



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

MINUTES
SOUTHMAC 30
1 DECEMBER 2011

SUB-ANTARCTIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SouthMAC)

CHAIR: Mr Bill Nagle

Date: 1 December 2011

Venue: CSIRO Marine Laboratories, Hobart

Attendance

Members

Mr Bill Nagle – Chair
Dr Malcolm Haddon, Scientific Member
Ms Lihini Weragoda, AAD
Mr Martin Exel, Industry Member
Mr Les Scott, Industry Member
Mr Jon Bryan, Conservation Member
Mr Peter Neave, AFMA Member (by phone)

Observers

Mr Rhys Arangio, industry
Mr Mike Tudman, industry

Introduction

The thirtieth meeting of the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC 30) was held in Hobart on 1 December 2011.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to discuss:

- the outcomes of the thirtieth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXX);
- proposed amendments to the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery Management Plan;
- review of the HIMI Fishery Management Plan; and
- the situation in relation to the Antarctic fisheries budget acquittals for 2010/11 and the levy-base for 2011/12.

Agenda item 1 - Preliminaries

SouthMAC 30 was opened at 9.15 am on 1 December 2011 by the Chair, Mr Bill Nagle.

Mr Nagle welcomed the attendance of Mr Rhys Arangio from Austral Fisheries Pty Ltd and Mr Mike Tudman from Australian Longline Pty Ltd as observers to the meeting.

The AFMA Member, Peter Neave, participated in all the discussions by phone.

Declaration of interests

Mr Martin Exel and Mr Les Scott declared their interests on all agenda items.

Mr Exel advised that his Company owns Statutory Fishing Rights (SFRs) in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery and the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (MITF). He was not aware of any investigation or prosecution action by AFMA against his Company and was not aware of any legal action taken by his Company against AFMA. He advised that his Company was being investigated by the Tasmanian State Government in relation to Macquarie Island.

Mr Scott advised that his Company owns SFRs in the HIMI Fishery and the MITF and he was not aware of any investigation or prosecution action by AFMA against his Company or of any legal action by his Company against AFMA.



Apologies

No apologies were received.

Adoption of agenda

SouthMAC adopted the agenda without change.

Agenda item 2 – Adoption of Minutes from SouthMAC 29

SouthMAC noted that the Minutes from SouthMAC 29 held on 2 December 2010 were considered and adopted by Members out-of-session. Recognising the period between SouthMAC meetings, Members agreed to continue to clear the draft minutes out-of-session so they could be posted on the AFMA website soon after the meeting concluded.

Agenda item 3 - Action arising from SouthMAC 29

SouthMAC discussed the action arising from SouthMAC 29.

Item	Status
MITF Management Plan amendment - The HIMI Fishery and MITF Management Plan amendments were postponed pending resolution by industry on the MITF SFR issue. The AFMA Commission approved proceeding with the MITF amendment provided industry reached unanimous agreement on the allocation of SFRs. Messrs Exel and Scott agreed to provide notification of the agreement to AFMA in writing.	Completed. The MITF Plan amendment has been accepted by the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and will be registered before the start of the 2012/13 season.
Toothfish ageing - Estimates of size at maturity at Macquarie Island suggest that toothfish mature up to four years later than in the HIMI Fishery and they appear to grow more slowly and possibly to a smaller maximum size. Commensurate with this the maximum age also appears to be greater. To increase the certainty relating to these estimates is the impetus behind the request that the size-at-maturity be investigated in longline operations in both the MITF and HIMI Fishery.	Ongoing. Dr Haddon provided an update. Stock assessment scientists from AAD and CSIRO are closely liaising on data provision, including ageing data and data from 2011/12 fishing operations.
MITF TACs - SouthMAC noted that out-of-session consideration will be sought in March 2011 on the MITF TAC recommendations for the 2011/12 season. This will follow consideration by SARAG of the stock assessment, prepared by CSIRO, in March 2011.	Completed. TACs were set for 2011/12 season. SARAG will consider the 2012/13 TACs at their March 2012 meeting and SouthMAC will be asked to consider the recommendation out of session.
Budgets - Mr Scott sought clarification of the application of AFMA overheads to the observer budget and the costs of data management. Mr Neave undertook to investigate the matter further.	Budget issues were discussed and reported on under agenda item 11.



