
Toothfish Import Monitoring Program



(*Dissostichus* species)

National Marine Fisheries Service

Office of Sustainable Fisheries



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 1982 Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources established the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) for the purpose of protecting and conserving the marine living resources in the waters surrounding Antarctica. The Convention is based upon an ecosystem approach to the conservation of marine living resources incorporating standards designed to ensure the conservation of individual populations and species and the Antarctic marine ecosystem as a whole. The United States is a Contracting Party to the Convention, as well as a member of CCAMLR.

In 1999, CCAMLR addressed illegal fishing by adopting a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for toothfish. The CDS will monitor international trade, identify the origins of imports, determine if imports caught in the Convention Area were caught consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures, and provide catch data for stock assessments. Member nations of CCAMLR are intending to implement the CDS on May 7, 2000.

Specific current requirements for toothfish harvest and import permits are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations title 50, part 300, subpart G. The National Marine Fisheries Service is publishing proposed regulations in the *Federal Register* that would revise those requirements to include, among other things, domestic implementation of the CDS. There will be a 30-day public comment period on the proposed regulations. Final regulations are expected to be promulgated by May 7, 2000.

HOW THE CATCH DOCUMENT WORKS

1. Flag states will issue a non-transferrable *Dissostichus* Catch Document (DCD) that is uniquely identified for a vessel.
 2. The master of the vessel will record the catch information and convey this to the flag state prior to offloading to obtain confirmation.
 3. Upon transshipments of *Dissostichus*, the master of the harvesting vessel will obtain the signature of the master of the vessel to which the catch is transferred.
 4. Upon landing *Dissostichus*, the master of the harvesting vessel or transshipment vessel will obtain the signature of a responsible official and the individual that receives the catch at the port of landing.
 5. After signing the DCD, the master of the harvesting or transshipment vessel will provide a copy to each recipient of the catch and to the flag state.
 6. Any person who imports *Dissostichus* will obtain the DCD(s) that accompany the import shipment and mail or fax the DCD along with the import ticket to NMFS in Pascagoula, MS.
 7. Any person who exports *Dissostichus* will complete the DCD(s) by indicating the amount from the original offloading listed on the DCD that is contained in the particular export shipment. The exporter will sign the DCD and obtain validation by a government authority.
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DEALER PERMIT

The United States monitors and controls the harvesting and associated activities of its vessels in the CCAMLR Convention Area and the importation of Antarctic marine living resources.

Under the proposed regulations, any person importing Antarctic marine living resources into the United States must either have a harvesting permit or a dealer permit (currently known as an import permit). This would apply to **all** imports of toothfish whether harvested inside or outside CCAMLR waters.

Dealer permit application information would include:

- applicant's name,
- company,
- business address,
- description of resource and amount to be imported,
- harvesting vessel's name,
- areas fished (both CCAMLR statistical subarea and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) subareas outside CCAMLR waters), and
- dates of harvest.

A copy of the dealer permit would accompany any toothfish resource imported under its authority.

Dealers who wish to re-export Antarctic marine living resources would be required to apply for a dealer permit to re-export. A copy of the dealer permit must accompany any shipment exiting the United States.

IMPORT TICKET

A completed import ticket:

- ❖ Would be submitted to NMFS within **24 hours** (current requirement is 10 days) of any import.
- ❖ Would be accompanied by a completed *Dissostichus* Catch Document (DCD) for each shipment (similar to the swordfish import requirement that biweekly dealer reports list each shipment and a Certificate of Eligibility [COE] for each shipment is attached).
- ❖ Would include the name and address of importing individual and company, resource being imported and date, quantity of resource, harvesting vessel(s), areas fished (both CCAMLR statistical subarea and FAO subareas outside CCAMLR waters), vessel flag nation, and **U.S. Customs CF7501 number**.


COMPLIANCE

- **A *Dissostichus* Catch Document (DCD) would be required to accompany all imports of toothfish.**
- **No shipment would be released for entry into the customs territory of the United States without completed and validated DCD.**
- **Shipments not accompanied by DCD(s) may be detained and subject to further enforcement action by NMFS.**
- **Dealers associated with a product not accompanied by the required DCD or dealer permit may be subject to further enforcement action by NMFS.**

For more information on the proposed Toothfish Import Monitoring Program, please contact:

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International Fisheries Division
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For more information on current import requirements, please contact:

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NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Seafood Inspection Laboratory
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Pascagoula, MS 39568-1207



For more information about CCAMLR, please visit their website at <http://www.ccamlr.org>

This pamphlet was prepared in February 2000 to inform interested persons about the Toothfish Import Monitoring Program. Since fishery rules are subject to change, importers must familiarize themselves with the latest regulations and are responsible for complying with current official rules and regulations.
