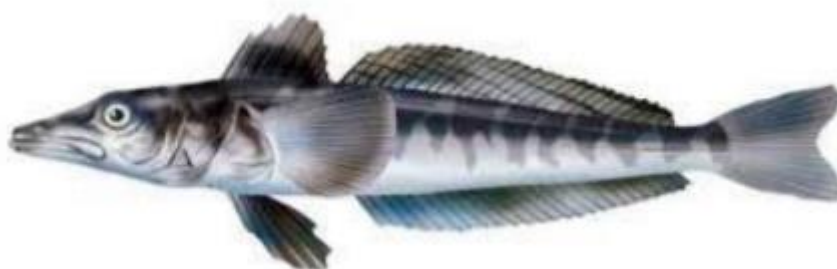


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South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl



Surveillance Report

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)	Acoura Marine t/a Lloyd's Register
Assessment team	Jim Andrews & Paul Medley
Fishery client	Polar Ltd.
Assessment Type	Fourth Surveillance



Assessment Data Sheet

Fishery name	South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl	
Species and Stock	Mackerel Icefish (<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>) Antarctic Mackerel Icefish CAMMLR Area 48 Atlantic within sub-area 48.3	
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Glossary

ACAP	Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
BAS	British Antarctic Survey
BCA	Benthic Closed Area
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CAMLR	Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention.
Cefas	Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
CPUE	Catch per unit of fishing effort
ENGO	Environmental Non-Governmental Organisation
ETP	Endangered, Threatened and Protected species.
F	Fishing mortality (with subscripts such as F_{msy} = Fishing mortality at maximum sustainable yield).
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (department of UK Government)
GSGSSI	Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
IUU	Illegal Unregulated Unreported fishing activity
KEP	King Edwards Point (GSGSSI and BAS base on South Georgia)
MFV	Motorised Fishing Vessel
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRAG	Marine Resources Assessment Group
MZ	Maritime Zone
NTZ	No Take Zone
RIA	Reduced Impact Areas (relating to fishery impacts)
ROV	Remotely operated vehicles
SAERI	South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
SGMZ	South Georgia Maritime Zone
SGSSI MZ	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands Maritime zone
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
VME	Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem
WG - FSA	Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (CCAMLR)
WWF	World Wildlife Foundation

1 Executive Summary

1. This is the 4th Annual Surveillance of the South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery, which was re-certified against the MSC Standard in 2016.
2. This surveillance was carried out in accordance with the MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 by a team of two assessors (Dr Jim Andrews and Dr Paul Medley).
3. Because of the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic the assessment team was unable to hold meetings with stakeholders. Instead, the meetings with the client, officers of the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI), and scientists from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) were conducted remotely, in accordance with the MSC Covid-19 Pandemic Derogation¹.
4. No conditions of certification were raised nor were any certification recommendations made when the fishery was re-certified (against MSC FCR v1.3) in 2016.
5. At this surveillance audit the assessment team carried out a review of current information about fishing operations, target stock status, environmental impacts and management of the fishery. The assessment team found that:-
 - a) There have been no significant changes in the status of the target stock of mackerel icefish, *Champsocephalus gunnari*;
 - b) There have been no changes in the interaction between the fishery and the marine environment;
 - c) There have been no significant changes in the management system for the fishery other than a consolidation of management measures within a management plan, which improve the clarity and transparency of the management regime;
 - d) There have been no changes that would affect the traceability arrangements in place for the fishery; and
 - e) That the fishery remains "in scope" for MSC Certification.
6. A brief review of fishing activity over the past year and changes in environmental management was conducted during this surveillance audit. The key findings were:-
 - a) There were no commercial catches of icefish in the 2019-20 fishing season. .
 - b) GSGSSI have continued to improve the management of the marine environment within the EEZ by updating their approach to marine habitat management in response to new information.
7. The assessment team conclude that following this surveillance audit the MSC Certification of the South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl fishery **should continue subject to annual surveillance audits.**

¹ <https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/Covid-19-pandemic-derogation-March-2020>

2 Report Details

2.1 Surveillance information

Information about the nature of this surveillance audit, including the membership of the assessment team is presented below.

