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General Notice

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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 215 OF 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR EXPLORATORY 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 hereby announces that it is the intention of the Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to issue **3 exploratory fishing permits for the catching of Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in two Statistical Sub-areas (Sub-areas 48.6 and 58.6) and one Statistical Division (58.4.4) within the area managed by the international Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).**

Interested persons are herewith invited to apply. Applicants are advised that in assessing applications the Minister will require:

- (i) Full information regarding the applicants experience in Patagonian Toothfish fishery;
- (ii) Full details regarding the vessel to be utilised. Information is required for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 regarding:
 - (a) the name and flag of vessel;
 - (b) involvement of the vessel in fishing for Toothfish and any longlining activities on the High Seas;
 - (c) whether the vessel and/or owner has contravened any provisions of the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 or Antarctic Treaties Act 60 of 1996 (incorporating the provisions of CCAMLR).
- (iii) The extent to which the applicant exhibits the necessary experience and technical ability to carry out the exploratory fishery in an efficient and safe manner under extreme weather conditions remote from port;
- (iv) The extent of sea-borne and shore-based facilities to support fishing operations;
- (v) Full details as to how the Toothfish is to be caught, processed and marketed on the authority of this permit;
- (vi) The willingness to work according to a fishing plan and to supply the necessary fishery data in the manner required by the Chief Director: Resource Management;

- (vii) The ability and willingness to abide by 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), and
- (viii) The nature and extent of participation by South Africans in the utilisation of the permit being granted.

It must be noted that:

- (i) It is a requirement that the granting of an exploratory permit will be subject to the use of South African flagged vessels and that such vessels have the relevant valid safety certificates;
- (ii) Subject to the provisions of the relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures in force, the Minister will have sole discretion in allocating the allowable catch and fishing area allocated to each successful applicant;
- (iii) All vessels will be required to carry at least one scientific observer appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Scientific Observation and satellite vessel monitoring systems approved by the Chief Director: Resource Management, and
- (iv) Permits will only be granted for the following periods :
 - (a) 1 March to 31 August 2002 in respect of Sub-area 48.6 north of 60°S;
 - (b) 15 February to 15 October 2002 in respect of Sub-area 48.6 south of 60°S; and
 - (c) 1 May to 31 August 2002 in Sub-area 48.6 and Division 58.4.4.
- (v) Catch limits are as follows :
 - (a) Sub-area 48.6 will be limited to 455 tonnes north of 60°S, and 455 tonnes south of 60°S (Conservation Measure 229/XX);
 - (b) Sub-area 58.6 will be limited to 450 tonnes (Conservation Measure 234/XX);
 - (c) Division 58.4.4 will be limited to 103 tonnes (Conservation Measure 233/XX);
 - (d) Catch limits apply to areas outside national jurisdiction.

In the event that these limits are reached for all nationals, the fishery will be closed.

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- (vi) If any information provided is false or misleading, or falsified documents have been provided, or there is a failure to disclose material information or information which may materially affect the assessment of the application, then the applicants may be disqualified from applying or their (his or her) application refused, or if granted, the permit may be revoked or suspended.

The closing date for applications is **14 days after publication of this notice**. Applicants must ensure that their applications reach the offices of the Chief Directorate: Marine and Coastal Management, 7th Floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001 / Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 (Attention: Resource Control) before or on the due date (14 days after publication of this notice) stipulated above. No faxed applications will be accepted. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. As previous applications will not be taken into consideration, interested persons who submitted such applications are advised to re-apply.

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