



56 HIGH STREET LYMINGTON  
HAMPSHIRE SO41 9AH ENGLAND  
TELEPHONE (0)1590 679016  
FACSIMILE (0)1590 671573  
E-MAIL [mep@macalister-elliott.com](mailto:mep@macalister-elliott.com)  
WEBSITE [www.macalister-elliott.com](http://www.macalister-elliott.com)

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**Notification of use of Risk-Based Framework for rock lobster (*Jasus tristani*) fishery from Tristan da Cunha assessment**

MacAlister Elliott and Partners Ltd. (MEP) is undertaking the full MSC certification assessment process for the following fishery:

Rock lobster (*Jasus tristani*) fishery from Tristan Da Cunha conducted by Ovenstone Agencies (PTY) Ltd, Unit G7, Victoria Junction, Prestwich Street, Green Point 8001, Cape Town, South Africa

Having reviewed the information available for Principles 1 and 2, the MEP team propose to use the Risk-Based Framework (RBF) to assessment some Performance Indicators (PIs), as set out in the Fisheries Assessment Methodology version 2.

The RBF is proposed for the following PIs:

- 1.1.1 – stock status
- 2.1.1 – retained species outcome
- 2.2.1 – by-catch species outcome
- 2.4.1 – habitats outcome
- 2.5.1 – ecosystems outcome

The rationale for using the RBF for each PI is as follows:

1.1.1 – Data is available on proxies for stock biomass from CPUE and from scientific surveys the area of the fishery, but there is no formal stock assessment in terms of direct biomass estimates. Reference points are in the process of being devised.

2.1.1 and 2.2.1 – With limited exceptions, only anecdotal and small amounts of survey data are available on retained and by-catch in this fishery.

2.4.1 – The main habitat types are known but there are no habitat maps at the appropriate scale.

2.5.1 – The role of the target and main retained and by-catch species in the ecosystem is known in general terms but there is no specific information for this area. The ecological role of rock lobster pre-recruits is also not well known.

MEP welcomes comments on the proposed assessment methodology. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to contact Max Goulden on [max.goulden@macalister-elliott.com](mailto:max.goulden@macalister-elliott.com) or Caroline Gregg at the address above.

The deadline for consultation is 14 March 2010.

J D M ELLIOTT S J AKESTER  
T E SCHLESINGER BSc (Hons) FCA



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