

Gap Analysis for Scope Extension of Certificate for the Western Australian Octopus Fishery

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Dr Daume meets the team member qualifications and competency criteria set out in Table PC2 of the FCP v2.1 and was the team leader of the original assessment of the fishery.

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Background

The fishery was certified on the 31 October 2019 with one UoA using FCR v 2.0 (see below).

Species and stocks:	Western Australian Common Octopus (<i>Octopus</i> aff. <i>tetricus</i>) stocks
Gear Type:	Traps, not baited with fish or other organic bait
Operators:	Majority of the Octopus Interim Managed Fishery Licences holders in Western Australia.

The fishery was certified with one condition under 1.2.1 for providing evidence that the harvest strategy is achieving its objective. and two recommendations one to analyse non-target catches from logsheet data and one to provide habitat maps relevant to the octopus fishery footprint.

The client group, represented by Guy Leyland from WAFIC, have requested to consider including baited traps as a gear type in the UoA. According to the FCR 7.27 for extension of scope of fishery certificate we conducted a gap analysis following the guidance G7.27.4.

The table below summarises the analysis of the degree of overlap between the existing UoA and the scope extension.

Principle	Components	Overlaps between existing fishery?	Explanation of the degree of overlap	Is updated assessment needed?	Comment re. need for updated assessment
P1	1.1.1 Stock status	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same
	1.2.1 harvest strategy	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same. Current condition would apply.
P2	2.1.1 Primary Outcome	Yes	There is overlap for most elements. The catch composition has not changed significantly between baited and unbaited traps which is demonstrated in the reports of the three research trials (DPIRD 2019 a-c). All fishers included in the UoC use "out of scope" bait or do not use any bait. Bait would be considered as a new scoring element under 2.1.1.	Justification can be provided that the bait is out of scope, as only by-products of farmed tuna is used as bait by fishers included in the UoC.	Scores remain the same and rationales would include bait which is used across the fishery (see appendix 1 for details).
	2.1.2 Primary Management	Yes	As 2.1.1	As 2.1.1	As 2.1.1
	2.1.3 Primary Information	Yes	As 2.1.1	As 2.1.1	As 2.1.1 the recommendation still applies.
	2.2.1 -2.2.3 Secondary species	Yes	Full overlap. The catch composition has not changed significantly between baited and unbaited traps which is demonstrated in the	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same

			reports of the research trials (DPIRD 2019 a-c).		
	2.3.1-2.3.3 ETP	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same
	2.4.1-2.4.3 Habitat	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same, the recommendation still applies.
	2.5.1-2.5.3 ecosystem	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same
P3	3.1.1-3.1.3 Governance and Policy	Yes	Full overlap	No	Scores and rationales would remain the same
	3.2.1-3.2.4 Fishery specific management system	Yes	There is overlap to a large degree. The fishery specific management plan currently does not allow the use of baited traps. Exemptions have been granted to allow baited traps for research trials under the direction of Clause 23. Information derived from the use of baited traps will be used for amendments which are expected to be finalised by mid to late 2020.	No	Scores remain the same with reference to the current research permit. The operators of the fishery utilising bait are operating under a research permit. The management plan will be amended to allow for baited traps (see appendix 1 for details).

Recommendation:

Bio.inspecta confirms that all performance indicators of the assessment tree are the same as for the previous assessment of the fishery for unbaited traps. Baited traps as a modification to the previously assessed gear type will not result in any change to scores of any of the PIs. A full scope extension is not required. Annual

surveillance audits will confirm the full extent of bait use in the fishery and any changes to the bait used by fishers in the UoC.

Therefore, the UoA will be amended to include baited and unbaited traps (now referred to as “traps” on the certificate).

Implication for CoC

Two main operators in the fishery (Fremantle Octopus and Western Australian octopus) already have CoC certification. This confirms that systems are in place for these two operators to trace back and segregate product if required.

There is no increased risk in mixing certified with uncertified product.

References

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (2019a). Baited Trap Trial Report. Fremantle Octopus Group Ltd. pp2

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (2019b). Baited Trap Trial Report. Western Australian Octopus Pty Ltd. pp3

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (2019c). Baited Trap Trial Report. 1080 Contracting Pty Ltd. pp2

Octopus Interim managed fishery management plan 2015. Doc. No. 47-01.

Appendix 1: Details of bait used in 2019

There are currently 50 licence holders in the Western Australian octopus fishery and 23 of those are included in the unit of certification (UoC)- see full list in PCR ([here](#)).

In 2019, 13 fishers were surveyed and eight of them (60%) were using bait. The majority of these are using "out of scope" bait, a tuna pellet that is purchased from SAMPI, <http://www.sampi.com.au/>. The ingredient of the product included a tuna past and tuna oil derived from by-product of the tuna aquaculture production in South Australia.

Other bait trialled by a few fishers includes pig fat which is also out of scope.

Only one operator, not included in the UoC, used locally caught fish (mullet, hardy heads (out of scope), herring and whiting caught locally).

The current management plan prohibits bait use in the fishery (Clause 21 (5)) but reserves the right of the CEO to permit different traps [Clause 23]. Exemptions have been granted by the CEO to allow baited traps for research trials under the direction of Clause 23. Work on the amendments of the management plan are currently under way and are expected to be finalised by mid to late 2020.