Agenda item 4 – Correspondence

SouthMAC noted the following correspondence which had been received between meetings:

- 10 March 2011 – an e-mail from Peter Neave to Members providing background information on the out-of-session discussion on the TACs for the 2011/12 season in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery. The recommended TACs were subsequently approved by the AFMA Commission;
- 15 April 2011 – a letter from James Findlay (AFMA CEO) to MAC Chairs on improvements to MACs.
- May 2011 – a letter from Richard Stevens (Acting Chair, AFMA) on outcomes of May 2011 Commission meeting and agreement to release MITF Management Plan amendments for a period of public comment;
- 8 July 2011 – a letter from Michael Egan (AFMA Chair) on outcomes of June 2011 Commission meeting and agreement to determine the MITF Management Plan amendment to amalgamate the two sectors (Aurora Trough and Macquarie Ridge) into a single area;
- 13 July 2011 – letter from James Findlay to Bill Nagle on the draft budgets for the HIMI Fishery and MITF for 2011/12;
- 17 August 2011 – a letter to MAC and RAG Chairs on the key messages from the MAC and RAG workshop;
- 25 October 2011 - an e-mail from Peter Neave to SARAG and SouthMAC Members regarding pot fishing in the HIMI Fishery. Potting has become an approved fishing method following expiry of a direction which had limited fishing methods to just trawling and longlining; and
- 10 November 2011 – an e-mail from Peter Neave to SARAG and SouthMAC Members regarding the recommended TACs for the HIMI Fishery for the 2011/12 season. The recommended TACs were subsequently approved by the AFMA Commission.

Agenda Item 5 – Report on fishing operations

SouthMAC noted the verbal reports from Messrs Exel and Scott on fishing operations in sub-Antarctic waters. The information would be provided as a commercial-in-confidence report to the AFMA Commission.

Mr Exel reported that Antonio Vidal, the major remaining player in the illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) catch in the Antarctic toothfish fisheries, had been jailed in Spain for 18 months. Mr Exel reported that as Mr Vidal had been rumoured to control the only IUU operations for Antarctic toothfish. A zero IUU catch was expected from Antarctic waters over the coming year.

Agenda item 6 – Report from SARAG 43

The 43rd meeting of the Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG) was scheduled to be held on 30 November 2011. It was postponed until 13 December. The Minutes from SARAG 43 will be posted on the AFMA website.

CCAMLR

Agenda item 7 – Report on the outcomes of CCAMLR XXX

SouthMAC discussed the report prepared by AFMA on the outcomes of the thirtieth meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXX) and associated meetings which were held in Hobart during the period 24 October to 4 November 2011. The report is provided at Attachment A.



SouthMAC noted that the AFMA Commission had determined the TACs in the HIMI Fishery for the 2011/12 season. The TACs for the target species are 2730 tonnes for Patagonian toothfish and 30 tonnes for mackerel icefish and are set at the levels prescribed by CCAMLR.

SouthMAC also noted that CCAMLR agreed to implement the following limit reference point for mackerel icefish: where the stock assessment indicated a stock biomass of less than 1000 tonnes, or the decision rules indicate a catch limit of less than 100 tonnes, a commercial catch would not be set. Instead, a 30 tonnes combined research and bycatch limit would apply, which would allow the annual trawl survey to continue to monitor the stock and accommodate by-catch of icefish that may occur in toothfish trawl fishery.

The limit reference point for icefish was triggered and applies because the total biomass from the 2011 survey was estimated to be 983 tonnes. This is not uncommon as the stock is subject to high natural recruitment fluctuations. Setting the TAC at 30 tonnes will mean that there is no targeting of icefish in the 2011/12 season.

SouthMAC also noted that Australia had been successful in advocating the removal of the night setting requirement during the longline extension period of 15 – 30 April in the HIMI Fishery. This measure will be trialed over two years. This means that longlines can be set at any time during the longline season.

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

Agenda item 8 – Management Plan amendments

SouthMAC discussed the amendments to the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery Management Plan which propose to:

- remove the minimum quota holding requirement for non-trawl fishing methods;
- move the mechanism for setting the minimum quota holding for trawl fishing methods to a determination; and
- make minor changes to some definitions and remove specific reference to the Bycatch Action Plan.

SouthMAC noted their previous out-of-session discussion in October 2011 on the issue where they had supported the amendments proceeding and having them released for a period of public comment.

