

**Proposed Legislation for  
Implementing the  
Convention on the Conservation of  
Antarctic Marine Living Resources  
(CCAMLR)  
in Hong Kong**



# Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources



- The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) entered into force in 1982
- To conserve\* Antarctic marine living resources, which cover the populations of fin fish, molluscs, crustaceans and all other species of living organisms, including birds, found south of the Antarctic Convergence

\* the term “conservation” includes rational use

# Convention Area

South of 60 South latitude and between that latitude and the Antarctic Convergence which form part of the Antarctic marine ecosystem (Red boundary)



# CCAMLR Membership

Members (25)		
Argentina	India	Russia
Australia	Italy	South Africa
Belgium	Japan	Spain
Brazil	South Korea	Sweden
Chile	Namibia	Ukraine
<b>China</b>	New Zealand	United Kingdom
European Union	Norway	United States
France	Poland	Uruguay
Germany		

# CCAMLR Membership

- 11 states have acceded to the CCAMLR without joining the Commission

## Acceding States (11)

Bulgaria	Greece	Panama
Canada	Mauritius	Peru
Cook Islands	Netherlands	Vanuatu
Finland	Pakistan	

# About Toothfish

- Vulnerable to overfishing : longevity, large size, slow growth and late maturation
- Highly sought after in the world fish market
- Experiencing significant levels of exploitation and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing



Source: <http://www.itsnature.org>



Source: [weekendsportfishermen.blogspot.com](http://weekendsportfishermen.blogspot.com)

# Toothfish Trade in Hong Kong

- Market names: Patagonian toothfish, Chilean white seabass, Antarctic toothfish, white seabass, white cod
- Retail price : \$15-70/100g
- Hong Kong becomes one of the major importing economies of toothfish (1 017 tonnes imported into HK in 2013)
- Accounts for less than 0.5% of the total consumption of fisheries produce in Hong Kong



# Proposal

- To better protect the Antarctic marine living resources
- Contribute to the international concerted efforts in the protection and sustainable use of marine resources
- Introduce a control scheme for the trading of toothfish by way of a new piece of legislation for the implementation of the CCMALR in HK\*

\*HK has no fishing vessels engaged in harvesting activities in the Convention Area

# Catch Documentation Scheme

- The Commission established under the CCAMLR adopted a conservation measure (CM) entitled “Catch Documentation Scheme for *Dissostichus* spp.” (CDS) in 2000 to protect toothfish from IUU fishing internationally
- Each landing and transshipment of *Dissostichus* spp. shall be accompanied by a completed valid *Dissostichus* catch document
- Each shipment of *Dissostichus* spp. to be imported, exported or re-exported shall be accompanied by valid export/re-export document
- All catch, export and re-export documents will be available to the CCAMLR Secretariat and any Member who has had a role in the completion of such documents

# Conservation Measures

The following CMs are relevant to HK:

- Port Inspections of Fishing Vessels Carrying Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CM 10-03)
- Automated Satellite-linked Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) (CM 10-04)
- **Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for *Dissostichus* spp. (CM10-05)**
- Scheme to Promote Compliance by Contracting Party Vessels with the CCAMLR CMs (CM 10-06)
- Scheme to Promote Compliance by Non-Contracting Party Vessels with the CCAMLR CMs (CM 10-07)
- Scheme to Promote Compliance by Contracting Party nationals with the CCAMLR CMs (CM 10-08)

# Key Elements of the Legislative Proposal

- Prohibit the landing, importation or transshipment of toothfish without catch documents;
- Prohibit the export or re-export of toothfish without valid documents;
- Empower the enforcement agency to obtain relevant information for validation of export/re-export documents for toothfish, search vessels, inspect, seize or confiscate consignments without valid catch or export/re-export documents, and dispose of the confiscated items;
- Require fishing vessels carrying Antarctic marine living resources to provide advance notice of entry into Hong Kong, and conducting inspections on these vessels;
- Request for verification of VMS reports of fishing vessels engaged in fishing in the Convention Area;

# Key Elements of the Legislative Proposal

- Issue and validate catch and export/re-export documents for toothfish;
- Deny port access of IUU fishing vessels and prohibiting the resupplying of these fishing vessels;
- Communicate the information of fishing vessels suspected to be engaged in IUU activities and CDS related information to relevant overseas authorities e.g. the Commission Secretariat and the Contracting Parties; and
- Provide the enforcement agency other powers for carrying out their duties effectively, e.g. to stop, search and detain vessels and persons in connection with contravention of the legislation.

**The End**