Table 1. Surveillance Information

1	Fishery name
	South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl
2	Surveillance level and type
	Surveillance level 1, off-site surveillance (due to MSC Covid-19 derogation)
3	Surveillance number
	4th Surveillance X
4	Proposed team leader
	<p>Jim Andrews – P2 & 3</p> <p>Jim Andrews is a marine biologist with over 25 years' experience working in marine fisheries and environmental management. His previous experience includes running the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee as its Chief Executive from 2001 to 2005, previously working as the SFC's Marine Environment Liaison Officer (from 1996-2001), and prior to that working for the English Government's nature conservation advisor, English Nature on wildlife and coastal zone management in northwest England (from 1992-1996). During his time with the SFC he was responsible for the regulation, management and assessment of inshore finfish and shellfish stocks along a 1,500km coastline, as well as assessment and management of fisheries interactions with aquatic ecosystems in this area.</p> <p>He has an extensive practical knowledge of fisheries and environmental management as well as the enforcement and regulation of fisheries under UK and EC legislation. As well as scientific training (BSc & PhD) Jim has formal legal training & qualifications, with a special interest in the policy, governance and management of fisheries impacts on marine ecosystems in the UK, EU and globally (this particular subject being the focus of his LLM research over the period 1997-99).</p> <p>He has worked as an assessor and lead assessor on more than 30 MSC assessments within the UK, in Europe, Australia, Asia, South America and in India since 2007.</p> <p>Jim has passed MSC training as a Lead Assessor and in the use of the Risk Based Framework. He has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request</p>
5	Proposed team members <i>[remove if not applicable]</i>
	<p>Paul Medley – P1</p> <p>Paul Medley is an independent fisheries scientist. He holds a PhD in fisheries science. He has carried out a wide number of stock assessments, conducted peer reviews and teaching assignments. Paul Medley has been involved more than 20 full assessments, several pre-assessments and fishery improvement plans.</p> <p>Paul Medley has over 30 years' experience of mathematical modelling of fisheries and ecological systems and data management, including data acquisition to fit and test models, with the objective of providing scientific advice to fishery management. He has worked on a wide number of fisheries including spiny lobster, conch, shrimp, squid, octopus, tuna and pelagics. He has been an invited expert for a number of stock assessment working group meetings and stock assessment reviews and most recently has focused on using</p>

	<p>the new Stan modelling software for producing MCMC posterior probability densities for population dynamics models.</p> <p>He has been involved in developing the MSC certification methodology and carried out various MSC assessments, including a number of North Sea pelagics and groundfish, Barents Sea and West Coast USA groundfish, Iceland groundfish stocks, Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish, icefish and krill. He have also helped prepare some fisheries for MSC certification, namely Suriname and Guyana seabob shrimp, Bahamas spiny lobster, Madagascar octopus, UK brown shrimp.</p> <p>Paul has passed MSC training and has no Conflict of Interest in relation to this fishery. Full CV available upon request.</p>
6	Audit/review time and location
	Off-site surveillance w/c 21 st September 2020
7	Assessment and review activities
	Review of all relevant data.

2.2 Background

Mackerel icefish *Champsocephalus gunnari* is found in both the Atlantic (Bouvet Island, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands, South Orkney, South Shetland Islands and the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula) and Indian Oceans (Kerguelen and Heard and McDonald Islands). The species is now exploited only at South Georgia and in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands fishery.

Catch data from this fishery highlight heavy exploitation in the late 1970s and a peak in 1983. Before 1987, no catch limit was set for the South Georgia fishery and catches reported to CCAMLR between 1976 and 1987 are considered highly uncertain due to species reporting issues and potential over-reporting of catch. The reported catches since then have fluctuated widely, between 80,000 tonnes in 1986/87 and 0 tonnes between 1992 and 1997 (with a variation in TAC since 1986/87 of between 0 and 1300 tonnes). CCAMLR closed the bottom trawl fishery in the early 1990s and the fishery reopened as a pelagic trawl fishery in 1995.

The client for this assessment, Polar Ltd, are the only licensed operator in the South Georgia Icefish fishery and they operate two vessels in the fishery (see Table 2).

2.3 Changes in fleet structure or operation

The vessels licensed to fish in the icefish pelagic trawl fishery over the period 2019-21 are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: List of licensed vessels in the South Georgia icefish trawl fishery, for the period 2019-21.

Vessel	PLN
SIL	ZDLR-1
Robin M Lee	ZDLZ-1

There have been no changes in the type of fishing gear used in the fishery since it was re-certified.

There was no fishing during the 2019-20 season (see Table 4).

