

THE AUSTRALIAN HEARD ISLAND & McDONALD ISLANDS PATAGONIAN TOOTHFISH FISHERY

2015

Third Annual Surveillance

Certificate Number: F-SCS-0083



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General Information

Date of Issue	August 2015	
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Surveillance Team	SCS SCS	Sabine Daume Ph.D. (lead) Alexander Morison (original assessment team)
Surveillance Stage	3 rd Annual Surveillance	
Surveillance Frequency	Normal surveillance	
Methodologies	MSC Fisheries Certification Requirements Version 1.3,2013 MSC Guidance to Certification Requirements Version 1.3	

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List of Abbreviations

AAD	Australian Antarctic Division
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural & Resource Economics & Sciences
ACBPS	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service
B _{MSY}	Biomass calculated for Maximum Sustainable Yield
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Marine Living Resources
CR	Certification Requirements (v1.3)
DAT	Default Assessment Tree
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ETP	Endangered, Threatened or Protected
F _{LIM}	Fishing Mortality Limit Reference Point
FRDC	Fisheries Research and Development Corporation
HIMI	Heard Island and Macquarie Island
IFMP	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
ISO	International Standard Organization
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
MSC	Marine Stewardship Council
P1, P2, P3	The three guiding Principles of the MSC
PCR	Public Certification Report
PI	Performance Indicator
RSTS	Random Stratified Trawl Survey
SARAG	Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group
SARPC	Syndicat des Armements Réunionnais de Palangriers Congélateurs (Syndicate of all licence holders for the toothfish fishery in the French EEZ around Kerguelen Island)
SC	Scientific Committee
SCS	SCS Global Services
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass
TAAF	Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
ULR	Upper Limit Reference Point
WG-FSA	Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment
ULR	Upper Limit Reference Point

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the information and findings from the 3rd annual surveillance including the required progress for closing out conditions for continued certification. This report also includes the client action plans for each condition with associated timelines.

This fishery was assessed using the MSC developed default assessment tree. The surveillance audit for 2015 utilized the MSC Certification Requirements and Guidance to Certification Requirements (v1.3). The surveillance audit was conducted by SCS lead auditor Dr. Sabine Daume and Mr. Alexander Morison both members of the original assessment. The surveillance meetings took place at the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies in Hobart, Australia on the 30th and 31st of July, 2015.

The condition related to PI 3.1.2 was closed out since the SARPC fishery and their assessment team confirmed it was meeting the MSC standard for this indicator. The remaining conditions were judged to be on target and remain open. Progress toward closing the remaining conditions will be evaluated at the 2016 surveillance audit.

SCS finds that the HIMI Patagonian toothfish fishery continues to meet the standards of the MSC and complies with the 'Requirements for Continued Certification.'

Table 1. Summary of Performance Indicators with conditions.

Performance Indicator	Status of Condition/ Non-Conformance	Revised scores
1.2.1	Open, on target	N/A
1.2.2	Open, on target	N/A
1.2.4	Open, on target	N/A
3.1.2	Closed	100

MSC Certification and Conditions for Continued Compliance

An MSC certificate is valid for a period of 5 years. During the initial certification, five conditions were identified (see final report on MSC website [\(here\)](#)). Conditions must be closed-out before the end of the certification period in March 2017.

Each of the conditions to certification was addressed with the client action plan. The action plan includes the actions to be undertaken, responsible parties and timeframe for meeting milestone goals. During this and each surveillance audit, the audit team will check progress against these milestones. The surveillance teams will also “spot check” other performance indicators from the original assessment to verify that the fishery is still in compliance with the MSC requirements. Results from the audit are

published in the form of a report to the MSC website 30 days after the onsite visit. The client group has an opportunity to review the report and respond before publication.

The audit team evaluates progress toward closing conditions as “ahead of target”, “on target,” or “behind target.” This is based on whether there is enough evidence that sufficient progress is being made relative to the client action plan timeframe for milestones. If a “spot check” of Performance Indicators (PIs) reveals that a PI no longer meets all scoring elements of the Scoring Guidepost 80 (SG80), an additional “condition” will be raised that must be addressed within the life of the certificate. In this surveillance audit, no deficiencies were evident and no new conditions raised.

Consequences for Non-Compliance

Where a fishery is determined to be “behind target” for a condition, the surveillance team will work with the client representatives to determine a new timeframe for closing of the condition within the original certification period and will include interim milestones for completion. The client must provide evidence that the fishery is working toward compliance and identify the reason that the condition timelines are not met.

Depending on the severity of the non-compliance identified, a “minor” or “major” non-compliance may be raised. If a minor non-compliance is raised and then not addressed by the new timeframe, it will be elevated to a “major.” A major non-compliance must be addressed immediately.

SCS reserves the right to enact Section 7.4 of the MSC Certification Requirements where a fishery certificate may be revoked or suspended if a condition is not back “on target” within 12 months of falling “behind target” following the MSC certification requirements 27.22.9.

Surveillance Audit Timing and Frequency

Surveillance audits, including this audit, were determined to take place annually with an onsite visit each year (normal surveillance cycle). After closing out Condition 3.1.2 and rescoring the PI, the surveillance level was re-determined following Table C3 and C4 of the Certification Requirements v 1.3. The fishery remains with a normal annual surveillance cycle that requires an onsite visit.

