



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

**FINAL MINUTES
SOUTHMAC 42 (VIDEO CONFERENCE)
6 NOVEMBER 2023**

SUB-ANTARCTIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SouthMAC)

CHAIR: Dr Rachel Baird

Date: 6 November 2023

Venue: Video Conference

Attendance

Members

Dr Rachel Baird, Chair

Rhys Arangio, Industry Member

Malcolm McNeill, Industry Member

Selina Stoute, AFMA Member

Dr Lyn Goldsworthy, Conservation Member

Dr Philippe Ziegler, Scientific Member

Simone Retif, AAD Member

Claire Wallis, Executive Officer, AFMA

Observers

Anna Willock, AFMA (Agenda Items 1 - 4.1)

Danait Ghebregabhier, AFMA

Brad Milic, Industry, Australian Longline Fishing Pty Ltd

Introduction

Agenda item 1 - Preliminaries

SouthMAC 42 was opened at 1:33pm AEDT on 6 November 2023 by the Chair, Dr Rachel Baird. No apologies were received, and three observers attending were noted.

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair on behalf of all members and observers acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which each participant was attending from and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

1.2 Declaration of interests

The Chair reminded members and observers of the procedure for declaring and managing conflicts of interest as outlined in the *Fisheries Administration Act 1991* and AFMA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1, including that all members must declare any actual or perceived conflicts of interest (not limited to pecuniary gain) in the fishery at the commencement of the meeting and as soon as they become evident during the discussion of relevant agenda items. If a member discloses an interest in an item, and unless the MAC decides otherwise, the member must absent themselves from the meeting while the MAC deliberates and decides about the matter where a conflict exists, including any discussions about decisions to allow the member to be present during deliberations on the matter in conflict. If the MAC decides at any time that a conflict of interest exists and that this conflict is likely to interfere with the MAC's consideration of a particular issue(s), the MAC may ask to hear the member's views on the issue and then require them to retire from the meeting while it is discussed by the other members and the advice/recommendation is formalised.

The Chair asked members and observers to update their previously declared interests and these are reflected in the register at [Attachment A](#).

1.3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda ([Attachment B](#)) was adopted with an amendment to Agenda Item 8 as being a discussion item.

Agenda item 2 – Action arising from previous meetings

SouthMAC discussed the progress of actions arising from its previous meetings. A summary of their status and SouthMAC 42 discussions is provided in [Attachment C](#).

Agenda item 3 – Correspondence

SouthMAC noted the out of session correspondence since its last meeting in November 2022 as summarized in the agenda paper.

Agenda Item 4– HIMI TAC Setting

4.1 HIMI Patagonian Toothfish Total Allowable Catch

SouthMAC noted the information provided in the agenda paper to inform its consideration of TACs for Patagonian toothfish in HIMI, including the 2023 stock assessment, SARAG advice and CCAMLR 42 outcomes. SouthMAC further noted that, as per the approach taken in 2021, SARAG had recommended setting a more precautionary TAC than that derived under the CCAMLR decision rule with a 35 – year projection period to ameliorate the level of depletion and slower rate of recovery apparent in the stock assessment, while work to resolve the uncertainties in the model is progressed. Prior to CCAMLR WG-FSA, SARAG had recommended three options for 2-year catch limits based on a 20-year projection (2,120 t), a 25-year projection (2,400 t), and a mid-point (2,260 t) for SouthMAC to consider. CCAMLR set a catch limit of 2,660t for one year only.

SouthMAC also noted advice that discussions in the CCAMLR WG-FSA and Scientific Committee were aligned with SARAG’s considerations as similar patterns are evident to varying degrees in the stock assessments for the toothfish fisheries in South Georgia, Kerguelen Islands and the Ross Sea. The Scientific Member advised that additional tagging and recruitment analyses undertaken during the course of the WG-FSA meeting indicated that some of the decline in the stock biomass and recruitment estimates may be attributable to the effect of spatial distribution of fishing effort and tagging data. Whilst preliminary in nature, WG-FSA had noted that the stock status in 2023 may not be as pessimistic and the estimated recruitment may not have declined as strongly as that predicted by the stock assessment model for HIMI. The Scientific Member shared their view that based on this additional analysis undertaken at WG-FSA, the lowest catch limit option put forward by SARAG (2,120t – based on a 20-year projection period) may be overly conservative.