2.3.1 Changes in management system

Since 2018 the mackerel icefish fishery in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands has been subject to a management plan that is reviewed annually. The current iteration of the plan covers the period 2019-20 (GSGSSI 2019b). This plan consolidates all of the previous management measures implemented by GSGSSI in a single document, and summarises the additional controls that the GSGSSI has established for the conservation of icefish and the marine environment. These include:-

1. A more precautionary TAC than the CCAMLR TAC (3,200t for 2019/20 and 2,100t for 2020/21).
2. A larger closed area around South Georgia (30km rather than 12nmi) as well as a 12nmi closure around the South Sandwich Islands.
3. A by-catch limit of 100t of the yellowfin notothen (*Patagonotothen guntheri*) is set for the area west of 40°W (Shag Rocks), and if this limit is reached in any season the area west of 40°W will be closed to the icefish fishery.

These changes are considered to improve the transparency and clarity of the management system, and have no implications for ongoing certification of the fishery.

2.3.2 Changes in relevant regulations

There have been no significant changes in the regulations applying to fishing for icefish. Fishing by any means within the SGSSI Marine Protected Area is only permissible under the authority of a licence issued by the GSGSSI. Licences for the fishery are issued by the GSGSSI for a period of 2 years. Information on the management regime is provided to prospective applicants (GSGSSI 2019c). GSGSSI are considering whether it is appropriate to transition to a quadrennial licence for this fishery, as for other SGSSI commercial fisheries (such as toothfish).

The number of licences issued is restricted and adjusted in response to changes in stock status and CCAMLR management advice. Licences are issued in accordance with strict administrative criteria, set out in the management plan and information issued to applicants by the GSGSSI (GSGSSI 2019b, 2019c).

The changes in these licensing regulations, including the proposal to transition to quadrennial licensing, are not considered to have any implications for ongoing certification of the fishery.

There have been some changes in the regulations applying to protection of the marine environment. These are summarised in section 2.3.4.4 of this report.

2.3.3 Changes to personnel involved in science, management or industry

There have been no significant changes to personnel at the client fishery, GSGSSI or Cefas in the past year.

2.3.4 Changes to scientific base of information, including stock assessments

2.3.4.1 Target species stock status

Fishery independent stratified demersal surveys conducted every two years are used as the basis for the assessment of icefish stocks. Estimates of standing stock biomass are derived using catch densities based on the area swept by the trawl (calculated from wing-spread and tow distance). Biomass and length composition estimates are used to derive robust precautionary catch limits taking into account sampling error.

The most recent biomass estimate is around the average of the series and has fallen slightly on the 2017 estimate (Figure 1). The median biomass in 2019 was estimated to be 53 124t and the 5th percentile used for the catch projection and setting the TAC was 32 399t.

