

Contribution from the CCAMLR Secretariat in response to paragraphs 316 and 324 of draft Resolution A/70/L.22 entitled 'Oceans and the law of the sea'

The subject of the management of marine debris, as a component of CCAMLR Member's efforts to monitor and minimize the impact of fisheries related activities in the Convention Area, has been an integral part of the CCAMLR agenda since 1984.

Each year since 1989, Members have collected data on beached debris, entanglement of marine mammals, marine debris associated with seabird colonies and animals contaminated with hydrocarbons at various sites around Antarctica (See for example CCAMLR (2015), Walker et al. (1997) and Waluda and Staniland (2013) . CCAMLR has implemented measures to combat the risk of ghost fishing by prohibiting the use of gillnets for fishing activities (See CCAMLR Conservation Measure (CM) 22-04 <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/measure-22-04-2015>).

All lost fishing gear is required to be reported as part of mandatory catch reporting to the Secretariat and this data has been used to assess the mortality of fish associated with lost fishing gear that occurs during longline fishing operations in the Antarctic (Webber and Parker 2012).

CCAMLR has taken steps to reduce the amount of debris entering the marine system and to mitigate its impact. Specific measures have been implemented to address the risk associated with entanglement of marine mammals in plastic packaging bands used to secure bait boxes (See CM 26-01 <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/measure-26-01-2015>), and the injury to seabirds caused by the discharge of hooks in offal (CM 25-02 <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/measure-25-02-2015>).

CCAMLR also has also implemented initiatives to educate fishers and fishing vessel operators such as the production of posters in multiple languages to be placed on fishing vessels (required to be displayed on the vessel since 1989) to raise awareness and help to reduce pollution. It has specific regulations for waste management where specific risks have been identified. See for example CCAMLR Conservation Measure 26-01 and the posters that are required to be displayed on vessels available at <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/document/publications/overboard-not-forgotten-0>

#### References

Waluda, CM., Staniland, IJ. (2013) Entanglement of Antarctic fur seals at Bird Island, South Georgia. MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN: 74: 244-252

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Walker, TR., Reid, K., Arnould, JPY., Croxall, JP. (1997) Marine debris surveys at Bird Island, South Georgia 1990-1995. MARINE POLLUTION BULLETIN 34: 61-65

CCAMLR (2015) Report on the CCAMLR Marine Debris monitoring program (WG-FSA-15/15). CCAMLR Secretariat, Hobart.