SouthMAC also noted the increasing trend to catch toothfish by non trawl methods, particularly by longlining. In the 2010/11 season, a trawler and two longliners (one also capable of undertaking pot fishing) operated in the HIMI fishery. The toothfish were caught 54.9% by longlining, 43.8% by trawling, and 1.3% by potting. The larger fish taken in non-trawl operations results in higher returns and has a positive benefit in terms of projected TAC increases over time. Generally stakeholders support taking fish by non-trawl methods.

The main issue discussed was in relation to the minimum quota holding determination for trawl operations. SouthMAC noted that AFMA is looking to remove unnecessary regulation in fisheries and to remove impediments to effective markets and economic efficiency. The AFMA Executive sought SouthMAC advice on how retaining the minimum quota holding for trawl methods (but not other methods) best pursues AFMA's legislative objectives.

SouthMAC were of the view that there are often unique circumstances that should be taken into account when dealing with management of individual fisheries. It was noted that the HIMI Fishery had been subject to stable management and a stable operating environment over many years with progressive changes being made over time as information became available following stakeholder consultation. The successful introduction of longline fishing over time provides such an example.



A stable operating environment provides industry with certainty and a basis on which to invest. A key issue identified was that there is broad stakeholder support for limiting trawl vessel numbers and a significant departure from this, which is the potential of altering the minimum quota holding for trawl operations, could lead to an unstable operating environment for the fishery, with likely political intervention.

Industry members were also conscious of the current Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification process for toothfish in the HIMI Fishery, and the potential impact on the process of removing the minimum quota holding requirement for trawl operations.

In relation to AFMA's legislative objectives the industry members on SouthMAC raised the following points:

Cost efficient and effective management – removal of the minimum quota holding limit on trawlers would result in adverse comment and representations from industry, conservation NGO's, scientists, other Government agencies, SouthMAC and SARAG which would incur costs and human resources time within AFMA. It would also likely result in changes to the MSC approvals, requiring industry to separately undergo a review of the certification which would be costly. It may also result in submissions to the Minister from conservation groups or the public concerned, again adding to the costs of management. SouthMAC considered there are likely to be a number of more pressing fisheries management issues requiring scarce management time and resources than this matter.

Maximising economic returns – the existing limits on trawling do not impose any negative economic implications for the fishery, as industry cannot envisage any situation where more than three trawlers would be required. To remove the limitations on the other hand would create direct impacts on the MSC certification which could result in (worst case) suspension of our certification while the issue is being discussed publicly, in turn resulting in lower prices for our fish, and lowering market expectations on the sustainability of toothfish products from Australia more generally.

Precautionary approach – retaining the minimum quota holding limits on trawling is a more precautionary approach than removing it, as that would preclude reduction of catch limits which occur when greater proportions of the catch are taken by trawl (smaller sizes, younger ages etc). It also limits possible benthic interactions from trawling, which are identified both in the toothfish and mackerel icefish fishery MSC reports as critical limits towards being identified as meeting ecological objectives at the highest possible standards.

In discussing the minimum quota holding requirements for trawlers, SouthMAC also noted the need to continue the current good consultative practices amongst the stakeholders prior to determinations being made and the need for sufficient trawl capacity to enable the annual stock assessments to proceed.

SouthMAC supported determining a minimum quota holding of 25.5% for trawl operations in a determination, which is the figure currently specified in the Management Plan. This means that currently no more than three boats can operate in the fishery, and this would translate to limiting the maximum number of trawlers to three if a determination using the 25.5% figure is made. Industry members strongly supported this approach.

Action arising

Agenda item 9 – Management Plan review

SouthMAC noted that it a requirement of the HIMI Fishery Management Plan for AFMA and SouthMAC to assess the effectiveness of the Plan at least once ever five years, including measures taken to achieve the objectives of the Management Plan by reference to performance criteria. The performance criteria are reviewed annually by SouthMAC and are reported on the AFMA website.



Members noted that AFMA had recently undertaken broad review of all fisheries Management Plans with changes being made through the *Fisheries Legislation (Management Plans) Amendment Plan 2011 (No.1)*.

SouthMAC also noted that several amendments had been made to the Management Plan over time, and these were subject to review and discussion by SouthMAC and other stakeholders through extensive public consultation processes.

SouthMAC did not identify any issues that required immediate change, but flagged the possibility of setting multi-year total allowable catches for toothfish in future, which reflects the current practice of the CCAMLR which prescribes TACs for two years.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Agenda item 10 – Fishery update

SouthMAC noted that longlining became an approved fishing method in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (MITF) in April 2011 and that all fishing conducted to date this season has been by longlining. Longline fishing operations ceased on 31 August 2011.