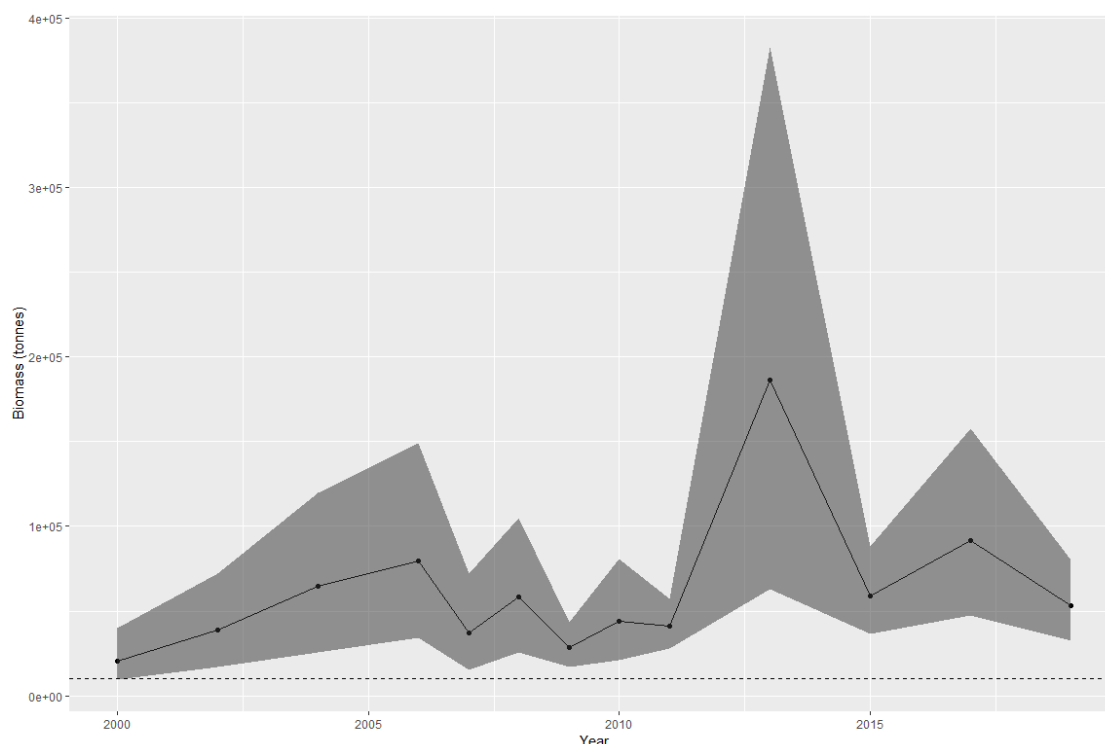


Figure 1: Icefish in Subarea 48.3 – Biomass estimates from demersal surveys. The shaded area indicates the 5th to 95th percentile range (90% confidence interval). The dotted line indicates the lower 5th percentile of the lowest estimated biomass (note that these figures have a scalar value of 1.124 applied to allow comparison with earlier data) (source: Earl 2019).

2.3.4.2 Management advice

South Georgia is located within the zone covered by the Convention on Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CAMLR), and the UK Government is a signatory to the CAMLR Convention (CCAMLR 1982, 2013). This commitment is made directly applicable to the activities of the GSGSSI through the Environment Charter of 2001 (GSGSSI 2001).

The stock of mackerel icefish (*Champsocephalus gunnari*) that occurs within the SGSSI MZ is a single stock: it is not shared or straddling and has no High Seas component. Exploitation is managed primarily through a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), a multinational organisation. The catch limits are set to achieve the objectives of Article II of CAMLR (Constable and de la Mare, 1996 and Constable et al. 2000). In addition, conservation measures discourage catching immature icefish below 24cm length. The strategy includes feedback to management, from setting the controls through data collection and analysis, which estimates the outcome leading to an adjustment in the TAC and conservation measures.

Conservation Measure 42-01 (2019) was adopted by CCAMLR in 2019 for the icefish trawl fishery in the SGSSI MZ (CCAMLR 2019). This measure sets the TAC and other controls (such as spatial and temporal closures, technical measures, and requirements to mitigate impacts on birds). In 2018/19, the catch limit for *C. gunnari* was 3,269 tonnes. The stock working group (WG-FSA-2019) recommended that the catch limit for *C. gunnari* in Subarea 48.3 should be set at 3,225 tonnes for 2019/20 and 2 132 tonnes for 2020/21.

Achievement of the TAC is estimated by CCAMLR on the basis of ongoing catch reports during the season, supported by daily catch reporting to Government Officers based at King Edward Point as a condition of the licence and monitoring of the movement of vessels around the SGMZ, and the measures to close fishery each year when the TAC is achieved are effective at stopping the licensed fishery. The licensing system incentivizes the sustainable management and understanding of the regulations (see GSGSSI 2019b Licensing Criteria). The system builds an improving relationship between the industry and management, which should improve compliance.

Time series data showing catches of *C. gunnari* from the UoA over the period 1998-2018 are provided in Figure 2. The last small overshoot of the TAC was in 2008, by 29 t, which followed a small overshoot in 2007 of 8 t. However, in the last 12 years, catches have been well below the TAC levels. GSGSSI has set catch limits to slightly under the advice at 3,200t and 2,100t for 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively to allow for small administrative delays and avoid overshooting the TAC.