Assessment Overview

Methodology

The surveillance audit was carried out in accordance with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification Requirements v1.3. If a fishery fails the surveillance audit, and cannot address identified deficiencies in a reasonable period of time, then the certificate and client's authority to use the MSC logo will be revoked by the certifier.

The issues for the certifier are whether the fishery has sufficiently acted on the required conditions set forth in the original certification report, and whether a random check on the performance of the fishery verifies continued compliance with the MSC standards.

The annual surveillance audit process is comprised of four general parts:

1. The certification assessment body (CAB) provides questions around areas of inquiry to determine if the fishery is maintaining the level of management observed during the original certification. In addition, the surveillance team requires that the client provide evidence that the fishery management system has taken the necessary actions to meet all conditions placed on the fishery during the initial certification assessment or any previous surveillance audits.
2. The surveillance/assessment team meets with the client fishery to allow the client to present the information gathered to answer the questions asked by the surveillance team. The surveillance team can then ask questions about the information provided to ensure its full understanding of how well the fishery management system is functioning and if the fishery management system is continuing to meet the MSC standards.
3. The surveillance team presents its findings to the client fishery at the end of the site visit. The results outline the assessment team's understanding of the information presented and its conclusion regarding the fishery management system's continued compliance with MSC standards. Where indicated, the surveillance team may provide the client fishery with additional time to supplement the information provided if the surveillance team finds that there are still issues requiring clarification.
4. Where appropriate, the client fishery submits final information to the surveillance/assessment team for consideration in the surveillance findings and report. The surveillance team then reviews the final information and submits a final report to the client fishery and the MSC for posting on the MSC website. If there are continued compliance concerns, these are presented as non-conformances that require further action and audits as specified in the surveillance report.
5. Discussions have previously been held between assessment teams for the HIMI and SARPC toothfish fisheries and were continued during the first surveillance audit of the SARPC fishery to try to achieve harmonization of scores for these overlapping fisheries. The audit team of this assessment

considers that it would be inappropriate for this condition to remain open for the HIMI fishery when it pertains to arrangements for the SARPC fishery over which the HIMI fishery has no control and which have been confirmed as having met MSC requirements. In the audit team's view, it would be inconsistent with MSC harmonization requirements to retain the condition.

Surveillance Team

In accordance with MSC methodology and guidance SCS chose team members with combined comparable and equivalent experience to the original assessment team. Both Dr. Sabine Daume and Mr. Alexander Morison were involved in the re-assessment of the fishery and the following Annual Surveillance Audits.

Dr. Sabine Daume, Regional Director, SCS Global Services

Dr. Daume is the Regional Director for the SCS Sustainable Seafood Program in Australasia, which covers MSC, ASC and Fisheries Improvement programs. Since 2009, Dr. Daume has led numerous MSC evaluation audits on behalf of SCS, including several large and controversial assessments, and several in Australia.

Dr. Daume is a marine biologist with special expertise in the biology and ecology of exploited marine resources with a particular emphasis on invertebrates. Dr. Daume has over 13 years' experience working closely with the fishing and aquaculture industry in Australia. She holds a PhD in marine biology from La Trobe University in Victoria, Australia and an MSc in Marine Biology and Marine Chemistry from Kiel University in Germany. Prior to joining SCS, Dr. Daume worked as a Senior Research Scientist at the Research Division of the Department of Fisheries in Western Australia. She has extensive experience working with diverse groups, often in remote marine temperate and tropical environments. She has worked with industry personnel at all levels (divers, technicians, managers, executive officers) as well as policy makers and managers in government departments. Dr. Daume led the WA rock lobster assessment in 2011 and Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) icefish re-assessment in 2010 as well as the South Australian Lakes and Coorong annual surveillance and re-assessment in 2013. She also led the HIMI Toothfish assessment in 2010 and Macquarie Island Toothfish assessment in 2011, as well as numerous audits in USA, Canada, Mexico and Japan. Dr. Daume has been trained by the MSC to use the Risk Based Framework (RBF) of the MSC Certification Requirements (v1.3 Jan 2013). She is a certified lead auditor under the ISO 9001:2008 standard.

Alexander "Sandy" Morison – Consultant , Morison Aquatic Sciences

Mr. Morison is a consultant specializing in fisheries and aquatic sciences. He has over 30 years' experience in fishery science and assessment at state, national and international levels and has held senior research positions for state and national organizations in Australia. He is currently chair of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin

Tuna and is also contracted by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to chair the South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group and the Slope Fisheries Resource Assessment Group and is the Scientific Representative on the South East Fishery Management Advisory Committee. Sandy has experience with the assessment of invertebrate, chondrichthyan and teleost fisheries. These include commercial and recreational fisheries in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats and fisheries operating in tropical, temperate and polar environments.

Mr. Morison has participated as part of a team undertaking MSC pre-assessments for several fisheries and has been the Principle 1 expert for the MSC certification or surveillance audits of the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Icefish fishery, the HIMI Toothfish fishery, the Macquarie Island Toothfish fishery, the Kyoto Danish Seine Fishery, the Western Australian Rock Lobster Fishery and the Lakes and Coorong Fishery. Issues of straddling stocks have been important for the Toothfish fisheries and the Kyoto Danish Seine Fishery.