SouthMAC also noted that the TACs for the 2011/12 season were set at 150 tonnes for the Aurora Trough sector and 360 tonnes for the Macquarie Ridge sector. Mr Scott reported that the Aurora Trough TAC was mostly taken by the longliner 'Antarctic Chieftain' between 2 and 22 May 2011 before unloading in Devonport.

Mr Scott advised that the longline vessel 'Janas' started fishing operations on 20 June and finished on 31 August 2011 (the end of the longline season). The vessel took the remaining available TAC from Aurora Trough and spent most time fishing the Macquarie Ridge sector. Approximately, 190 tonnes of the Macquarie Ridge TAC of 360 tonnes was taken.

He reported that the 'Janas' suffered a significant breakdown on 24 July which required the vessel to be towed by the 'Aurora Australis' firstly to shelter near Macquarie Island and then to the Auckland Islands for repairs. The vessel restarted fishing in the MITF on 2 August.

Approximately 170 tonnes of the 2011/12 TAC remains uncaught. Mr Scott advised that he was looking at trialling pot fishing as a possible option to catch some of the remaining quota on the Macquarie Ridge. He also advised that the operations would provide the opportunity to retrieve some of the longline gear that had been lost earlier in the season. The 2011/12 season runs until 14 April 2012.

Mr Neave advised that approval of the Management Plan amendment to amalgamate the two sectors (the Aurora Trough and the Macquarie Ridge) into a single area will take effect from the start of the new season (15 April 2012). This will result in a single total allowable catch (TAC) will be set for the fishery. Industry has undertaken to limit the catch taken in the 'Aurora Trough' to 150 tonnes each season and this information will be fed into the stock assessment.

SouthMAC noted that in March 2012 out-of-session consideration will be sought on the recommended TAC for the 2012/13 season. SARAG will be meeting beforehand to consider the stock assessment for the fishery.

Finance

Agenda item 11 – 2011/12 budget and levy-base

SouthMAC noted that the acquittal of the 2010/11 budget and levy-base calculations for 2011/12 were expected to be released by AFMA in early December. AFMA would provide an explanation of the implications on the budgets to Members out-of-session.

Action arising

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SouthMAC noted that the process for preparing the budgets for 2012/13 would commence in AFMA early in 2012. Industry Members re-iterated their comments made at the last SouthMAC meeting in relation to the costs of observers in the HIMI Fishery and MITF, and were of the view that it was appropriate for industry to cover the costs of one observer and the second observer should be Government funded given it was above the requirements specified by CCAMLR.

Other

Agenda item 12 – Management Plan measures - review

SouthMAC noted the requirement under the HIMI Fishery and MITF Management Plans for SouthMAC to assess the extent to which the performance criteria outlined in the Plans have been met.

SouthMAC endorsed the information provided in the tables at Attachment B, which outline the levels of achievement as at 30 June 2011.

Agenda item 13 - Other business

There were no additional items discussed under 'Other business'.

Agenda item 14 - Next meeting

SouthMAC agreed that holding a single meeting a year was working well and recognised that a number of issues had been successfully considered out-of-session. It was expected that the next meeting of SouthMAC would be held in Hobart in early December 2012.

The meeting was closed at 12.45 pm.



**REPORT ON THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING
RESOURCES (CCAMLR XXX)**

Hobart, Australia

24 October to 4 November 2011

This document sets out the key outcomes of the thirtieth meeting of CCAMLR and in particular, as they relate to fishing activities in the Convention Area. More detail on the discussions of CCAMLR and decisions made for other parts of the Convention Area can be found in the following documents which will shortly be available on the CCAMLR web site www.ccamlr.org.

- Report of the Thirtieth meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR XXX)
- Report of the Thirtieth meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC)
- Schedule of Conservation Measures in Force 2011/12
- Report of the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (WG-EMM)
- Report of the Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment (WG-FSA)
- Report of the Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF)
- Report of the Standing Committee on Inspection and Compliance (SCIC)

FISHERIES OUTCOMES

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery (part of Statistical Division 58.5.2)

Table 1 shows the catch limits agreed to by CCAMLR for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery for the 2011/12 season, which commences on 1 December 2011, and a comparison with the catch limits set for the 2010/11 season.

