

reviewed by the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment and the Scientific Committee.

The Commission amended the general measures for exploratory fishing for *Dissostichus* species to limit longline soak times, except in the case of exceptional circumstances beyond the control of a vessel, to 48 hours, measured from the completion of the setting process to the beginning of the hauling process. In addition, the measure was modified to more precisely define the fine-scale rectangle within which vessels are to fish.

The Commission set the catch limit for the longline fishery for *D. eleginoides* in Subarea 48.3 in the 2002/03 season at 7,810 tons, counting any catch of *D. eleginoides* taken in other fisheries in Subarea 48.3 against the catch limit.

The Commission set the catch limit for trawl fishing in Division 58.5.2 during the December 1, 2002, to November 30, 2003, season and for longline fishing for *D. eleginoides* in Division 58.5.2 west of 79°20'E from May 1, 2003 to August 31, 2003, at 2,879 tons. This is the first season a longliner may operate in this fishery.

The Commission approved several fisheries as exploratory fisheries for the 2002/03 fishing season. These fisheries are limited total allowable catch (TAC) fisheries and are open only to the flagged vessels of the countries that notified CCAMLR of an interest by participants in the fisheries. The United States was not a notifying country, and, thus, U.S. fishers are not eligible to participate in them.

The exploratory fisheries for *Dissostichus* species are for longline fishing in Statistical Subarea 48.6 by Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and Uruguay; longline fishing in Statistical Division 58.4.2 by Australia; longline fishing in 58.4.3a (the Elan Bank) outside areas under national jurisdiction by Australia and Japan; longline fishing in Statistical Division 58.4.3b (the BANZARE Bank) by Australia and Japan; longline fishing in Statistical Subarea 88.1 by Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa and Spain; longline fishing in Statistical Subarea 88.2 by Japan, New Zealand and South Africa.

The Commission extended the limitations on bycatch in new and exploratory fisheries in 58.5.2 for the 2002/03 season.

The Commission limited the bycatch of *Macrourus* species, skates and rays and other species in new and exploratory fisheries small-scale research units for *Dissostichus* in Statistical Area 48.6, Statistical Divisions 58.4.2, 58.4.3a, 58.4.3b, and

Statistical Areas 88.1 and 88.2 for the 2002/03 season.

The Commission adopted a resolution relating to Harvesting *D. eleginoides* in Areas Outside of Coastal State Jurisdiction Adjacent to the CCAMLR Area in FAO Statistical Areas 51 and 57. The resolution recommends that Members provide data and other information, subject to their laws and regulations, relevant to understanding the biology and estimating the status of stocks in these areas. It also recommends that Members take steps necessary to conduct only that level of toothfish harvesting in these areas, which will ensure the conservation of this species in the Convention Area.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*

Dated: February 7, 2003.

William T. Hogarth,

*Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 03-3590 Filed 2-12-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Office

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2003-1]

Vessel Hull Design Protection Act

AGENCIES: The United States Copyright Office, Library of Congress; and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments and notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: In preparation for the report to the Congress on the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act, the United States Copyright Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office are requesting written comments and are announcing a public hearing.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before March 20, 2003. Reply comments must be received on or before April 14, 2003. The public meeting will be held on March 27, 2003, starting at 10 a.m. at the address below. Requests to participate or attend the public meeting are on a first-come, first-served basis and must be received by close of business on March 20, 2003.

ADDRESSES: If sent by mail, five copies of written comments and replies each should be addressed to: William J. Roberts, Jr., Senior Attorney, GC/I&R, P.O. Box 70400, Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024-0400 and Linda

S. Lourie, Attorney-Advisor, Office of External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. If hand delivered, they should be brought to: Office of the General Counsel, James Madison Memorial Building, Room LM-403, First and Independence Avenues, SE., Washington, DC and the Office of External Affairs, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Suite 902, 2121 Crystal Drive, Crystal Park 2, Arlington, VA. The public meeting will take place in LM-414 (CARP Hearing Room), James Madison Memorial Building, First and Independence Avenue, SE., Washington, DC. Notices of intent to participate in the public hearing should be faxed to (202) 252-3423 or e-mailed to wroberts@loc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William J. Roberts, Jr., Senior Attorney, P.O. Box 70977, Southwest Station, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 707-8380. Telefax: (202) 707-8366. Linda S. Lourie, Attorney-Advisor, Office of External Affairs, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box 4, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. Telephone: (703) 305-9300. Telefax: (703) 305-8885.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

As a part of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, Congress passed the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act ("VHDPA") which created sui generis protection for original designs of watercraft hulls and decks. The VHDPA was slated to sunset after two years but in 1999, as part of the Intellectual Property and Communications Omnibus Reform Act, the VHDPA was made a permanent part of the law. See 17 U.S.C. chapter 13. In making the VHDPA permanent, Congress directed the Register of Copyrights and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the VHDPA and report their findings to the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives by November 1, 2003.

In conducting the study, the Copyright Office and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are required to consider a number of factors. See Section 504 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, Pub. L. No. 105-304, 112 Stat. 2860. First, we must examine the extent to which the VHDPA has been effective in suppressing infringement of protected vessel hull