SouthMAC noted that CCAMLR has set a substantive workplan for the coming year which includes (1) estimating and correcting for the effect of changing spatial distribution of fishing effort in assessments, (2) exploring alternative methods for determining recruitment used in projections, and (3) evaluating the application of the current and any proposed revisions to the CCAMLR decision rules. The outcomes of this work, and an updated stock assessment are to

be provided to CCAMLR-43 with a goal of resuming the usual two-year TAC setting process. SouthMAC further noted the importance of increasing spatial distribution of fishing effort in resolving the bias in the tagging data going forward, noting industry's advice that both companies are increasingly sharing information on the spread of their fishing effort to identify areas that have and have not been fished recently.

SouthMAC heard the ALF Industry Member's view that the TAC should only be set for one year and recommendation to consider rolling over the current toothfish TAC of 2,510t for one year to mitigate some of the economic impact. The Industry member reflected that the uncertainties within both SARAG 69 and CCAMLR made it difficult to support a TAC reduction especially given it is not a result of unequivocal peer reviewed research from CCAMLR.

The Industry member from ALF further noted that both SouthMAC and the AFMA Commission are not bound by the recommendations of SARAG and may make their own independent considerations. The member suggested that, had the additional analysis from the WG-FSA meeting been available for SARAG to consider, the recommended catch limits may have been higher. The member referred to the action items from SARAG 69 outlining both work to strengthen the stock assessment model, and the development of domestic decision rules, and expressed strong support for progressing this work. The member further recalled the TAC decision in 2021 and advised SouthMAC that the real-world impact of the TAC reduction was a loss of 750t of toothfish available to industry over two fishing season (21-22, 22-23), with a loss of \$23.4 million in sales, and noted that if the current TAC were continued, this would result in a loss of \$28.1 million over three fishing seasons (total loss of 900t).

SouthMAC heard further advice from both industry members that the total combined loss of revenue associated with the three TAC options recommended by SARAG is estimated to be \$17 million (2,120t), \$12.5 million (2,260t) or \$8 million (2,400t) respectively for the upcoming season. The Industry Member from ALF further advised that as the smaller company, a TAC of 2,400t would translate to a loss of ~\$2.5million for the company. The ALF Industry member emphasized that these are extraordinarily large numbers and that industry had taken a significant cut compared to the TACs agreed by CCAMLR. This impact hurts the company's bottom line, which in turn hurts the earnings of the crew and the potential to impact the ongoing employment of land based staff. Depending on the extent and duration of potential TAC reductions, flow on effects may include staff reductions and vessels being tied up as well as flow on impacts on putting money back into the economy through spending and taxes and reduced spending on non-crucial research that is currently funded. The ALF Industry member expressed further concern on the potential impacts of the ongoing HIMI MPA review, due to conclude in 2024.

The Industry member from Austral advised that following the SARAG 69 meeting, Austral was supportive of the lower TAC option (2,120t) recommended for consideration by SARAG (based on the 20-year projection) as this option offered a level of precaution they considered necessary given the stock depletion and level of recruitment estimated in the stock assessment. Having regard for the further sensitivity analysis conducted by the CCAMLR WG-FSA indicating the stock assessment may not be as pessimistic as first thought, the member advised that they are now of the view that that level of precaution may no longer be necessary. Austral continues to support taking a more precautionary approach than the TAC recommended through the application of the CCAMLR decision rule, however it is uncertain what level of precaution is appropriate. The Austral Industry member also expressed the view that the TAC should only be set for one year.

The Conservation Member noted that recommendations must be based on precaution, and the level of uncertainty present required a particularly precautionary approach, and agreed that the 1-year approach to TAC setting combined with the workplan would lend increased confidence in future years. In the context of a 1-year TAC, and the CCAMLR discussion, the Conservation Member suggested the discussion could consider a range between the current 2510 TAC to 2,400t on the basis of economics and a short review period.