Target species	2011/12 limits (tonnes)	2010/11 limits (tonnes)
Patagonian toothfish	2,730	2,550
Mackerel icefish	3078
By-catch species		
Skates and Rays	120	120
<i>Macrourus</i> spp.	360	360
Unicorn icefish	150	150
Grey rockcod	80	80
Each other species	50	50

Table 1: Catch limits for the HIMI Fishery



Patagonian Toothfish

Scientists from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) prepared a stock assessment for Patagonian Toothfish which was peer-reviewed by WG-FSA and the Scientific Committee. The AAD scientists calculated a sustainable yield of 2730 tonnes for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 seasons which were agreed too by CCAMLR. This is an increase of 180 tonnes from the total allowable catch (TAC) of 2550 tonnes which applied in each of the 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons.

The yield satisfied the harvest strategy adopted by CCAMLR and Australia which is:

- that the probability that spawning biomass will fall below 20% of the pre exploitation level over the 35 year projection period must not exceed 0.1; and
- the median escapement for the fishery of the spawning biomass shall not be less than 50% over a 35 year projection

noting that the lower figure derived from these calculations is taken as the TAC.

The significant change from the previous stock assessment was the application of a new value of 0.155 (previously 0.13) for natural mortality (M) which resulted from work undertaken by AAD. The effect of a higher M was to give a lower estimate of the initial biomass (B₀) with a compensatory increase in recruitment.

The estimated illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) catch was zero tonnes.

Mackerel icefish

Scientists from AAD also prepared a stock assessment for Mackerel Icefish which was peer-reviewed at WG-FSA and by the Scientific Committee. CCAMLR agreed to a TAC of 30 tonnes for Mackerel Icefish for the 2011/12 season. This is a decrease of 48 tonnes from the TAC of 78 tonnes set in 2010/11.

The yield satisfied the harvest strategy adopted by CCAMLR and Australia which is:

- that the probability that spawning biomass will fall below 20% of the pre exploitation level over the two year projection period must not exceed 0.1; and
- the median escapement for the fishery of the spawning biomass shall not be less than 75% over a two year projection

noting that lower figure derived from these calculations is taken as the TAC.

CCAMLR agreed to implement the following limit reference point: where the stock assessment indicated a stock biomass (represented by the lower one-sided 95% confidence limit of the survey biomass estimate) of less than 1000 tonnes, or the decision rules indicate a catch limit of less than 100 tonnes, a commercial catch would not be set. Instead, a 30 tonnes combined research and bycatch limit would apply, which would allow the annual trawl survey to continue to monitor the stock and accommodate by-catch of icefish that may occur in toothfish trawl fishery.

The limit reference point was triggered and applies because the total biomass from the 2011 survey was estimated to be 983 tonnes ie: below 1000 tonnes. This is not uncommon as the stock is subject to high natural recruitment fluctuations. Setting the TAC at 30 tonnes will mean that there is no targeting of icefish in the 2011/12 season.



Bycatch species

No new assessments were carried out on the bycatch species in 2011. Accordingly, CCAMLR agreed to retain the bycatch limits from the 2010/11 season for the 2011/12 season.

HIMI Fishery Conservation Measures

Apart from the change in the TACs for Patagonian Toothfish and Mackerel Icefish and the season dates, the only change to the Conservation Measures which apply to the HIMI Fishery was the removal of the night setting requirement during the longline extension period 15 – 30 April. This measure will be trialed over two years.

Other Conservation Measures and resolutions

The other Conservation Measures relevant to Australian operations generally remained unchanged.

Conservation Measure 10-02 (Licensing and inspection obligations of Contracting Parties with regard to their flag vessels operating in the Convention Area) was changed to include the requirement for flag states to investigate every very serious marine casualty (which covers total loss of a fishing vessel, loss of life, severe damage to the marine environment, serious injury to its own or another State's nationals or serious damage to its own or another State's vessels or installations).

Conservation Measure 10-04 (Automated satellite-linked vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) was modified to allow the VMS data to be made available by the Secretariat for surveillance and inspection planning purposes.

Conservation Measure 21-02 (Exploratory fisheries) was amended in line with krill fishery requirements whereby a member may only nominate in respect to vessels flying its flag or that of another CCAMLR member at the time of notification of an intention to operate in an exploratory fishery.

Conservation Measure 22-09 (Protection of registered vulnerable marine ecosystems in subareas, divisions, small scale research units, or management areas open to bottom fishing) is a new measure and lists registered vulnerable marine ecosystems. Division 88.1 has two areas defined with a radius of 1.25 nautical miles around a defined point.