Mr. Morison has been engaged by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to assist with a consultative assessment of the ecological risks from Queensland's East Coast Trawl Fishery that looked at the full range of ecological components as well as a separate assessment of this fishery's vulnerability to climate change. He has particular expertise with fish age and growth and has been involved in the development and implementation of harvest strategies for several fisheries. He has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals (8 as senior author), 8 book chapters, and over 100 project reports, technical reports, client reports and papers in workshop and conference proceedings.

Schedule for Meetings

The surveillance audit for 2015 was comprised of the following:

1. An audit plan was provided to the client, management agencies and scientists before the meeting. The opening meeting with the client included an exchange of information relevant to the surveillance audit.
2. A meeting took place on the 30th and 31st of July, 2015 with client representatives Mr. Exel and Mr. McNeill, as well as the AAD fisheries scientist and the manager of the fishery who participated by telephone (Table 2). Other stakeholders were notified of time and place of the meeting and invited to participate or submit comments in writing. No comments or requests for meetings were received. The discussions focused on the ongoing activities associated with the conditions placed on the fishery.
3. Necessary documents were sent to SCS by the client prior to and during the meetings.

Table 2: Meeting Attendees

Meeting Attendees	Role	Organization
Dr Sabine Daume	Lead Auditor	SCS
Alexander Morison	Auditor	SCS
Malcolm McNeill	Client Representative	Australian Longline Pty Ltd
Martin Exel	Client Representative	Austral Pty Ltd
Dr Dirk Welsford	Stock Status and Harvest Strategy	AAD (Day 1)
Jo Fisher	Management	AFMA (by phone, Day 2)

MSC Blue Eco-Label and Chain-of-Custody

Traceability for Chain-of-Custody begins at the point of landing. The product may carry the MSC blue eco-label if the processor or Toothfish buyer has a valid MSC Chain-of-Custody certificate from an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), such as SCS. The certificate holders for this fishery have current logo licensing agreements with the Marine Stewardship Council International (MSCI) for the HIMI Toothfish fishery which allows them to use the MSC blue eco-label on products originating from that fishery's Unit of Certification (UoC).

New Documentation Received

Anon (2015). French and Australian science and industry meeting. Waterfront Quality Hotel. Aalesund, Norway. Wednesday 24 June 2015. Final minutes.

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AFMA (2014b). Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG). Minutes SARAG 50. 11 September 2014.

AFMA (2014c). Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC). Teleconference Minutes. 6 November 2014.

AFMA (2014d). Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG). Teleconference Minutes SARAG. 11 November 2014.

AFMA (2015a). Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG). Minutes SARAG 51. 21 February 2015.

AFMA (2015b). Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC). Minutes SouthMAC 33. 25 February 2015.

AFMA (2015c). Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Fishery 2014/15 Fishery Assessment Plan.

Burch P, Zeigler P, de La Mare, B and Welsford DC. (2014). Investigating the uncertainty of age

determinations for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) and the implications for stock assessment. CCAMLR document WG-FSA 14/46.

CCAMLR (2014a). Fishery Report 2014: *Dissostichus eleginoides* Heard Island Australian EEZ (Division 58.5.2)

CCAMLR (2014b). Fishery Report 2014: *Dissostichus eleginoides* Kerguelen Islands French EEZ (Division 58.5.1).

CCAMLR (2014c). Report of the thirty third Meeting of the Scientific Committee, Hobart, Australia, 20 - 24 October 2014. Available at: <http://www.ccamlr.org/en/sc-camlr-xxxiii>

CCAMLR (2014d). Conservation Measure 41-08 (2014) Limits on the fishery for *Dissostichus eleginoides* in Statistical Division 58.5.2 in the 2014/15 season.

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Farmer, B.M., Woodcock, E.J. and Welsford, D.C. (2014). An update of the ageing program for Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) at the Australian Antarctic Division, including a summary of new data available for the Integrated Stock Assessment for the Heard Island and the McDonald Islands fishery (Division 58.5.2). CCAMLR document WG-FSA 14/45.

Lamb, T. (2014). Report on season extension trials in the Patagonian toothfish longline fishery in CCAMLR Statistical Division 58.5.2. Report submitted to the CCAMLR Working group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA 14).

MacAlister Elliott and Partners (2014). Surveillance visit report for SARPC Kerguelen toothfish fishery (*Dissostichus eleginoides*). Surveillance Year 1. 27 August 2014.

De la Mare, W., Ziegler P., Welsford D. (2015). Using tag-recapture data to estimate catchability of a series of random stratified trawl surveys. WG SAM 15/35. June 2015.

Nowarra GB, Lamb TD, and Welsford DC. (2014). The 2014 annual random stratified trawl survey in the waters of Heard Island (Division 58.5.2) to estimate the abundance of *Dissostichus eleginoides* and *Champscephalus gunnari*. Report. Report submitted to the CCAMLR Working group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA 14).

Patterson H and Skirtun M. (2014). Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery. pp 404-413 In: Georgeson, L, Stobutzki, I & Curtotti, R (eds) 2014, Fishery status reports 2013–14, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.

Péron, C. and Welsford, D. (2014). Updated models of the habitat use of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) on the Kerguelen Plateau around Heard Island and the McDonald Islands (Division 58.5.2). Report submitted to the CCAMLR Working group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA 14).

Welsford DC (2014). PT-06 - Milestone Progress Report for Project 2013/13 - Development of robust assessment methods and harvest strategies for spatially complex, multi-jurisdictional Toothfish fisheries in the Southern Ocean. 30 November 2014.

