

## 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.

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**Gear description/method for fishing:** There are multiple gear types used to target multiple species in the CCAMLR area. Gear types include pelagic and bottom trawl, trap/pot, gillnet, and longline.

**Target species:** Target species include krill and Antarctic finfish (rockcod species, toothfish species, icefish species, silverfish, cod, and lanternfish), mollusks, and crustaceans.

**Spatial/temporal distribution of effort:** The Commission for CCAMLR conserves and manages Antarctic marine living resources (AMLR) in waters surrounding Antarctica. The Convention applies to AMLR in the waters from 60° S. lat. south to the Antarctic Convergence, with limited exceptions, covering 32.9 million square kilometers.

**Levels of observer coverage each year:** CCAMLR has identified two types of scientifically trained observers to collect information required in CCAMLR managed fisheries, including information on incidental entanglement and mortality of marine mammals and seabirds. The first type of observer is a “national observer,” such as a U.S. observer placed on a U.S. vessel by the U.S. Government. The second type of observer is an “international observer,” or an observer operating in accordance with bilateral arrangements between the Nation whose vessel is fishing and the nation providing the observer. CCAMLR Conservation measures require all fishing vessels in the CCAMLR area (except vessels fishing for krill) to carry at least one international observer and, where possible, an

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.

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**History of Changes on the LOF**

None.