



STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION ON THE CHILEAN MUSSEL FISHERY AND SUSPENDED CULTURE TORALLA S.A AND CULTIVOS TORALLA S.A

Bureau Veritas communicates to stakeholders that Toralla's operation centres listed in **Table 1** are authorized for both spat collection and mussel on-growing. Therefore, **no translocation occurs and there is no evidence that the UoA negatively impacts the parent stock (see rationale below).**

The assessment team is now busy producing the Preliminary Draft Report. After peer reviewing, the Public Certification will be published at the MSC website for a 30-day stakeholder. **Since you have been identified as a relevant stakeholder for this fishery you will be immediately notified to ensure you can send us your feedback on the recommendation of certification reached by the team.**

For the purpose of this assessment, only centres that are authorized for larval collection and growth at the same time will be included in the UoA.

Table 1. UoA Operational centres (that are both authorised as larvae collection centres and growth centres) owned by Toralla S.A.

#	COLLECTION CENTRE AND GROWING CENTRE	CODE	NºPert (Identification number)	Nº Resolución Secretaría de Pesca
1	Conchas Blancas 1	103486	200103187	146
2	Conchas Blancas 2	103809	215103010	529
3	Conchas Blancas 4	103870	215103008	520
4	La Planchada 1	103866	215103007	1588
5	Coquemcura 1	103484	215103005	225
6	Pullao	103650	218103023	3026
7	Huenao 1	102212	215103002	1403
8	Liucura 2	102296	215103003	59
9	Liucura 3	102297	215103004	73
10	Isla Quillaípe	103551	201101133	850
11	Isla Maillen	103920	201101149	2196
12	Conchas Blancas 3	104120	218103013	2770
13	Coquemcura 3	104.120		
14	Huenao 2	103911	218103022	1685
15	La Planchada 2	104009	215103009	646
16	Canal Hudson	104198	218103014	3368
17	Liucura 4	103450	218103024	1309

Therefore, the **Unit of Assessment** is described as follows:

Target stock	Chilean mussel (<i>Mytilus chilensis</i>).
Fishing Area	South East Pacific Ocean in the FAO statistical area 87. In the coastal sea of Chile within the limits of the X Region of “Lagos de Chile”.
Fishing method	Enhanced fishery: mussel larvae collected in Toralla’s operation centres authorized and grown in those same centres (See Table 1). Therefore, no translocation occurs. Only centres that are authorized for larval collection and growth at the same time, are included in the UoA.
Fishing operators	Only the operation centres that includes suspended collectors and grown longlines at the same time. See Table 1 .
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers

The proposed UoA does not involve translocation since mussel larvae are collected in the same centers where they will be afterwards grown until harvesting (See Table 1 above). Spatfalls used for being grown are collected from the environment, and no translocation occurs afterwards, therefore there are genetic concerns due to this activity. Moreover, the CAB considers that there is no evidence that the UoA negatively impacts the parent stock. The reasons for the CAB to consider that there is no evidence of impact are:

1. The CAB recognizes that there are several studies that concluded that the mussel wild beds in Chiloe have several issues and are not in a healthy status (e.g. decrease in the abundance and density in AMERBs and ALAs, narrowing of the belt occupied by mussel and that mussel population is expected to continue shrinking in the mid-long term because the stock-recruit relationship has weakened) and that the mussel aquaculture industry has been proposed as one of the main probable causes due to the high removal of mussel larvae from the field due to the spat collectors used by the aquaculture industry which would adversely affect the possibility of competent larvae reaching the rock substrate and settle on wild mussel beds (Avendaño et al. 2011, Molinet et al. 2015, 2016, 2017, Vargas & Molinet 2018, Vargas 2019). This scenario was also confirmed by several stakeholders (e.g. IFOP, Universidad Austral de Chile and Fundación Chiquihue) along the RBF meeting during the recertification onsite (August 2018).

But,

2. Toralla’s centers proposed in this new UoA only represented 11% (2018) and 17% (2019) of the total aquaculture industry activity.

3. Toralla company always works at on their growing centers at mussel densities lower than it is usually used by the rest of the aquaculture industry using 72.000 collectors to produce 10.000 net tones.

4. Since there is no translocation, contrary to what it is common in the rest of the industry, Toralla is leaving an important mussel biomass in the area which will spawn within the first year. The mussel adults hanging on the growth centers represents a huge spawning biomass that releases larvae to the system, increasing the larval population, and potentially increasing as well the amount of recruits not only in the collection centers, but also in the wild beds. At least one spawning event is allowed before adults are harvested by Toralla. *M. chilensis* size at first sexual maturity (L50) is reached at a size of 37mm (22 mm for males and 40 mm for females) within is attained in the first year (Molinet et al. 2016). Moreover, during the RBF meeting stakeholders agreed that size at first maturity in the suspended on-growing system is reached even faster (at around 6 months corresponding with about 30 mm), and adults harvesting by Toralla is done at a size of 50mm.

Based on the above the CAB concludes that there is no evidence that the proposed UoA in this VR negatively impacts the parent stock (SB2.1.4), and therefore **the CAB choose not to score Principle 1 following SB2.1.4.**