Welsford, D.C., Péron, C., Ziegler, P.E. and Lamb, T.D. (2014). Development of the Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) tagging program in division 58.5.2, 1997-2014. CCAMLR document WG-FSA 14/43.

Ziegler P., Welsford D. (2014). Data and approach for the revised stock assessment for the Heard Island and the McDonald Islands Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) fishery (Division 58.5.2). WG-SAM-14/23 Rev. 1.

Ziegler P., Welsford D., de la Mare, W. and Burch, P. (2014). An integrated assessment for the Heard Island and MacDonald Islands toothfish fishery (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) fishery (Division 58.5.2). Report submitted to the CCAMLR Working group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA 14/34).

Ziegler, P (2013). Influence of data quality and quantity from a multiyear tagging program on an integrated fish stock assessment. Can. J. Fish. Aquat. Sci.70: 1031–1045.

Summary of the Fishery

Principle 1: Stock Status and Harvest Strategy

Catches of Patagonian toothfish from the HIMI fishery were 2,638 t by longline and 106 t by trawl making a total of 2,744 t. This was slightly above the determined total allowable catches (TACs) of 2,730 t for 2014. Under AFMA rules, any such over catch is deducted from next years' TAC. This is not regarded as a significant breach of catch limits and does not jeopardize the ongoing certification of the fishery.

No illegal foreign fishing vessels have been detected inside the Australian Fishing Zone of the HIMI area since 2005 (AFMA 2014a). There were 329 surveillance patrol days by Australian Government vessels in 2013-14 in the southern ocean (against a target of 180 days) (ACBPS 2014). Cooperative arrangements with the French Government remain and electronic surveillance methods continue to be used. A range of other approaches are also used to assist in combating risks from IUU fishing in areas outside Australia's jurisdiction (AFMA 2014a).

The Random Stratified Trawl Survey (RSTS) continues to be undertaken to support estimates of Patagonian toothfish abundance and to collect data on population structure (Figure 1) (Nowarra et al. 2014). The results of the survey conducted in April 2014 were used in the 2014 update of the stock assessment. The catches of Patagonian toothfish for 2014 in the survey were higher than the long-term average from 2006-2013.

The results of an updated stock assessment for Patagonian toothfish were presented to the CCAMLR

Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA) (Ziegler et al. 2014).

A number of issues with the assessment that had been identified during the 2013 WG-FSA meeting had been addressed in the last 12 months. As reported in Ziegler et al. (2014)

“Compared to the 2013 assessment, this assessment takes into account the recommendations of WG-FSA-2013, SC-CAMLR-2013 and WG-SAM-2014, and incorporates (a) new fishery observations up to 2014 including new ageing data from the 2012, 2013 and 2014 random stratified trawl surveys (RSTS) and commercial ageing data from 2013, (b) a Beverton-Holt stock-recruitment relationship, (c) a simplified model structure, (d) an updated ageing error matrix, (e) an updated growth model, and (f) a prior for the survey catchability q which has been estimated from the ratio of survey fish abundance using the swept area method and the proportion of tag-recaptures in survey catch on the main trawl ground. All model runs were conducted with the CASAL version that was agreed on by WG-SAM-14. These changes substantially improved the internal consistency and stability of the assessment model.

After review by the CCAMLR Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA), it was recommended that management advice be based on a revised model that included tag data for 2012 and 2013 and fixed year class strength before 1986 to 1.0 (CCAMLR 2014c Annex 7). The assessment results from this revised model estimated median B_0 to be 108,586 t (92,263–132,167 t; 95% CI), with the median SSB status in 2013 at 0.65 (0.59–0.71) of B_0 . The Working Group agreed to use the average recruitment and CV from 1992 to 2009 for the stock projections with a lognormal empirical randomization method of recruitment. This projection indicated a precautionary catch limit of 4,410 t resulting from the application of the CCAMLR decision rule. This recommended catch limit was agreed by CCAMLR and implemented by AFMA.

As reported in the last Surveillance Report progress on the update of the assessment were reviewed through the regular SARAG meetings, the CCAMLR Consultative Forum and Interdepartmental Committee, as well as through a newly formed monthly AAD/Department of Agriculture/AFMA/industry review meeting and a Technical Advisory Group established to support the new FRDC project 2013/14 ‘Development of robust assessment methods and harvest strategies for spatially complex, multi-jurisdictional toothfish fisheries in the Southern Ocean’ (Welsford 2013).

Furthermore, the audit team was advised by AAD that a formal data sharing agreement between Australia and France was signed in 2013 and data has already been exchanged. This will no doubt assist in meeting the objectives of the new project.

Patagonian toothfish in the HIMI fishery continue to be classified as not overfished and not subject to overfishing in the ABARES fishery status reports (Patterson and Skirtun 2014).

The above information indicates that the stock exploited by the fishery continues to meet the

requirements for certification.

The French toothfish fishery

The WG-FSA reported that fishing in the French fishery was conducted by seven vessels using longlines and the total reported catch up to 20 September 2014 was 3,017 t against a catch limit of 5,100 t. There was also an updated assessment of an updated stock assessment of the fishery for Patagonian toothfish around Kerguelen Island, which included the results of the POKER 3 survey and fishery data up until September 2014. This assessment model is not as well developed as that used for the HIMI fishery and an estimate of long-term yield was not calculated, but the WG-FSA agreed that it could be used to provide management advice for 2014/15. The current catch limit of 5,100 t was considered to satisfy the CCAMLR decision rules.

