
GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 2587 OF 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR EXPERIMENTAL LONGLINE 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 announces that it is the intention of the Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to issue **2 experimental longline fishing permits for the catching of Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus spp*) in the Statistical Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 within the area managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) outside South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone from 1 December 2003 to 31 August 2004 in respect of Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 subject to approval by CCAMLR.**

In assessing applications the Minister will have regard to the following:

- (i) Transformation profile (management and equity) of the applicant. Full details of the applicant and its directors / members must also be provided;
- (ii) Certified copy of any catching or joint venture agreement pertinent to this application;
- (iii) Details of other fishing rights held by the applicant in South Africa;
- (iv) Details of the fishing vessel to be utilised. It is a requirement that a South African registered vessel is utilised. Full information of the vessels record of past involvement in longline fishing and a history of the vessel's flag designation for the past 3 years must be submitted;
- (v) The applicants previous participation in the toothfish fishery, if any, including details of investment in this sector;
- (vi) Whether or not the applicant, or any of its shareholders or joint venture partners, have or has been involved in any illegal fishing. This must be stated under oath by a duly authorised representative of the applicant;
- (vii) The experience and technical ability of the applicant to carry out the experimental fishery in an efficient and safe manner under extreme weather conditions remote from port;
- (viii) Information as to where and how the fish products will be distributed and marketed;
- (ix) The extent of sea-borne and shore-based facilities to support fishing operations;
- (x) The extent of participation by South Africans in the fishing operations.

The following requirements apply:

- (i) The granting of an experimental permit will be subject to the mandatory use of a South African flagged vessel to catch the fish. A valid Local General Safety Certificate, issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority clearly stating that the vessel is permitted to fish south of 60 degrees south latitude is required before a permit will be issued;
- (ii) The permit holder must comply fully with 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);
- (iii) Any vessel intending to operate in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 must have been registered with the Secretariat of CCAMLR 3 months prior to commencing fishing operations;
- (iii) Subject to the provisions of the relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures in force, the Deputy Director-General: Marine and Coastal Management will have sole discretion in allocating the allowable catch and fishing area allocated to each successful applicant;
- (iv) All vessels will be required to undertake longline-weighting trials according to the provisions of CCAMLR 235/XX (and relevant Conservation Measure as determined by the Commission for the 2003-2004 season) and meet the stringent requirements attached thereto, and particularly, the number of Time Depth Recorders (TDR's) required, prior to commencing fishing;
- (v) All vessels will be required to carry two scientific observers (at least one appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Scientific Observation) and satellite vessel monitoring systems approved by the Deputy Director-General: Marine and Coastal Management;
- (v) Permits will only be valid from 1 December 2003 to 31 August 2004 in respect of Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 (or season fishing dates as determined by the Commission);
- (vi) Fish caught in the South African exclusive economic zone must be discharged at port in South Africa;
- (vii) The permit holder will be required to supply fishery data to the Department in the manner and format required by the Deputy Director-General: Marine and Coastal Management.

The closing date and time for applications is 16h00 on Friday 7 November 2003. Applicants must submit their applications to the offices of the Deputy Director-General: Marine and Coastal Management, 7th Floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001 / Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 (Attention: Mr. P. Buthelezi). Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be considered.