

CMM 14.03

Conservation and Management Measure to limit Deep-Sea Trawl Effort in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement Area

The Contracting Parties to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement;

RECOGNISING that the Agreement calls on the Contracting Parties, in giving effect to the objectives of the Agreement, to adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) that ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Area, taking into account the need to protect marine biodiversity and to evaluate the impact of fishing on the fishery resources and on the marine environment, taking into account the environmental and oceanographic characteristics of the Area (Articles 2 and 6(1)(c & d));

FURTHER RECOGNISING Article 4(c) which calls on the Contracting Parties to apply the precautionary approach in accordance with the Code of Conduct and the 1995 Agreement, whereby the absence of adequate scientific information shall not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures;

MINDFUL of Article 16 of the Agreement that calls on the Contracting Parties to cooperate with other international fisheries and related organisations on issues of mutual interest;

FURTHER MINDFUL that the Contracting Parties are yet to establish a Scientific Committee, or relevant equivalent, that is competent to conduct analysis and assessment of fisheries present in the Agreement Area;

NOTING Resolution 61/105, adopted by UNGA at the 61st Plenary Meeting on 8 December 2006 and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that call on states and regional fisheries management organisations to regulate bottom fisheries and implement measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management;

HEREBY adopts the following conservation measure in accordance with Articles 6 and 8 of the Agreement and in accordance with the relevant decisions of the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties:

1. Only vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties shall be permitted to engage in bottom or mid-water trawl fishing activities in the Agreement Area;
2. Contracting Parties shall limit their fishing activity in bottom and mid-water trawling in any one year to their maximum effort in any one of the reference years 2002 through 2015, defined as:
 - a. Total days at sea in the Agreement Area;
 - b. The minimum mesh size in the trawl net shall be 100 mm stretched mesh or equivalent;
3. This Conservation and Management is to be reviewed by the Contracting Parties on an annual basis.