Since the last surveillance audit for the HIMI Toothfish Fishery the first surveillance audit of the SARPC Fishery has been completed (MacAlister Elliott and Partners, 2014). The overall conclusion from that audit was

“... that the client group has made significant progress since its certification and while it is on target for three of its conditions, the team concluded that the fishery was behind target for the condition on the formulation of a draft management plan.”

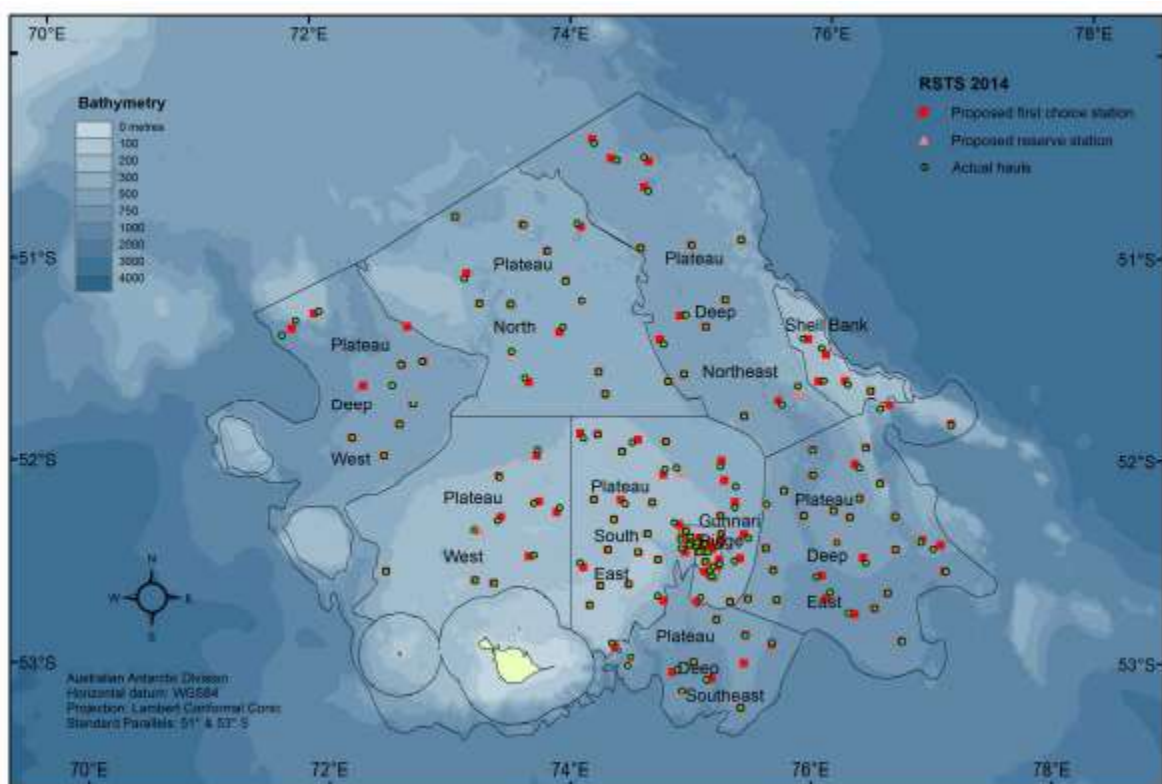


Figure 1. The distribution of sampling hauls within strata for the random stratified trawl survey of the Heard Island plateau region for 2014. Hauls on the main fishing ground (Ground B) are not shown (from Nowarra et al. 2014a).

Principle 2: Ecosystem Impacts from Fishing

There have been no changes in the ecosystem impacts of the fishery since the certification in 2012.

Catch limits are set for three by-catch species groups (macrourids, rajids and grey rock cod). By-catch levels continue to be monitored by observers and reported to CCAMLR. No by-catch species were caught in quantities approaching their catch limits (CCAMLR 2014a).

Skates were also caught during the trawl survey which has allowed for an ongoing program of collection of biological data (Nowarra et al. 2014). The combination of biological and catch and effort data will continue to contribute data which will be used for better informed risk assessments in the future.

In 2014, there was a single seabird mortality observed of a southern rockhopper penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*) (CCAMLR 2014a).

Two southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) and one Antarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*) mortalities were reported in the longline fishery during 2014. There had been no reports of marine mammal mortalities in the trawl fishery since 2005 (CCAMLR 2014a).

There were no conditions set on the fishery around impacts on by-catch and it remains highly unlikely that current catch levels will have any adverse effect on the impacts of the fishery on, or the status of, retained species, bycatch, ETP species, or trophic function.

The condition that had been placed on the fishery during the assessment which related to PI 2.4.3 was closed at the previous surveillance audit.

Principle 3: Fishery Management, Governance and Policy

There have been no major changes in staff in the fisheries management agency or within the Australian Antarctic Division during the last 12 months.

Two papers in relation to season extension trials were presented to CCAMLR this year (Barrington and Baker 2013a,b). The papers consider a step wise approach to season extensions while monitoring if measures designed to avoid seabird deaths on longlines are still successful. The current 'core season' under CCAMLR for the HIMI fishery runs from 1 May to 14 September inclusive. Any fishing outside those periods is only permitted following trials and demonstrated evidence that seabird bycatch is not increasing. There is a current trial for fishing 15 April to 30 April that includes option for daylight setting of hooks (Barrington J. and Baker B. 2013b). There is another season extension period from 15 September until 30 October, and a trial from 1 November to 14 November. For any days fishing outside the core season additional seabird bycatch restrictions apply, such as if 3 birds are caught in any season extension, fishing has to cease for the vessel in operation. The trials are monitored annually by AFMA, AAD and CCAMLR.