SouthMAC heard the AFMA Member's view that whilst the additional analysis undertaken by CCAMLR WG-FSA provided some evidence that the stock assessment and projections may not be as pessimistic, the analysis is preliminary. This means that the new information does not ameliorate the issues considered by SARAG and therefore the need to take a more precautionary approach remains. The AFMA member further advised that the additional WG-FSA analysis, together with industry advice on the economic impacts of different TACs, adds to the weight of evidence available to SouthMAC to assist in assessing the range of TACs recommended by SARAG. The AFMA Member advised that in their view, the additional WG-FSA analysis provides support to recommending the higher TAC option recommended by SARAG (2 400t). In recommending the higher TAC the immediate economic impacts to industry are minimized. SouthMAC noted that retaining the current TAC of 2,510 for another year was not considered by SARAG.

To manage conflicts of interest, Industry members and industry observers left the meeting while SouthMAC deliberated on the TAC and formulated its advice to the AFMA Commission.

In discussing the proposed TAC options, the remaining SouthMAC Members agreed that a one-year TAC would be appropriate. The remaining SouthMAC Members gave consideration to SARAG's advice on the need to be precautionary, the economic impacts of a further reduction in TAC outlined by industry, and the concerns conveyed by SARAG and CCAMLR.

The remaining SouthMAC members, cognizant of SARAG's advice, the CCAMLR 42 outcome and industry's advice on the economic impacts of the options considered, **recommended** the setting of a TAC of 2,400 t of Patagonian toothfish for the 2023/24 HIMI season.

The Chair thanked industry for their advice on economic impacts and contributions to the discussion and requested that they are included in AFMA Management's report to the Commission on SouthMAC outcomes.

The Industry Member from ALF expressed disappointment with SouthMAC's recommendation to further reduce the TAC, noting the difficult operating environment of the past few years, and recalled their preference for the advice to be based on fully peer-reviewed science from CCAMLR, which is not currently available. The Member thanked SouthMAC for the opportunity to share their view. Industry requested that AFMA inform them of the AFMA Commission's decision as soon as it became available.

4.2 HIMI Mackerel Icefish Total Allowable Catch

SouthMAC noted the information provided in the agenda paper to inform its consideration of a mackerel icefish TAC for HIMI for the 2023/24 fishing season, including:

- the results of the 2023 mackerel icefish stock assessment;
- SARAG 69 recommendation to set a mackerel Icefish TAC of 714t for 2023/24; and

- CCAMLR 42 decision to set a 714t mackerel icefish TAC for 2023/24.

SouthMAC noted that the recommended TAC for 2023/24 is a significant reduction from the 1,857t catch limit agreed previously for the season due to the lower biomass estimate from the 2023 random stratified trawl survey (RSTS) which can naturally vary considerably from year to year.

SouthMAC **recommended** a TAC of 714t of mackerel icefish for the 2023/24 HIMI.

4.3 HIMI Bycatch Limits

SouthMAC noted the information provided in the agenda paper to inform its consideration of the bycatch limits outlined in Table 1 below for HIMI for the 2023/24 fishing season including;

- SARAG 69 recommendation maintain the current bycatch limits for 2023/24; and
- CCAMLR 42 decision to retain the current bycatch limits for 2023/24 .

SouthMAC **recommended** maintaining the current bycatch limits for the 2023/24 HIMI season.

Table 1. HIMI Fishery bycatch limits for the 2023/24 fishing season

Species	Limit (t)
Caml grenadier (<i>Macrourus caml</i>) and Whitson’s grenadier (<i>M. whitsoni</i>)	409
Bigeye grenadier (<i>M. holotrachys</i>) and ridge scaled rattail (<i>M. carinatus</i>)	360
Unicorn icefish (<i>Channichthys rhinoceratus</i>)	1 663
Skates and rays (<i>Bathyraja spp.</i>)	120
Grey rockcod (<i>Lepidonotothen squamifrons</i>)	80
All other species (each)	50

Agenda item 5 – Macquarie Island Total Allowable Catch Setting

5.1 2024/25 – 2025/26 MITF Patagonian Toothfish Total Allowable Catch

SouthMAC noted the information provided in the agenda paper to inform its consideration of a TAC for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 fishing seasons of the MITF including the 2023 stock assessment and SARAG’s recommendation of a 468t TAC for Patagonian toothfish for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 fishing seasons.