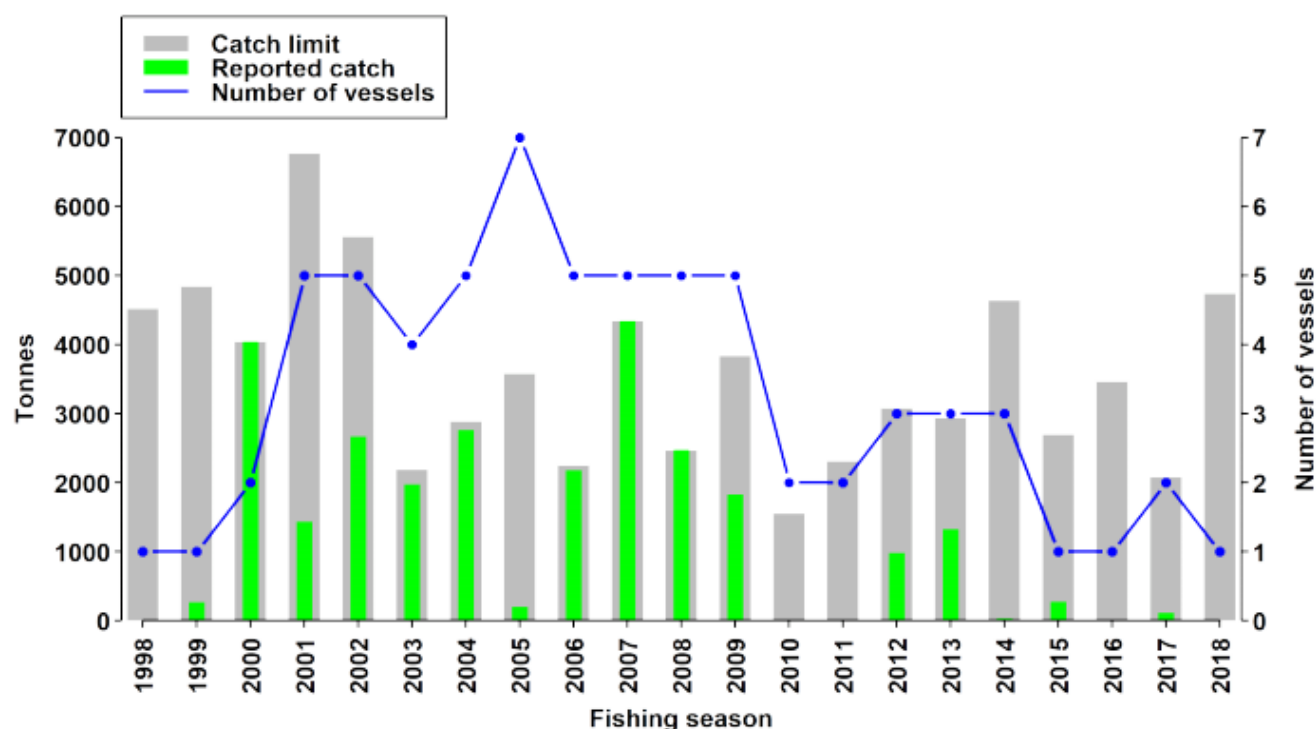


Figure 2: Catch limits, observed catches and licences issue 1998-2018 for the South Georgia Icefish fishery (Source: CCAMLR Fishery Report 2018).

2.3.4.3 Observer coverage

There is a requirement for 100% observer coverage in this fishery. Because there was no fishing in the 2019-2020 season there are no new observer reports.

2.3.4.4 Marine environment

The Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) have been proactive in using all of the available sources of information to identify the extent and character of marine habitats, and have also implemented a comprehensive and precautionary management strategy to ensure that marine habitats are protected and that the area is sustainably managed. At this surveillance audit the GSGSSI, BAS and Cefas provided a verbal update on progress with marine habitat mapping and protection work, which is summarised here.

In February 2012 the GSGSSI announced the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) covering the GSGSSI maritime zone north of 60°S (GSGSSI, 2012a). Over the past 8 years the GSGSSI has extended the extent of the MPA and has adjusted the management restrictions that apply within it. The current extent of the MPA and its restrictions are shown in Figure 3.

The key changes that have been made have been to extend the 12nmi (22.2km) No Take Zone (NTZ) around South Georgia to extend 30km offshore. This change has been made in response to satellite tag data from gentoo penguins which shows that they forage for krill further offshore than previously thought. The move to 30km is consistent with the voluntary measures introduced by the Association of Responsible Krill harvesting companies (ARK) around the Antarctic Peninsula.

A further change has been the introduction of a pelagic closed area around the South Sandwich Island which extends 50km offshore. Again, this is largely to ensure that the krill resources in this area are available to the penguin colonies on the South Sandwich Islands.

In addition to these changes, a NTZ covering 62,900km² and which prohibits all fishing activity in the vicinity of the South Sandwich trench has been established. This will protect the deepest part of the Southern Ocean (>8000m). This area is likely to contain unique habitats that are currently poorly studied and mapped. Protecting the trench area will provide a pristine environment for scientific research and education. The no-take zone stretches 50km either side of the mid-point of the trench covering depths from 3000m – > 8000m from 55°S.

In 2019 the GSGSSI formally designated the region of its Maritime Zone located south of 60° South as a full NTZ within the MPA which is now closed to all commercial fishing activity. This region contains complex bathymetry and habitats

including seamounts, deep trenches and a large area of the South Sandwich Fracture Zone – a region of high hydrothermal and tectonic activity. The seafloor invertebrate communities are poorly described but thought to be diverse, including many species of deep-water coral. The region is an important area of biological connectivity between the South Sandwich Islands and the islands and seamounts of the Southern Scotia Arc. It lies within the seasonal pack-ice zone an area completely covered by sea ice in winter. The area protected exceeds 170,000 km².

