
NOTICE 420 OF 2001**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR EXPERIMENTAL FISHING PERMITS FOR THE CATCHING OF PATAGONIAN TOOTHFISH (*DISSOSTICHUS* SPP.) IN TERMS OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATIES ACT, 1996 (ACT No. 60 OF 1996)**

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism hereby announces for general information that it is the intention of the Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to issue 3 experimental longline fishing permits for the catching of Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in two Statistical Subareas (Subareas 48.6 and 58.6) and one Statistical Division (58.4.4) within the area managed by the international Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) outside South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone from 1 March to 31 August 2001 north of 60 °S and from 15 February to 15 October 2001 south of 60 °S in respect of Subarea 48.6 and 1 May to 31 August 2001 in respect of Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.4.4. In accordance with CCAMLR Conservation Measures, only one vessel will be allowed to fish in any one area at any one time.

Interested persons are herewith invited to apply. Applicants are advised that in assessing applications the Minister will require information on—

- (i) name and flag of vessel to be used, including any record of past involvement in fishing for Patagonian Toothfish, a history of the vessel's flag designation and a valid marine safety certificate;
- (ii) whether or not the applicant exhibits the necessary experience and technical ability to carry out the experimental fishery in an efficient and safe manner under extreme weather conditions remote from port;
- (iii) the extent of sea-borne and shore-based facilities to support fishing operations;
- (iv) the willingness to work according to a fishing plan and to supply the necessary fishery data in the manner required by the Chief Director: Marine and Coastal Management;
- (v) the ability and willingness to abide by the relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures in force and by any subsequent provisions subsumed by the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) or by the Regulations (Regulation No. R. 980 of 18 July 1997) under the Antarctic Treaties Act, 1996 (Act No. 60 of 1996); and
- (vi) the extent of participation by South Africans subject to a permit being granted.

Information on (ii) and (vi) above will also be required with respect to the processing and marketing of the catches. Full information on the applicant's history, if any, in the Patagonian Toothfish fishery must be furnished.

It must be noted that—

- (i) the granting of an experimental permit will be subject to the mandatory use of South African flagged vessels to catch the fish;
- (ii) subject to the provisions of the relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures in force, the Chief Director: Marine and Coastal Management will have sole discretion in allocating the allowable catch and fishing area allocated to each successful applicant;
- (iii) all vessels will be required to carry at least one scientific observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Scientific Observation and satellite vessel monitoring systems approved by the Chief Director: Marine and Coastal Management;
- (iv) permits (depending on area) will only be granted from 1 March to 31 August 2001 north of 60 °S and 15 February to 15 October 2001 south of 60 °S, in respect of Subarea 48.6 and 1 May to 31 August 2001 in Subarea 58.6 and Division 58.4.4, and
- (v) The catch limit in Subarea 48.6 will be limited to 455 tonnes north of 60 °S, and 455 tonnes south of 60 °S (Conservation Measure 202/XIX); the limit in Subarea 58.6 will be 450 tonnes (Conservation Measure 209/XIX) and in Division 58.4.4 the limit will be 370 tonnes north of 60 °S (Conservation Measure 208/XIX). In the event that these limits are reached for all nationals, the fishery will be closed.

The closing date for applications will be 14 days after publication of this notice. Applicants must ensure that their applications reach the offices of the Chief Directorate: Marine and Coastal Management, Seventh Floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001/Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 (Attention: Ms R. Zeelie) before or on the due date (14 days after publication of this notice) stipulated above. No faxed applications will be accepted. Applications received thereafter will not be considered. As previous applications will not be taken into consideration, interested persons who submitted such applications are advised to re-apply.

(23 February 2001)/(23 Februarie 2001)