SouthMAC further noted that SARAG considered information available on potential climate change impacts on the fishery in making its TAC recommendation, noting that current data collection methods in the fishery, including updated length-weight relationships in stock assessments, and the ability to incorporate climate data in future modelling, along with applying the precautionary approach to the TAC setting process, will enable AFMA to respond to changes in the fishery, including those due to climate change. SouthMAC also noted an update from industry advising of an application with the AFMA Electronic Monitoring Team to fund instrumentation to undertake environmental data collection going forward.

SouthMAC **recommended** a TAC of 468t of Patagonian toothfish for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 MITF seasons.

5.2 2024/25 MITF Bycatch Limits

SouthMAC noted the information provided in the agenda paper to inform its consideration of bycatch limits for the MITF including that bycatch levels in the fishery are generally low and SARAG 69's recommendation to maintain the current 50t bycatch limit for each of the other species taken in the fishery.

SouthMAC **recommended** maintaining the current 50t bycatch limit for each of the other species taken in the MITF fishery for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons.

Agenda item 6 – CCAMLR outcomes update

6.1 Summary of CCAMLR 41 Outcomes

The AAD Member provided an update on CCAMLR 42, which met from 16 to 27 October 2023. Australia's key objectives included upholding the function and integrity of CCAMLR and the broader Antarctic Treaty System, upholding the Conservation Objective of CCAMLR, including through the establishment of a representative network of marine protected areas, and pursuing responsible and sustainable fisheries in the Southern Ocean. A summary of the outcomes is provided as [Attachment D](#).

SouthMAC noted that it was again a challenging year to progress conservation objectives, though the results were as anticipated. The catch limit for the Ross Sea Exploratory toothfish Fishery (in Subareas 88.1 and 88.2AB) was agreed but access to Division 58.4.1 under an updated research plan was blocked for the sixth ongoing year. Australian vessels will be able to access Division 58.4.2, with TACs of 103 t in research block 5842_1 and 206 t in research block 5842_2.

The Conservation member reflected the absence of some members in the first week was unfortunate and impacted the progression of work in the second week. However, no new fisheries were blocked. On climate change and Marine Park Areas, positions appeared to have become more entrenched.

Industry members expressed ongoing concern about the dynamics broadly observed at the meeting, the challenges of working towards agreement for the Ross Sea and South Georgia toothfish fisheries, the frequent difficulty in reaching consensus, and apparent undermining of agreed language and concepts regarding spatial management, biodiversity, and best available science.

6.2 Summary of Revised Conservation Measures

SouthMAC noted a summary table of revised conservation measures provided at [Attachment E](#).

Agenda item 7 – MITF Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Measures

SouthMAC noted the update provided in the agenda paper on the discussions to date on the proposed changes to the management arrangements seeking to mitigate seabird bycatch in the MITF.

SouthMAC noted that SARAG 69 at its meeting on 22-23 August further considered industry's proposal, together with additional information provided by AFMA and information from seabird experts, and provided advice on the design, monitoring and decision rules that would apply to a season extension trial. AFMA is already progressing some of the actions arising from SARAG 69 (e.g. ensuring that observer seabird data collection is maintained through daily observations) and will be seeking SouthMAC advice on the proposed season extension trials commencing in 2024 to inform the AFMA Commission's decision. Following SARAG 69, AFMA will also be exploring funding options for seabird experts to provide any additional supplementary information, including seabird abundance data that could inform SARAG's future discussions.

The Industry Member from Austral responded to the AFMA members' comment regarding this trial not increasing risk to seabirds. The industry member expressed their view that clarity needed to be made that increasing the season length would increase risk to seabirds, however SARAG, SouthMAC and AFMA needed to be comfortable with that increase in risk, given that, in their view, an increase in risk does not necessarily equate to an increase in seabird mortality. AFMA acknowledged that a key part of a season extension trial would also involve identifying and implementing any additional measures that could mitigate an increase in the risk to seabirds, including the voluntary industry measures discussed at SARAG 69.

The Conservation member expressed appreciation for the update and expressed that while reasonable to apply a season extension trial, an increase in the frequency of seabird interactions would not be an acceptable outcome, rather the same level of seabird mortality as is currently allowed should be maintained.

Agenda item 8 – AFMA Financial Update

SouthMAC noted the budget update provided by AFMA including explanations for the variance in the forecast budget and actual expenditure for HIMI management costs and that any further clarification on the observer costs may be best achieved through further discussions between industry and AFMA post the SouthMAC meeting. Specifically, industry sought further clarification on the calculation of total observer days for 22/23, whether the observer costs were calculated on a financial year or fishing season basis, and whether it would be possible for AFMA to provide a break-down of observer days per trip due to industry's view that the observer costs were much higher than expected.

