South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association

NOTICE TO DEEP-SEA TRAWLERS Seabed Rehabilitation Experiment

The Deep-Sea Trawling Industry has engaged in an experiment to determine the effects of trawling on the seabed and its associated marine life. Although bottom trawling is generally known to affect life on the seabed, the extent and consequence of the impacts can differ greatly, depending on the type of gear deployed and the type of seabed. We currently know little about how trawling might affect benthic communities under local conditions. SADSTIA together with local scientists are concerned about our present lack of scientific knowledge about trawling relationships within common benthic habitats --- not only of the effects of trawling on marine ecosystems, but also of the possible effects on long-term productivity of trawled fish resources. It is surmised that typical South African soft trawl ground may rehabilitate when left untrawled but it is necessary to demonstrate that this contention is correct.

The Industry will actively support a five year experiment conducted by university and government scientists to study the impacts of trawling in a clearly defined locality. This project forms part of our environmental responsibility, and is one of the actions supporting current *Marine Stewardship Council Certification* of South African trawled hake and hake products.

Each year, starting in 2014, scientists will film and sample the seabed throughout Grid Block 372. The first samples have already been taken. The experiment will involve the closure of three lanes in Block 372 on the west coast, immediately west of Child's Bank (Karbonkel), from 1st March 2014. The experiment is intended to determine if closure will result in significant changes in marine life, by comparing trawled and un-trawled areas over time. It has been designed to allow trawling to continue in Block 372, by confining vessels to two designated 'lanes'. This limited degree of trawling activity in the research area throughout the duration of the experiment is absolutely essential to the success of the experiment.

VMS will be used for monitoring purposes and MaxSea tracks from trawlers working in the northern half of Block 372 will need to be made available to scientists to enable them to evaluate the extent of trawling in the area and experimental compliance.

SADSTIA skippers working in block 372 must comply with the following directions:

From 1st March 2014 onwards until further notice, skippers trawling in Block 372 will have to avoid trawling in 3 strips, each 0.65 nm wide and 8.1 nm long. The accompanying chart indicates the closures, and the coordinates are given. It is equally important that trawling should continue in the lanes between these strips and along the western edge. Please note: skippers are not required to avoid Block 372 entirely but only to adhere to the demarcations.

Your cooperation will contribute greatly to this necessary and interesting scientific project.

Roy Bross: SECRETARY

Trawling in west coast Block 372: Exclusion zones from 1st March 2014

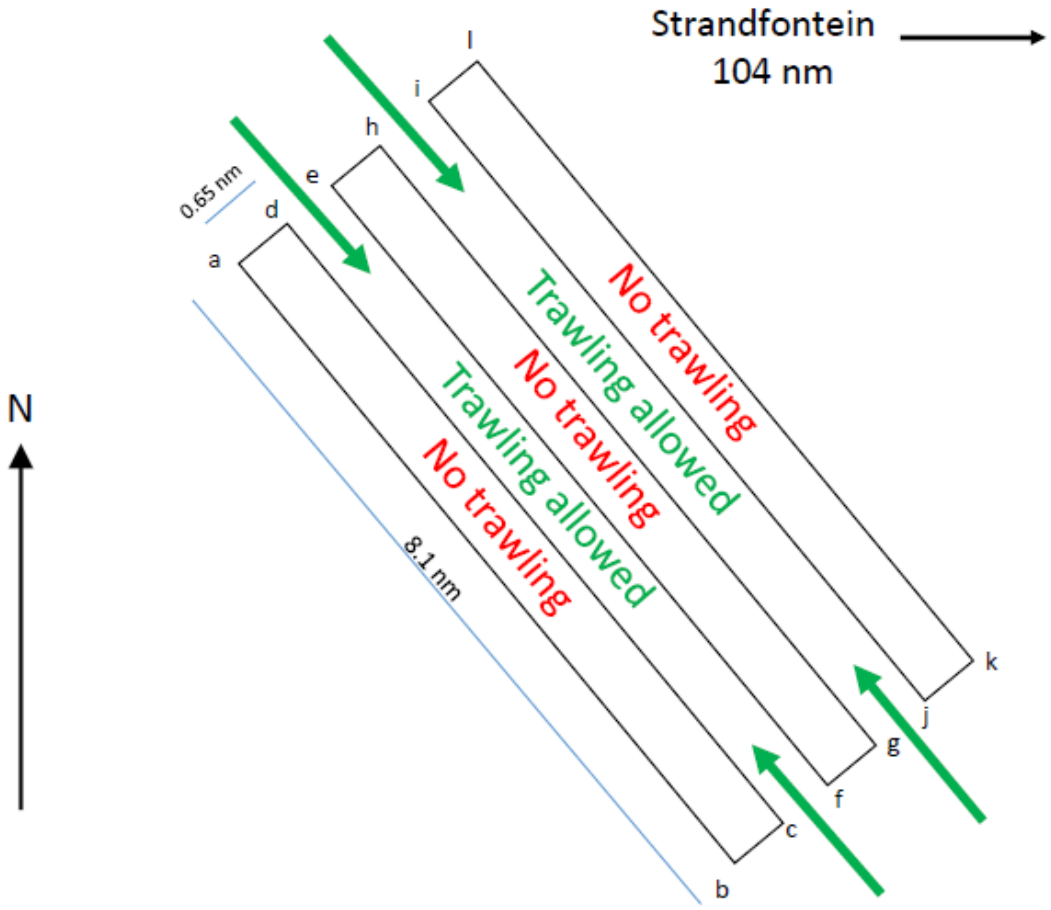

Table of geographical co-ordinates

	DD.DDDD		DD MM.MM	
Symbol	**Latitude**	**Longitude**	**Latitude**	**Longitude**
a	30.6931°S	15.3430°E	30° 41.59 S	15° 20.58 E
b	30.7965°S	15.4440°E	30° 47.79 S	15° 26.64 E
c	30.7896°S	15.4536°E	30° 47.37 S	15° 27.22 E
d	30.6862°S	15.3526°E	30° 41.17 S	15° 21.15 E
e	30.6792°S	15.3622°E	30° 40.75 S	15° 21.73 E
f	30.7826°S	15.4632°E	30° 46.96 S	15° 27.79 E
g	30.7757°S	15.4728°E	30° 46.54 S	15° 28.37 E
h	30.6723°S	15.3718°E	30° 40.34 S	15° 22.31 E
i	30.7687°S	15.4825°E	30° 46.12 S	15° 28.95 E
j	30.6653°S	15.3814°E	30° 39.92 S	15° 22.89 E
k	30.7618°S	15.4921°E	30° 45.71 S	15° 29.53 E
l	30.6584°S	15.3912°E	30° 39.50 S	15° 23.47 E