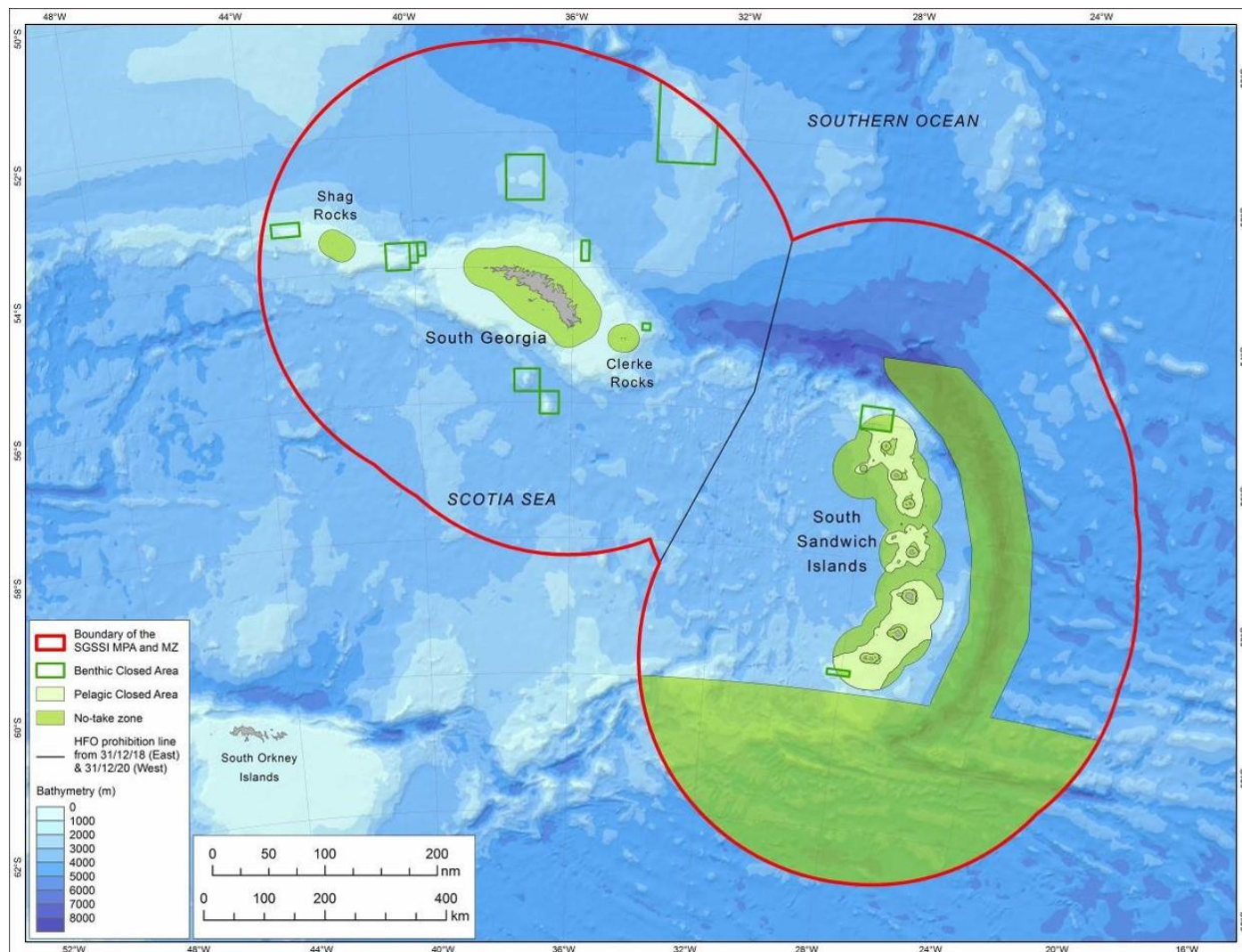


Figure 3: Current extent of Marine Protected Areas within the South Georgia Maritime Zone following enhancements introduced in 2019. (GSGSSI 2019)

As a further measure to protect the marine and terrestrial environment, the GSGSSI will ban the use of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) for all vessels operating in the SGSSI EEZ at the end of 2020.