AFMA agreed to follow up with relevant areas internally on the above items, as well as the VMS and logbook costs for the MITF and history of the 70% vs 100% management overhead component for HIMI from the Finance Team.

Agenda item 9 – Other Business

9.1 Update on MAC & RAG review

SouthMAC noted that AFMA will be writing to RAG and MAC Chairs on the outcomes of the review of AFMA's Management Advisory Committee and Resource Assessment Group Consultative Framework, which may then be further shared with advisory group members.

9.2 MAC administrative processes

Acknowledging the work loads of AFMA staff, the Chair raised a number of MAC administrative matters relating to the processing of sitting fees and timelines for distributing MAC papers before a meeting and the meeting record following a meeting. At the Chair's request, AFMA agreed to provide acknowledgement of receipt of emails regarding sitting fees and reimbursement.

The Chair asked if the time lines for the provision of MAC papers two weeks before the meeting and the meeting record two weeks following the meeting as per FMP 1 can be adhered to. The AFMA Member noted that the Sub Antarctic team is currently looking at opportunities to improve the efficiency of advisory group meetings and the team more generally to ensure that important work can be delivered well and as per the timelines outlined in FMP 1. This may include undertaking some intersessional advisory committee work and having further discussions with industry on key priorities.

9.2.1 MSC Certification Obligations

Industry noted that in amending meeting logistics this year some work has appeared to slip from agendas and expressed concerns on items important to ongoing MSC certification, particularly the MITF ERA and Bycatch & Discards Workplan. Industry requested that this be maintained on the agenda, noting that AFMA was due to submit this to SARAG in 2023 which was moved back and is now expected to be delivered in 2024.

9.3 MAC Chairs' Meeting

The SouthMAC Chair shared advice that a MAC Chair meeting is currently not scheduled and noted that one would be valuable in providing the opportunity to speak to other AFMA MAC Chairs.

Agenda item 10 - Next meeting

SouthMAC agreed to meet next in either May 2024 or an alternate date to be canvassed by AFMA.

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:57pm.

Attachment A

Table 1. Member, invited participants and observer's declarations of interest.

Name	Membership	Declared interests
Dr Rachel Baird	Chair	Dr Baird advised that she is a former lawyer and academic with experience in international law and Southern Ocean fisheries, and that she has no interest pecuniary or otherwise in sub-Antarctic Fisheries.
Dr Philippe Ziegler	Scientific member	Employed by AAD and is the Fishery scientist responsible for Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (HIMIF) work, including the HIMI stock assessments. Dr Ziegler has no pecuniary interest in the sub-Antarctic and his salary is not connected to any research grants noting that he is a principle and co-investigator on current FRDC projects. Dr Ziegler is the scientific member of SARAG, and the Scientific Representative for Australia to CCAMLR.
Malcolm McNeil	Industry Member	<p>Managing Director of Australian Longline Fishing Pty Ltd (ALFPL) which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in, the sub-Antarctic fisheries and New and Exploratory fisheries under the jurisdiction of Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).</p> <p>Member of the Ross Sea Industry Client Group, and a Board member of the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (COLTO). He was not aware of any investigation or prosecution action by AFMA against his Company or of any legal action taken by his Company against AFMA.</p>
Rhys Arangio	Industry member	Employed by Austral Fisheries P/L (Austral Fisheries) as the General Manager of Science and Policy. Austral Fisheries owns Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) in the Australian sub-Antarctic fisheries, which include waters under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR. Noting no changes since the last meeting, Mr Arangio is the Executive Officer of COLTO, as well as being a member of SouthMAC. He was not aware of any investigation or prosecution action by AFMA against his Company, nor of any legal action taken by his Company against AFMA, and has an interest in all agenda items.
Dr Lyn Goldsworthy	Conservation member	Dr Lyn Goldsworthy has completed a PhD and holds an associate professorship at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic studies and the University of Tasmania. Dr Goldsworthy also conducts contract work for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) and