The work to combat IUU fishing has continued and focused internationally. Patrols by Australian vessels in the Southern Ocean resumed in the last 12 months (ACBPS 2014).

One condition was placed on the fishery during the assessment under Principle 3 and related to PI 3.1.2. The first surveillance audit for the SARPC fishery (MacAllister Elliot 2014) has become available since the last surveillance audit for the HIMI fishery. The basis upon which this condition was imposed has been re-evaluated.

Progress toward closing conditions

1.2.1 There is a robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place.		
SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
<p>The harvest strategy is <u>expected</u> to achieve stock management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p> <p>The harvest strategy is <u>likely</u> to work based on prior experience or plausible argument.</p>	<p>The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and the elements of the harvest strategy <u>work together</u> towards achieving management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p>	<p>The harvest strategy is responsive to the state of the stock and is <u>designed</u> to achieve stock management objectives reflected in the target and limit reference points.</p> <p>The performance of the harvest strategy has been <u>fully evaluated</u> and evidence exists to show that it is achieving its objectives including being clearly able to maintain stocks at target levels.</p>
<p><u>Monitoring</u> is in place that is expected to determine whether the harvest strategy is working.</p>	<p>The harvest strategy may not have been fully tested, but monitoring is in place and <u>evidence</u> exists that it is achieving its objectives.</p>	<p>The harvest strategy is <u>periodically reviewed and improved</u> as necessary.</p>
Score: 75		
<p>Condition 1.2.1</p> <p>At the fourth annual surveillance audit, the client shall provide information to demonstrate that the harvest strategy is robust and precautions are in place. The client shall also provide evidence that it is achieving its objectives for all significant fisheries that target this stock and, in particular, for the fishery that operates within the French EEZ around Kerguelen Island.</p>		

Client Action Plan 1.2.1

How	By Whom	When completed
1. At each annual surveillance audit provide updates on progress by Australian and French fishery management agencies towards developing a robust and precautionary harvest strategy for the whole stock across the Kerguelen Plateau.	AAD AFMA Industry	Annually
2. By the 4th annual surveillance audit client will provide evidence of the robust and precautionary harvest strategy in place for the entire fishery, incorporating the French fishery.	Industry	March 2016

Previous Progress on Condition

At the 2nd Surveillance Audit, it was noted that there continued to be progress towards this condition in the form of collaboration between Australian and French scientists. A new FRDC project had commenced which, among other objectives, aimed to progress a joint plateau-wide stock assessment through the signing of a formal data sharing agreement. Data subsequently has been shared between the scientists of the 2 fisheries.

It was noted that the assessment of the French fishery was accepted by the CCAMLR Scientific Committee as being adequate for interim management advice for the 2012/13 fishing season and that no new assessment was presented in 2013.

Progress towards meeting this condition was considered to be on target.

Update on Progress

Collaboration has continued between Australian and French scientists through the continuation of the FRDC project (as reported in Welsford 2014) and through the regular exchanges at CCAMLR meetings. There was also a special French and Australian Science and Industry consultative meeting held in Norway in June 2015 (Anon 2015) that covered a range of issues including the requirements for ongoing MSC certification of both fisheries.

The audit team was advised that the data exchange procedures have been effective. Knowledge of the inter-relationships between HIMI and Kerguelen stocks continue to improve as data continue to accrue from the ongoing tagging work and from other work on the biology of toothfish. There are ongoing improvements to the data available and the assessments they support that are used to provide management advice for both the Australian and French fisheries. These have been noted in the WG-FSA report (CCAMLR 2014a).

Discussions have also taken place about the sources of differences in results of French and Australian surveys including the effects of different mesh sizes. The potential for harmonizing the survey activities of both countries is the subject of active discussions. The need for a plateau-wide assessment has also been the subject of ongoing discussions.

It is noted that the assessment of the SARPC fishery scored this PI at 80 and therefore no condition was imposed.

Progress towards meeting this condition was considered to be still on target.

Status of Condition:

Open, on target

1.2.2 There are well defined and effective harvest control rules in place.		
SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
Generally understood harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and which act to reduce the exploitation rate as limit reference points are approached.	Well-defined harvest control rules are in place that are consistent with the harvest strategy and ensure that the exploitation rate is reduced as limit reference points are approached.	The design of the harvest control rules take into account a wide range of uncertainties.

There is <u>some evidence</u> that tools used to implement harvest control rules are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.	<p>The <u>selection</u> of the harvest control rules takes into account the <u>main</u> uncertainties.</p> <p><u>Available evidence indicates</u> that the tools in use are appropriate and effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.</p>	<u>Evidence clearly shows</u> that the tools in use are effective in achieving the exploitation levels required under the harvest control rules.
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Score: 70

Condition 1.2.2

By the fourth annual surveillance audit the client shall ensure that the harvest control rules take into account the main uncertainty in the assessment. This can be achieved once the stock assessment has been updated to incorporate the identified interactions between toothfish across the Kerguelen Plateau. The client shall provide evidence that the harvest control rule application will also explicitly account for the distribution of future catches of Patagonian toothfish in both the Australian and the French zones.

