

CONSERVATION MEASURE 155/XVII
Precautionary Catch Limit for *Electrona carlsbergi*
in Statistical Subarea 48.3 for the 1998/99 Season

The Commission hereby adopts the following Conservation Measure in accordance with Conservation Measure 7/V:

1. For the purposes of this Conservation Measure the fishing season for *Electronacarlsbergi* is defined as the period from 7 November 1998 to 30 November 1999.
2. The total catch of *Electronacarlsbergi* in the 1998/99 season shall be limited to 109 000 tonnes in Statistical Subarea 48.3.
3. In addition, the total catch of *Electronacarlsbergi* in the 1998/99 season shall be limited to 14 500 tonnes in the Shag Rocks region, defined as the area bounded by 52°30'S, 40°W; 52°30'S, 44°W; 54°30'S, 40°W and 54°30'S, 44°W.
4. In the event that the catch of *Electronacarlsbergi* is expected to exceed 20 000 tonnes in the 1998/99 season, a survey of stock biomass and age structure shall be conducted during that season by the principal fishing nations involved. A full report of this survey including data on stock biomass (specifically including area surveyed, survey design and density estimates), age structure and the biological characteristics of the by-catch shall be made available in advance for discussion at the 1999 meeting of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment.
5. The directed fishery for *Electronacarlsbergi* in Statistical Subarea 48.3 shall close if the by-catch of any of the species named in Conservation Measure 95/XIV reaches its by-catch limit or if the total catch of *Electronacarlsbergi* reaches 109 000 tonnes, whichever is sooner.
6. The directed fishery for *Electronacarlsbergi* in the Shag Rocks region shall close if the by-catch of any of the species named in Conservation Measure 95/XIV reaches its by-catch limit or if the total catch of *Electronacarlsbergi* reaches 14 500 tonnes, whichever is sooner.
7. If, in the course of the directed fishery for *Electronacarlsbergi*, the by-catch in any one haul of any species other than the target species
 - is greater than 100 kg and exceeds 5% of the total catch of all fish by weight, or
 - is equal to or greater than 2 tonnes, then

the fishing vessel shall move to another fishing location at least 5 n miles distant¹. The fishing vessel shall not return to any point within 5 n miles of the location where the by-catch of species, other than the target species, exceeded 5%, for a period of at least five days². The location where the by-catch exceeded 5% is defined as the path followed by the fishing vessel from the point at which the fishing gear was first deployed from the fishing vessel to the point at which the fishing gear was retrieved by the fishing vessel.

8. For the purpose of implementing this Conservation Measure:
 - (i) the Catch Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 40/X shall apply in the 1998/99 season;
 - (ii) the Monthly Fine-scale Catch and Effort Data Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 122/XVI shall also apply in the 1998/99 season. For the purposes of Conservation Measure 122/XVI, the target species is *Electronacarlbergi*, and 'by-catch species' are defined as any cephalopod, crustacean or fish species other than *Electrona carlsbergi*; and
 - (iii) the Monthly Fine-scale Biological Data Reporting System set out in Conservation Measure 121/XVI shall also apply in the 1998/99 season. For the purposes of Conservation Measure 121/XVI, the target species is *Electronacarlbergi*, and 'by-catch species' are defined as any cephalopod, crustacean or fish species other than *Electronacarlbergi*. For the purposes of paragraph 8(ii) of Conservation Measure 121/XVI a representative sample shall be a minimum of 500 fish.

¹ This provision is adopted pending the adoption of a more appropriate definition of a fishing location by the Commission.

² The specified period is adopted in accordance with the reporting period specified in Conservation Measure 51/XII, pending the adoption of a more appropriate period by the Commission.