Recalling the sinking of the FV *Insung No. 1* in the Ross Sea in 2010, and Members concerns for the safety of fishing vessels, crew and scientific observers operating in the Southern Ocean, CCAMLR adopted a resolution to enhance the safety of fishing vessels in the Convention Area.

New and Exploratory fisheries

No Australian operators sought access to New and Exploratory fisheries in 2011/12. Australia advised the Commission that it retained a strong interest in participating in exploratory fishing and developing robust assessments for exploratory fisheries.

The Scientific Committee agreed that it could provide no new advice on catch limits for Divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3a.

Table 2 shows the toothfish catch limits that were agreed by CCAMLR for 2011/12.



Statistical Division	2011/12 limits (tonnes)
58.4.1	210
58.4.2	70
58.4.3a (Elan Bank)	86
58.4.3b (BANZARE Bank)	0 (research fishing with a 40 tonnes catch limit is planned by Japan)
58.4.4 (Ob and Lena Banks)	0 (research survey with a 70 tonnes catch limit is planned by Japan)
88.1 (Ross Sea)	3282
88.2 (Ross Sea)	530

Table 2: Catch limits for New and Exploratory fisheries

In 2010 the Scientific Committee adopted a term 'data-poor exploratory fisheries' to include all fisheries that are closed or exploratory fisheries for which stock assessments are lacking. It was noted that for some of these fisheries, despite many years of structured research and tagging programs, data are currently insufficient to undertake a stock assessment. A generalised work-plan was developed for implementing research in data-poor exploratory fisheries.

The Commission agreed that a precautionary catch limit of zero would be set for BANZARE Bank. However, Japan intends conducting fishery-based research at BANZARE Bank (Division 58.4.3b) during 2011/12 with the number of longline sets limited to 48 with a catch limit of 40 tonnes. Historically, considerable IUU fishing has occurred in BANZARE Bank.

CCAMLR endorsed the Scientific Committee recommendation that in data poor fisheries the number of research hauls should be increased and the tagging rates should be increased to 5 tags per tonne caught in subareas 48.6 and 58.4 (Indian Ocean sector) to increase the amount of data and number of tags available for recapture.

Krill resources

Six CCAMLR members fished for krill in 2010/11, with about two-thirds of the catches taken in sub-area 48.2. As at 24 September 2011, 179,131 tonnes had been caught, which was a reduction from the 211,974 tonnes taken in 2010/11.

The changes in relative distribution of catch between sub-areas 48.1, 48.2 and 48.3 between 2009/10 and 2010/11 were largely due to the extent of winter sea-ice in sub-area 48.1.

Notifications for krill fishing in 2011/12 were received from seven Members with a predicted catch of 401,000 tonnes.

CCAMLR endorsed a recommendation that the investigation of recruitment variability of krill should be afforded a high priority because, if recruitment variability is too high or there are long-term trends in recruitment, this may require reassessment of the catch limit or an alternative application of the decision rules.



ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITIES

Estimated annual IUU catch of toothfish in the CCAMLR area

CCAMLR noted advice from the Scientific Committee that there is no evidence to suggest that IUU fishing has declined and that it continued at a relatively low level. The Scientific Committee recommended that the Secretariat should monitor trends in IUU effort rather than estimate IUU catch, but that estimates of total removals are needed for stock assessments. The IUU catch was predominantly Antarctic toothfish.

There remains uncertainty surrounding gillnet catch rates and the bycatch of fish and seabirds and impact on benthos are unknown. All IUU fishing catches in the Convention Area during the 2010/11 season appeared to be taken in gillnets.

INCIDENTAL MORTALITY ASSOCIATED WITH FISHING

The Working Group on Incidental Mortality Associated with Fishing (WG-IMAF) hold meetings biennially, and met in 2011.

The total extrapolated seabird mortalities as a result of interactions with fishing gear in longline operations in the 2010/11 season were estimated to be 220 seabirds in the French EEZs in subareas 58.5.1 (Kerguelen Island) and 58.6 (Crozet Islands) with near zero levels elsewhere in the CCAMLR area of waters.

One seabird (northern giant petrel) was killed in the HIMI longline fishery in 2010/11.