		Deep-Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC). Dr Goldsworthy has no pecuniary interest in sub-Antarctic fisheries.
Simone Retif	AAD member	Australian Antarctic Division employee whose colleagues conduct the HIMI stock assessment. Ms Retif attends international meetings related to Antarctic fisheries and has no pecuniary interest in Antarctic fisheries and her salary is not dependent on research collaborations between AAD, industry or others.
Selina Stoute	AFMA member	AFMA employee, no interests pecuniary or otherwise.
Claire Wallis	Executive officer	AFMA employee, no interests pecuniary or otherwise.
Anna Willock	AFMA observer	AFMA Deputy CEO, no interests pecuniary or otherwise
Danait Ghebregabhier	AFMA observer	AFMA employee, no interests pecuniary or otherwise.
Brad Milic	Industry Observer	General Manager, Operations, at ALFPL which holds various fishing rights in, and operates vessels in, the sub-Antarctic fisheries and New and Exploratory fisheries under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR.



42nd Meeting of the Sub Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

Virtual teleconference

6 November 2023

Draft Agenda

Chair: Dr Rachel Baird

Approximate time	Item	Purpose	Lead presenter
13:30 (20 min)	1. Preliminaries		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	For action	Chair
	1.2 Declaration of interests	For action	Chair
	1.3 Adoption of agenda	For action	Chair
	2. Actions Arising	For noting	AFMA Member
	3. Correspondence	For noting	AFMA Member
13:50 (100 min)	4. Heard Island & McDonald Islands Fishery		
	4.1 Patagonian Toothfish TAC	For discussion & advice	AFMA Member
	4.2 Mackerel Icefish TAC	For advice	AFMA Member
	4.3 Bycatch limits	For advice	AFMA Member
15:30 (30 min)	5. Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery		
	5.1 Patagonian Toothfish TAC	For advice	AFMA Member
	5.2 Bycatch limits	For advice	AFMA Member
16:00 (15 min)	6. CCAMLR		

Approximate time	Item	Purpose	Lead presenter
	6.1 Summary of CCAMLR outcomes	For noting	AAD Member*
	6.2 Summary of revised Conservation Measures	For noting	AAD Member
16:15 (15 min)	7. Update on proposed changes to the MITF Seabird Management Arrangements	For noting	AFMA Member
16:30 (20 min)	8. Fisheries Financial Update	For discussion	AFMA Member
16:50 (10 min)	9. Other Business	For discussion	Chair*
	9.1 Update on MAC & RAG review		
	9.2 MAC administrative processes		
	9.3 MAC Chairs' Meeting		
	10. Next Meeting	For advice	Chair

* Verbal update, no agenda paper provided

Attachment C

Item	Action arising	Status
1	<p>Export Control Act – Industry to report to next SouthMAC meeting regarding discussions with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on the current (Covid-19 related) difficulties meeting the new Export Control Act requirements (SouthMAC 39 Agenda item 5).</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>SouthMAC 42 agreed that this item could be closed as it relates only to observer requirements under COVID restrictions.</p>
2 a	<p>Export Control Act - AFMA to arrange a meeting with DAFF on C2 provision requirements and provide an update to industry. (SouthMAC 41 Agenda Item 2).</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>AFMA met with DAFF on 21 February 2023 to discuss reporting requirements related to export of toothfish from HIMI. Delegation of approvals to AFMA observers and food safety standards were also discussed.</p> <p>At SouthMAC 42 industry noted that a C2 form is provided to DAFF on a monthly basis, and that their view is this form provides raw data (whole green weight, bycatch) that does not clearly illustrate what the vessel is actually carrying (retained processed weights). Noting that this requirement is only for vessels landing fish in Mauritius, this item remains open to explore improvements to data provision approaches to DAFF.</p>

