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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 3268 OF 2002

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR EXPLORATORY LONGLINE 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 for general information that it is the intention of the Honourable Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism to issue **2 exploratory longline fishing permits for the catching of Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus spp*) in the Statistical Subarea 88.1 within the area managed by the international Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) outside South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone from 1 December 2002 to 31 August 2003 in respect of Subarea 88.1 subject to approval by the aforementioned Commission.**

As previous applications will not be taken into consideration, interested persons who submitted such applications are advised to re-apply. Applicants are advised that in assessing applications the Minister will have regard to the following:

- (i) The fishing vessel to be utilised. In this regard, full information is required regarding the vessels record of past involvement in longline fishing and a history of the vessel's flag designation for the past 3 years;
- (ii) The applicants previous participation in the toothfish fishery, if any, including details of investment in this sector;
- (iii) Whether or not the applicant, or any of its shareholders or joint venture partners, have or has been involved in any illegal fishing. This must be stated under oath by a duly authorised representative of the applicant;
- (iv) The experience and technical ability of the applicant to carry out the exploratory fishery in an efficient and safe manner under extreme weather conditions remote from port;
- (v) Information as to where and how the fish products will be distributed and marketed;
- (vi) The extent of sea-borne and shore-based facilities to support fishing operations;
- (vii) The extent of participation by South Africans in the fishing operations.

It must be noted that the following conditions will apply:

- (i) The granting of an exploratory permit will be subject to the mandatory use of a South African flagged vessel to catch the fish. A valid Local General Safety Certificate, issued by the South African Maritime Safety Authority clearly stating that the vessel is permitted to fish south of 60 degrees south latitude is required before a permit will be issued;

- (ii) The permit holder will be required to comply with 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);
- (iii) In terms of CCAMLR any vessel intending to operate in Subarea 88.1 must have been registered with the Secretariat of CCAMLR 3 months prior to commencing fishing operations;
- (iii) Subject to the provisions of the relevant CCAMLR Conservation Measures in force, the Chief Director: Resource Management will have sole discretion in allocating the allowable catch and fishing area allocated to each successful applicant;
- (iv) All vessels will be required to undertake longline-weighting trials according to the provisions of CCAMLR 235/XX (and relevant Conservation Measure as determined by the Commission for the 2002-2003 season) and meet the stringent requirements attached thereto, and particularly, the number of Time Depth Recorders (TDR's) required, prior to commencing fishing;
- (v) All vessels will be required to carry two scientific observers (at least one appointed in accordance with the CCAMLR System of Scientific Observation) and satellite vessel monitoring systems approved by the Chief Director: Resource Management;
- (v) Permits will only be granted from 1 December 2002 to 31 August 2003 in respect of Subarea 88.1 (or season fishing dates as determined by the Commission);
- (vi) The permit holder will be required to supply fishery data to the Department in the manner and format required by the Chief Director: Resource Management.

The closing date for applications will be **6 December 2002**. Applicants must ensure that their applications reach the offices of the Chief Director: Resource Management, 7th Floor, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8001 / Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012 (Attention: Mr. P. Buthelezi) on or before the due date (**6 December 2002**) stipulated above.

Applications transmitted by facsimile will not be accepted or considered.

No applications received after 12h00, on 6 December 2002 will be accepted or considered.

Applicants should note that the Minister may cancel or revoke any permit granted to an applicant who presented an application found to contain false or misleading information.

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