

Cap. 635

Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Ordinance



漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ("CAMLR Convention") is an international convention with the objective to conserve Antarctic marine living resources. The CAMLR Convention entered into force in 1982, and there are currently a total of 37 Contracting Parties, comprising 27 members and 10 acceding states.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ("CCAMLR") has been established to give effect to the objectives and principles of the CAMLR Convention, including regulating activities associated with the rational utilisation and management of marine living resources in the Convention Area. CCAMLR adopted a Conservation Measure entitled "Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp." (CM10-05) with a view to protecting toothfish from illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing internationally.

Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Ordinance

The Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Ordinance (Cap. 635) is the domestic legislation which gives effect to the CAMLR Convention in Hong Kong. The Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Toothfish Catch Documentation Scheme) Regulation (Cap. 635A) was made to regulate the trade of toothfish. Under the regulation, any import, export and re-export of toothfish item(s) (live or dead) into or out of Hong Kong, including any flesh or other part (whether raw, or in any way processed or preserved) must be covered by relevant licence(s) issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. Offenders are liable to a maximum fine of HK\$100 000 and imprisonment for 1 year.

Enquiries

Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department

Address : Aberdeen Fisheries Offices,
: 100A Shek Pai Wan Road, Aberdeen, HK
Telephone : (852) 3426 2369
Fax : (852) 2814 0018
Email : ccamlr@afcd.gov.hk
Website : www.afcd.gov.hk/ccamlr

Application for a licence

Please scan
the QR code for
licence application
details



Application channels

Online Trade Single Window (www.tradesinglewindow.hk)
(Registration of a user account is required)

In person / by post Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
Aberdeen Fisheries Office,
100A Shek Pai Wan Road, Aberdeen, HK

Fax (852) 2814 0018 **Email** ccamlr@afcd.gov.hk

Documents and information required

- (a) a completed application form;
- (b) a copy of the applicant's Hong Kong Identity Card or travel document (for application from an individual) or the company's Business Registration Certificate (for application from a company);
- (c) copy(ies) of the relevant *Dissostichus* catch document (DCD), *Dissostichus* export document (DED) and/or *Dissostichus* re-export document (DRED);
- (d) copy(ies) of shipping document(s) with transport details; and
- (e) copy(ies) of other supporting document(s) (e.g. invoices showing the chain of transactions from the original exporter/supplier, subsequent traders to the importer).

Application fee

An import licence : HK\$ 375
An export licence or re-export licence : HK\$ 410

Processing time

In general, 5 working days are required for processing an application for a licence, after all necessary documents have been received. For application submitted by post or fax, an extra 3 to 5 working days may be required.

Toothfish



Antarctic Toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*) and Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), both of which are commonly found in the waters around Antarctica, are target species protected under the CAMLR Convention. The biological characteristics of toothfish, notably their longevity, large size, slow growth and late maturation, make them highly vulnerable to overfishing.

Toothfish are harvested and traded internationally as a table fish in some places and sold to hotels, restaurants and supermarkets under different common names. Toothfish sold in Hong Kong are mainly imported from Australia, Argentina, Chile, and France in the form of chilled or frozen fish or as fish meat or fillet. Common market names include Seabass, Mero or White cod.

Other species

Other harvested species regulated under the CAMLR Convention include icefish and krill, which are covered by Conservation Measures specifying catch quota and requiring the presence of onboard observers.

Other species such as penguins and seals are also protected through establishment of marine protected areas and introduction of habitat management measures. Seabirds are protected from resources harvesting by gear restrictions.

Mackerel icefish (*Champsocephalus gunnari*) is a benthic fish species native to the Southern Ocean. The species was heavily exploited as a seafood delicacy in the 1970s and 1980s, resulting in the closure of the fisheries in the early 1990s.



Antarctic krill (*Euphausia superba*) is the dominant species of Euphausiacea, an order of small crustaceans, and these krills are found only in the Southern Ocean. They constitute the main diet of many marine predators in the Antarctic ecosystem.