Client Action Plan 1.2.2

How	By Whom	When completed
1) Continued development of research and scientific programs on toothfish stock status and toothfish interchanges across the Kerguelen plateau	AAD	Annual
2) Development of alternative stock assessment approaches so that the application of the CCAMLR harvest strategy will take into account toothfish stock interchange across the Kerguelen Plateau, should this be shown to be significant, and if rapid implementation of joint international management arrangements are not feasible.	AAD	March 2015
3) Investigation of cooperative management arrangements with France for identified interactions on stock(s) across the Plateau.	AAD	March 2016
4) Research program completed on spawning stock definition for Australian side of the plateau.	Industry/SARAG	March 2014
5) Joint research projects for cross boundary Toothfish investigations such as tagging, annual stock survey approaches, and stock assessment methodologies.	SARAG/AAD	Annual, March 2014

Previous Progress on Condition

- 1) Continued development of research and scientific programs on toothfish stock status and toothfish interchanges across the Kerguelen plateau were noted, particular through the commencement of a new FRDC project that (among other objectives) was aimed at progressing a joint plateau-wide stock assessment, and through the signing of a formal data sharing agreement and the subsequent exchange of data.
- 2) This new research project considered to contribute to the development of alternative stock assessment approaches.
- 3) Ongoing liaison between French and Australian scientists in particular was seen as contributing to the development of cooperative management arrangements with France for identified interactions on stock(s) across the Plateau.
- 4) The project on the location of spawning grounds for toothfish around HIMI had been completed and clarified that there are spawning grounds in both the Australian and French EEZs. Ongoing tagging work, also continued to improve knowledge of the linkages between Toothfish found in Australian and French EEZs. This was considered to assist in assessing the need for harvest control rules to explicitly account for catches in both EEZs and the value in employing a single plateau-wide stock assessment, or similar cooperative arrangement.

Progress towards meeting this condition was considered to be good, but may still require improved international collaboration on management.

Update on Progress

The activities described above have all continued and an additional Australian and French science and industry consultative meeting was held in 2015 (Anon 2015). Milestone reports on the FRDC project provided to the assessment team (e.g. Welsford 2014) indicated that.

The audit team were informed that there were no immediate plans to undertake a joint assessment and that the benefits of such an assessment approach are still being examined. It is considered unlikely there will be a single assessment across the Kerguelen Plateau, but rather the more precautionary approach of having two separate assessments is continuing, with increasing cooperation between Australian and French industry, science and government evident and positive.

The assessment of the SARPC fishery also imposed a condition on this PI. It is noted that progress towards meeting this condition was considered to be behind target at the first surveillance audit of the French fishery.

Status of Condition:

Open, on target

1.2.4 There is an adequate assessment of the stock status.		
SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
<p>The assessment estimates stock status relative to reference points.</p> <p>The major sources of uncertainty are identified.</p>	<p>The assessment is appropriate for the stock, the harvest control rule, and is evaluating stock status relative to reference points.</p> <p>The assessment takes uncertainty into account.</p> <p>The stock assessment is subject to peer review.</p>	<p>The assessment is appropriate for the stock, the harvest control rule and takes into account the major features relevant to the biology of the species and the nature of the fishery.</p> <p>The assessment takes into account uncertainty and is evaluating stock status relative to reference points in a probabilistic way.</p> <p>The assessment has been tested and shown to be robust. Alternative hypotheses and assessment approaches have been rigorously explored.</p> <p>The assessment has been <u>internally and externally</u> peer reviewed.</p>

Score: 70

<p>Condition 1.2.4</p> <p>By the fourth annual surveillance audit the client shall ensure that the assessment is appropriate for the stock and specifically that it accounts for fishing impacts on the entire known range of the stock including the proportion found and fished in the French zone.</p>								
<p>Client Action Plan 1.2.4</p> <table> <tr> <th>How</th><th>By Whom</th><th>When completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Stock assessment for Kerguelen Plateau incorporating known interactions and extent of Toothfish stock boundaries prepared by Australia.</td><td>AAD</td><td>March 2016</td></tr> </table>			How	By Whom	When completed	Stock assessment for Kerguelen Plateau incorporating known interactions and extent of Toothfish stock boundaries prepared by Australia.	AAD	March 2016
How	By Whom	When completed						
Stock assessment for Kerguelen Plateau incorporating known interactions and extent of Toothfish stock boundaries prepared by Australia.	AAD	March 2016						

Previous Progress on Condition

Progress was noted under the previous condition and was considered to be on target.

Update on Progress

There has been a range of improvements to the stock assessment model as noted above. In particular, these have facilitated the incorporation of tagging data in the assessment which has proven to be influential. There has also been a joint technical workshop with French scientists on management strategy evaluation including implementation of operating models and integration with stock assessment frameworks including tagging data. The incorporation of tagging data into assessments is likely to be key mechanism for accounting for potential interactions between the fisheries.

A condition was also placed on the SARPC fishery for this PI and it is noted that at the first surveillance audit progress was assessed as being on target.

Status of Condition:

Open, on target

3.1.2 The management system has effective consultation processes that are open to interested and affected parties.

The roles and responsibilities of organizations and individuals who are involved in the management process are clear and understood by all relevant parties.