Item	Action arising	Status
2 b	<p>Olympic TAC & Catch Reporting – AAD to approach the Secretariat to request daily catch reports in Division 58.4.2 once 50% of the TAC has been harvested, and vessel exit notifications for this area in the 2022/23 Season (SouthMAC41 Agenda Item 2)</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>AAD contacted CCAMLR Secretariat on 19 September 2022, to request an increase in catch reporting for 58.4.2 as catch nears the limit, and for departure notifications and total catch taken by vessels departing an SSRU or research block.</p> <p>On 7 October 2022 the CCAMLR Secretariat advised it would be possible to provide daily reporting for 58.4.2 as per the Ross Sea if requested/directed by the Commission. The Secretariat noted that current reporting contains catch information and total vessel presence in each area, and highlighted that Members with joint research plans need to coordinate data sharing, but that a margins conversation could be had.</p> <p>SouthMAC42 noted the CCAMLR Secretariat’s advice and agreed to close this item. SouthMAC further noted that changes in vessel and skippers over the previous seasons have affected data sharing during the fishing season and highlighted the importance of having contact details available. The potential for COLTO to facilitate communication by request was also raised.</p>
3	<p>CCAMLR Circulars – AAD to provide a further update on processes informing sharing relevant circulars, including future development of an SOP (SouthMAC 40 Agenda Item 3).</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The draft SOP was circulated to SouthMAC members for comment on 13 October and comments were due on 20 October. One question was received from a SouthMAC member on a process to access circulars regarding the Cobija and how that would have been handled under the draft SOP.</p> <p>SouthMAC 42 recommended an amendment to the SOP and the item was closed. Industry requested that going forward, CCAMLR circulars submitted by Australia include language indicating approval to share with observers where possible.</p>

Item	Action arising	Status
4	<p>Observer Days - AFMA to review whether observer days have reduced in line with the toothfish TAC reduction, whether observer day projections incorporate trip planning information provided by industry, and whether an anticipated reduction in quarantine days has been considered in the projected budget (SouthMAC 40 Agenda Item 12).</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>On 15/11/22 AFMA advised that the 2023/24 budget had a reduction in HIMI days due to one fewer vessels, and less quota, while a slight increase was applied to MITF and CCAMLR at industry's request.</p>
5	<p>Wildlife Interactions - AFMA to review mapping Southern Elephant Seal interactions for 2021/22 to explore potential interaction clustering (SouthMAC 40 Agenda Item 14).</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>SARAG 69 considered this at its meeting on 22-23 August 2023 and a summary of the discussion and the RAG's proposed next steps is provided in the meeting record at Attachment 4.1b, at SARAG 69 Agenda Item 10.</p> <p>SouthMAC42 noted an update from the Scientific Member on the interaction mapping presented to SARAG 69, which did not suggest any seasonal or geographic hotspots but indicated data collection could be improved to identify sex and age information. SouthMAC noted that any updates on work on elephant seal population characteristics could be included in the standing agenda item on TEP interactions going forward and closed the item.</p>

Item	Action arising	Status
6	<p>Climate Change</p> <p>AFMA to invite CSIRO to present on indicators and approaches underpinning fishery climate predictions at SARAG (SouthMAC 41 Agenda Item 4)</p> <p>AFMA to facilitate a Sub Antarctic Fisheries Climate Adaptation Workshop in alignment with SARAG and SouthMAC meetings in May 2023 (SouthMAC 41 Agenda Item 4)</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>CSIRO presented updates on TREV and climate ecosystem reports at SARAG 66 and 68, respectively and at the HIMI and MITF climate change workshops.</p> <p>AFMA facilitated a HIMI climate workshop in May 2023 and an MITF workshop in August 2023 which were attended by SARAG and SouthMAC members, as well as industry, scientists and academics.</p>

Outcomes from the 42nd Meeting of CCAMLR

The 42nd meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR-42) was held in Hobart from 16-27 October 2023 at the CCAMLR Headquarters. The Scientific Committee (SC), Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC), and Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF) meetings were held concurrently from 16 to 20 October. The Commission plenary was held from 23-27 October. The Australian delegation was led by the Australian Antarctic Division of the Department of Climate Change the Environment and Energy Water (DCCEEW) and included representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), Attorney- General's Department, Tasmanian State Government, conservation NGOs, the fishing industry and academia.