2.3.5 Any developments or changes within the fishery which impact traceability or the ability to segregate between fish from the Unit of Certification (UoC) and fish from outside the UoC (non-certified fish)

There have been no changes within the fishery that would impact traceability.

2.4 Version Details

The versions of the fisheries program documents used for this assessment are listed in the table below.

Table 3. Fisheries program documents versions

Document	Version number
MSC Fisheries Certification Process	Version 2.1
MSC Fisheries Standard	Version 1.3
MSC General Certification Requirements	Version 2.4.1
MSC Surveillance Reporting Template	Version 2.01

2.5 Confirmation of Scope

The fishery was considered to be “in scope” for MSC certification during its initial assessment (see MSC FCP at section 7.4). The surveillance team made enquiries during this audit to confirm that the fishery remains in scope. The findings are listed below.

2.5.1 Destructive fishing practices

The client confirmed that no destructive fishing practices (explosives or poisons) are used in this fishery.

2.5.2 Controversial unilateral exemptions

No indication was given during the site visit that the fishery is subject to any controversial unilateral exemptions.

2.5.3 Enhancement activities

This is not an enhanced fishery.

2.5.4 Forced & Child Labour

The assessment team confirmed that fishery operators have not been prosecuted for any violations against forced labour laws. The client has submitted a Declaration on Forced and Child Labour to the MSC as required by §7.4.4.2 *et seq* of FCP v2.1.

3 Results

3.1 Surveillance results overview

3.1.1 Summary of conditions

No conditions of certification were raised when the fishery was certified in 2016. Having reviewed the changes that have occurred since the fishery was re-certified, the assessment team has concluded that no Performance Indicators require re-scoring, and that there remain no conditions of certification.

3.1.2 Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data

The most recent TAC and catch data is presented below. No fishing took place in the 2019-20 season.

Table 4: Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and catch data.

TAC	Year	2019-20	Amount	2,074t
UoA share of TAC	Year	2019-20	Amount	2,074t
UoA share of total TAC	Year	2019-20	Amount	100%
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (most recent)	2019-20	Amount	0t
Total green weight catch by UoC	Year (second most recent)	2018-19	Amount	1.3t

3.1.3 Recommendations

No recommendations were made by the assessment team when the fishery was re-certified in 2016, and no new recommendations have been made at this surveillance audit.

3.2 Client Action Plan

There is no client action plan as there are no conditions of certification for this fishery.

3.3 Re-scoring Performance Indicators

Having reviewed the information presented by the client, Cefas and GSGSSI, the assessment team concluded that no Performance Indicators required re-scoring at this surveillance audit.

4 Appendices

4.1 Evaluation processes and techniques

4.1.1 Site visits

This off-site surveillance audit was carried out through interviews conducted using on-line video conferencing software on the 24th September and the 2nd October 2020.

As part of the site visit the assessment team attended an online stakeholder meeting at which the fishing industry and other stakeholders were present, and where stakeholders from the fishing industry, science community and NGOs had the opportunity to comment on information presented by GSGSSI about South Georgia fisheries and environmental management activities in the past year and the GSGSSI proposals for future management.

A list of the meetings held during this surveillance audit and the attendance at each meeting is provided in Table 5.

Table 5: List of meetings and attendance for this surveillance audit.

Date	Meeting and Attendance
24 th September 2020	GSGSSI Stakeholder Engagement Meeting (on-line video conference event). Attended by GSGSSI officials, scientific advisors, industry and NGO representatives.
24 th September 2020	Surveillance Audit, (on-line video conference event). Attended by:- Chris Darby, Cefas Mark Belchier, GSGSSI Sue Gregory, GSGSSI Philip Holyman, Cefas Martin Collins, BAS
2 nd October 2020	Surveillance Audit, (on-line video conference event). [Note that this discussion with the client was postponed from the 24 th September because of travel disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic]. Attended by:- Alex Reid, Polar Ltd Mark Belchier, GSGSSI

4.1.2 Stakeholder Participation

A total of 7 stakeholder organisations and individuals having relevant interest in the assessment were identified and notified, via e-mail, of surveillance process. This e-mail highlighted the potential process for engagement in the surveillance, if desired. In addition, the interest of others not appearing on this list was solicited through the postings on the MSC website.

No stakeholders came forward requesting a meeting with members of the assessment team during the site visit.

4.2 Stakeholder input

No verbal comments or queries were made to the audit team which required a formal or written response.

No written comments from stakeholders were received during this surveillance audit.

4.3 Revised surveillance program

The MSC FCP v2.1 specifies that after each certification, surveillance and re-certification the Certified Accreditation Body (CAB) shall determine the level at which subsequent surveillance of the fishery shall be undertaken.