SG 60	SG 80	SG 100
<p>Organizations and individuals involved in the management process have been identified. Functions, roles and responsibilities are <u>generally understood</u>.</p> <p>The management system includes consultation processes that <u>obtain relevant information</u> from the main affected parties, including local knowledge, to inform the management system.</p>	<p>Organizations and individuals involved in the management process have been identified. Functions, roles and responsibilities are <u>explicitly defined and well understood for key areas of responsibility and interaction</u>.</p> <p>The management system includes consultation processes that <u>regularly seek and accept</u> relevant information, including local knowledge. The management system demonstrates consideration of the information obtained.</p> <p>The consultation process <u>provides opportunity</u> for all interested and affected parties to be involved.</p>	<p>Organizations and individuals involved in the management process have been identified. Functions, roles and responsibilities are <u>explicitly defined and well understood for all areas of responsibility and interaction</u>.</p> <p>The management system includes consultation processes that <u>regularly seek and accept</u> relevant information, including local knowledge. The management system demonstrates consideration of the information and <u>explains how it is used or not used</u>.</p> <p>The consultation process <u>provides opportunity and encouragement</u> for all interested and affected parties to be involved, and <u>facilitates</u> their effective engagement.</p>
Score: 75		

Condition 3.1.2:

By the third annual surveillance audit the client shall provide information that demonstrates consultation processes in all the management systems provide opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved.

Client Action Plan

How Meet	By Whom	When Completed
Encouragement to organizers to ensure full opportunities for all interested and affected parties to be involved in national and international meetings.	Industry/ CCAMLR Consultative forum, SARAG, SouthMAC, AAD, AFMA Australian and French Governments	Ongoing, March 2015
Provide information on existing consultation processes in all management systems to demonstrate opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved.	Industry	March 2015

Previous Progress on Condition:

More information about the French consultative process became available through the MSC Public Certification Report (PCR) released by the CAB of the French fishery when the French fishery was certified in 2013. The information on consultation processes, contained in the PCR, in the French component of the management system clarifies the nature and extent of the opportunities for all interested and affected parties to be involved.

Collaboration between the Australian and French scientists has continued and there are now 2 post-doctoral fellows employed on an FRDC funded project. The post-docs will spend a significant amount of time in France and in Australia to progress the work on a joint stock assessment.

However, the focus has been on the science at this stage and further cooperation will be required between managers to develop compatible management goals for containing fishing pressure on the whole stock at a level that will allow the common goals to be met. Therefore, the team determined that the condition was on target but remained open until the next surveillance in 2015.

Update on Progress:

This condition was imposed in response to perceived differences in consultation arrangements between the HIMI and SARPC fisheries and in anticipation of a condition for the SARPC fishery with the expectation that opportunities for consultation for this fishery would need to be increased. The SARPC fishery has since been certified without such a condition, however, and without any disagreements by peer reviewers or objections by stakeholders to the lack of such a matching condition. The audit team considers that it would be inappropriate for this condition to remain open for the HIMI fishery when it pertains to arrangements for the SARPC fishery over which the HIMI fishery has no control and which have been confirmed as having met MSC requirements. In the audit team's view it would be inconsistent with MSC harmonization requirements to retain the condition.

As a result, the audit team considers that the SARPC assessment constitutes the necessary information to demonstrate that consultation processes in all the management systems provide opportunity for all interested and affected parties to be involved. The condition is therefore considered to be closed.

Status of Condition

Closed

Rescoring of PI

The HIMI toothfish Fishery is managed jointly by AFMA and the AAD (DSEWPaC) consistent with CCAMLR conservation measures. France is also a member of CCAMLR and France applies many of CCAMLR's requirements to the toothfish fishery around Kerguelen Island. The management system therefore comprises the Australian domestic management regime, the French management regime and that of CCAMLR.

As described in the original PCR for the HIMI fishery, the administrative and consultative arrangements for this fishery were assessed as very effective, with functions, roles and responsibilities explicitly defined and well understood, decisions well explained, and with arrangements in place that actively encouraged stakeholder engagement. All requirements of the SG 60, SG 80 and SG 100 scoring issues were considered to be met by the HIMI component of the management system. Similarly the CCAMLR system also meets the requirements of all three SGs.

However, the audit team notes that the SARPC fishery was scored at 85 against PI 3.1.2. The rationale for this score was that the consultation process in that fishery does not "explain how relevant information, including local knowledge, is used or not used, and there is no formal consultation process that provides opportunity and encouragement for all interested and affected parties to be involved, and facilitate their effective engagement" (Macalister Elliot and Partners 2013). Available surveillance audit reports for the SARPC fishery do not suggest that there have been any changes in that management system which would justify an increase in that score.

However, the team utilized the guidance GCBA4.0.2 of the MSC CR v 1.3 that allows limiting the extent of responsibility of the fishery within the UoC for the actions of the non-UoC management bodies and determined that the consultation processes of the French management system are unlikely to impact directly on the delivery of P1 and P2 outcomes of the fishery within the UoC. Therefore, the audit team focused on the Australian domestic management regime and the CCAMLR system and re-scored this PI at 100.

Results and Conclusions

It is SCS's view that the HIMI Toothfish fishery continues to meet the standards of the MSC and complies with the 'Requirements for Continued Certification.' In this audit cycle, the condition for PI 3.1.2 has been closed. Other conditions were judged to be on target and remained open until the next surveillance audit. Progress toward closing these conditions will be evaluated at the 2016 surveillance audit.

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