Significantly, Australia's fishing interests were protected:

- Revised catch limits were agreed for the toothfish and icefish fisheries in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI), albeit for 1 year, not 2, in the case of toothfish. A revised stock assessment addressing issues identified is to be provided in 2024 and will require significant work by Australia to deliver on the work plan in 2023/24.
- The stock assessment and catch limits for Subareas 88.1 and 88.2 were adopted by the Commission. Following significant deliberations, agreement was reached for fishing to proceed for all notified vessels (including 2 Australian vessels and vessels from Russia and the UK) in the Ross Sea.
- Australia's notifications to fish in East Antarctica (Division 58.4.2) were endorsed. One vessel each from Australia and France will undertake fishing in the 2023/24 fishing season.
- One member continued to block the exploratory fishery in Division 58.4.1.
- Australia's proposal to clarify the requirements for standardised sampling gear for research plans for exploratory toothfish fisheries (CM 21-02), which was agreed in the Scientific Committee, was not agreed by the Commission with one member blocking.
- The Independent Review of 2021 Toothfish Stock assessments concluded that assessments for South Georgia (48.3), Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI, 58.4.1) and the Ross Sea (88.1. and 88.2) were consistent with global best practise and best available science. Many Members supported the review recommendations. One member again noted that their position was not taken into account so could not share the conclusions of the review.

Krill fishery

- A suite of proposals, co-sponsored by Australia, aimed at improving the management, transparency and operational standards of Antarctic krill fisheries were blocked.
- Further updated catch limits for krill in East Antarctica, based on Australia's TEMPO marine science survey and a Japanese survey, were blocked by one member.

Other outcomes:

- Australia's proposal for a Code of Conduct to enable all attendees to have safe and respectful experiences at CCAMLR events (cosponsored by France, Republic of Korea, and the US) received broad support from the majority of Members but was blocked by two members.
- Again, consensus was not achieved on the proposal for an East Antarctic Marine Protected Area (EAMPA) led by Australia, European Union and its Member States'. The EAMPA proposal continued to receive strong support from most CCAMLR Members. Consensus was also not achieved on any other marine protected area proposals.
- Australia made an intervention on the unprecedented threat of avian influenza and urged Members to encourage their fishing vessels to set in place protocols to avoid the contraction of the disease, should bird strikes occur. UK announced that concerning avian influenza has reached South Georgia.
- Stephanie Langerock (Belgium) was agreed as the new Commission Vice Chair.
- The Commission agreed to include the stateless vessel *Cobija* on the Non-Contracting Party IUU vessel list. There was no consensus to de-list the *El Shaddai* from the Contracting Party IUU vessel list, as requested by the Republic of South Africa.

Updated Conservation Measures (CCAMLR 42)

CM	Title
10-10	CCAMLR Compliance Evaluation Procedure
21-03	Notifications of intent to participate in a fishery for <i>Euphausia superba</i>
24-01	The application of conservation measures to scientific research
24-05	Fishing for research purposes pursuant to Conservation Measure 24-01
25-02	Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds in the course of longline fishing or longline fishing research in the Convention Area
25-03	Minimisation of the incidental mortality of seabirds and marine mammals in the course of trawl fishing in the Convention Area
32-09	Prohibition of directed fishing for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i> Except in accordance with specific conservation measures in the 2023/24 season
33-02	Limitation of by-catch in Statistical Division 58.5.2 in the 2023/24 season
33-03	Limitation of by-catch in new and exploratory fisheries in the 2023/24 season
41-01	General measures for exploratory fisheries for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i> in the Convention Area in the 2023/24 season
41-03	Limits on the fishery for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.4 in the 2023/24 season
41-04	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.6 in the 2023/24 season
41-05	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Division 58.4.2 in the 2023/24 season
41-06	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> on Elan Bank (Statistical Division 58.4.3a) outside areas of national jurisdiction in the 2023/24 season
41-07	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> on BANZARE Bank (Statistical Division 58.4.3b) outside areas of national jurisdiction in the 2023/24 season
41-08	Limits on the fishery for <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> in Statistical Division 58.5.2 in the 2023/24 season
41-09	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Subarea 88.1 in the 2023/24 season
41-10	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Subarea 88.2 in the 2023/24 season

CM	Title
41-11	Limits on the exploratory fishery for <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> in Statistical Division 58.4.1 in the 2023/24 season
42-01	Limits on the fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Subarea 48.3 in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons
42-02	Limits on the fishery for <i>Champocephalus gunnari</i> in Statistical Division 58.5.2 in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons
51-04	General measure for exploratory fisheries for <i>Euphausia superba</i> in the Convention Area in the 2023/24 season
51-07	Interim distribution of the trigger level in the fishery for <i>Euphausia superba</i> in Statistical Subareas 48.1, 48.2, 48.3 and 48.4