a classification.

Estimated number of participants when originally listed: 0

Past names, if any: None.
additional observer. The United States requires all of its vessels fishing in the CCAMLR area, for any target species and with any gear, to carry an observer. In certain exploratory toothfish fisheries, the vessel must carry two observers, with at least one being an international observer.

Management and regulations: Both a CCAMLR and a High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (HSFCA) permit are required to fish in CCAMLR waters. CCAMLR Conservation Measures require or recommend several measures for fisheries in the CCAMLR area. CCAMLR Mandatory measures include requirements for reporting; operating a Vessel Monitoring System; longline gear modifications to reduce seabird interactions; and mesh sizes restrictions for trawl gear. CCAMLR recommendations include seal bycatch mitigation measures, such as a seal excluder device. However, the U.S. requires all of its vessels fishing for krill in the CCAMLR area to use a seal excluder device.

History of Changes on the LOF

None.