This is the fourth and final surveillance report for this period of certification. A revised surveillance program shall be set out in the re-assessment report for this fishery.

4.4 Harmonised fishery assessments

The MSC Fisheries Certification Process v2.1 (FCP) sets out procedures for ensuring consistency of outcomes in overlapping fisheries (see Annex PB of the FCP). The intention of this process is to maintain the integrity of MSC fishery assessments.

The audit team have consulted the guidance issued on the MSC's interpretation log to identify the harmonisation requirements for this fishery (see <https://mscportal.force.com/interpret/s/article/What-are-the-MSC-requirements-on-harmonisation-multiple-questions-1527586957701>). For each overlapping fishery, LR have considered harmonisation requirements for each PI using the table below.

Table 6: MSC directions for harmonisation between overlapping MSC Fisheries

PIs / SIs	Harmonise?	Comments
All P1 PIs	Yes	P1 always considers the impacts of all fisheries on a stock, so any fisheries which have the same P1 species (stocks) should be harmonised.
PI 2.1.1a	Partially	For stocks that are 'main' in both UoAs, harmonise status relative to PRI (at SG60, 80 and 100), and if below PRI, harmonise cumulative impacts at SG80 (not at SG60).
PI 2.2.1a	Partially	For stocks that are 'main' in both UoAs, harmonise status relative to BBL (at SG60, 80 and 100), and if below BBL, harmonise cumulative impacts at SG80 (not at SG60).
PI 2.3.1a	Partially	Harmonise recognition of any limits applicable to both UoAs (at SG60, 80 and 100), and cumulative effects of the UoAs at SG80 and SG100 (not at SG60).
PI 2.4.1b	Partially	Harmonise recognition of VMEs where both UoAs operate in the same 'managed area/s' (as in SA3.13.5).
PI 2.4.2a,c	Partially	Harmonise scoring at SG100, since all fishery impacts are considered (not at SG60 or 80).
All P2 PIs	Yes, if ->	Two UoAs are identical in scope, even if the UoCs are different (e.g. separate clients).
PIs 3.1.1-3	Yes, if ->	Both UoAs are part of the same larger fishery or fleet, or have stocks in either P1 or P2 which are at least partially managed by the same jurisdiction/s (nation states, RFMOs or others) or under the same agreements. Harmonisation may sometimes be possible for those management arrangements that apply to both UoAs (noting the limitations accepted in GPB3).
PIs 3.2.1-4	Yes, if ->	Both UoAs have stocks within either P1 or P2 which are at least partially managed by the same jurisdiction/s (nation states, RFMOs or others) or under the same agreements. Harmonisation is needed for those management arrangements that apply to both UoAs, e.g. at the RFMO level but not the national level in the case of two separate national fleets both fishing the same regional stock.

There are three MSC-certified icefish fisheries listed on the MSC website. Summary information describing each fishery is listed in Table 7 overleaf. The Australia mackerel icefish fishery has recently been combined with the Australian Heard Island and McDonald Islands Toothfish & Icefish fishery certificate.

Table 7: Summary information describing the MSC-certified fisheries for icefish. [Source: MSC website].

Fishery	Species	Gear types	Locations	MSC status
South Georgia icefish pelagic trawl	Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>)	Trawls - Midwater trawls	Atlantic & Antarctic (FAO Area 48)	Certified
Australia mackerel icefish	Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>)	Trawls - Bottom trawls	Antarctic and Southern & Indian Ocean (FAO Area 58)	Combined
Australian Heard Island and McDonald Islands Toothfish & Icefish fisheries	Mackerel icefish (<i>Champsocephalus gunnari</i>), Toothfish (Patagonian) (<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>)	Hooks And Lines - Set longlines Trawls - Bottom trawls.	Antarctic and Southern & Indian Ocean (FAO Area 58)	Certified

The assessment team note that there is no spatial overlap between the South Georgia fishery and the Australian Heard Island fisheries, and that the fishing method used to catch icefish in that fishery is a demersal (rather than pelagic) trawl. There is thus no rationale for harmonising the Principle 1 and Principle 2 scores since the fisheries target different stocks in different sea areas.

The Australian and South Georgia fisheries both operate within the area managed by CCAMLR. The scores awarded for Principle 3 in these two icefish fisheries are very similar and the conclusions of the assessments are identical.

The assessment team has concluded that there is no need for further harmonisation activity at this surveillance audit.

4.5 References

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