There were no marine mammal mortalities reported in the Convention Area in the 2010/11 season.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAs)

Continuing on from the work initiated in 2010, Australia again proposed the establishment of a representative system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through the adoption of a general conservation measure. A new Conservation Measure 91-04 (General framework for the establishment of CCAMLR Marine Protected Areas) was introduced.

The Conservation Measure states CCAMLR MPAs shall be established on the basis of the best available scientific evidence, and shall contribute, taking full consideration of Article II of the CAMLR Convention where conservation includes rational use, to the achievement of the following objectives:

- I. the protection of representative examples of marine ecosystems, biodiversity and habitats at an appropriate scale to maintain their viability and integrity in the long term;
- II. the protection of key ecosystem processes, habitats and species, including population and life history stages;
- III. the establishment of scientific reference areas for monitoring natural variability and long-term change or for monitoring the effects of harvesting and other human activities on Antarctic marine living resources and on the ecosystem of which they form part;
- IV. the protection of areas vulnerable to impacts by human activities, including unique, rare or highly biodiverse habitats and features;
- V. the protection of features critical to the function of local ecosystems; and
- VI. the protection of areas to maintain resilience or the ability to adapt to the effects of climate change.



CCAMLR endorsed the Scientific Committee's advice that proposals for MPAs should include a clear description of the balance between the protection of ecological function and allowance for, and impact on, harvesting. CCAMLR welcomed the development of planning domains for representative system of MPAs and that these be the basis for planning MPAs in the Convention Area.

Australia and France jointly presented a proposal for a representative system of MPAs in the East Antarctica planning domain. A conservation measure will be prepared by Australia and France for consideration by CCAMLR in 2012.

New Zealand and the USA introduced papers on establishing MPAs in the Ross Sea which will be subject to further discussion during 2012, with an intention to bring forward proposals for the formal establishment of an MPA for consideration by CCAMLR in 2012.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

The Development of a Compliance Evaluation Procedure developed by Australia was further discussed by CCAMLR. Members were encouraged to actively engage with Australia to contribute to inter-sessional work toward drafting a conservation measure for consideration by CCAMLR in 2012.

CCAMLR noted advice from SCIC that Singapore had been non-responsive to communications from the Secretariat and Members, and that Singapore have not taken appropriate action to fully implement the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). It was noted with concern that ports in Malaysia and Singapore continue to be used by IUU-listed vessels. CCAMLR endorsed SCIC's recommendation that Singapore's status as a Non-Contracting party cooperating with CCAMLR by participating in the CDS be revoked. The Chair will write to Singapore in relation to the matter.

Australian Fisheries Management Authority

November 2011



Performance criteria against which the measures taken may be assessed

Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002

Performance Criteria	Level of Achievement as at 30/06/11
The target species meet sustainable reference points set for each target species.	Achieved – Stock assessments completed for target species with application of reference points. The catch from illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing was estimated to be zero.
A total allowable catch is set for each target species for each fishing year, and that (unless provision is made for corresponding reductions in subsequent years) the amount of fish that may be taken in a fishing year is not exceeded in the year.	Achieved. The catch limits for both target and bycatch species were not exceeded for the fishing season, which ended on 30 November 2010. The stock assessments prepared by AAD are peer-reviewed by CCAMLR.
Transferable statutory fishing rights are granted to eligible persons.	Achieved. Statutory fishing rights have been granted to eligible persons and are fully tradeable.
No more than three boats operate in the fishery at any time.	Achieved. Three boats operated in the fishery during the year.
Effective strategies are in place to ensure that stocks of any depleted fish resources are being rebuilt.	Strategies are not required, as no depleted fish stocks have been identified in the fishery. IUU fishing continues to be a threat to the sustainable practices adopted by Australian operators. A strong compliance program has been implemented to deter IUU activity and, after discussions with French authorities, a joint research program will continue as part of a multi-year effort to assess the strength of a shared stock relationship for toothfish on the Kerguelen Plateau.
The catch of non-target species is reduced to, or kept at, a minimum, and below a level that will allow stocks of the species to be maintained at ecologically-sustainable levels.	Achieved. The bycatch of the fishery has remained well below defined reference points. A review procedure has been established by the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC) to examine fishing operations if bycatch limits approach an agreed trigger level. There are significant areas of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around HIMI that have been set aside as marine protected areas, which have been established under the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. The HIMI Marine Reserve is one of the world's largest protected marine reserves and provides representative ecosystem protection across the physiological classifications, setting aside over 39% of all waters shallower than 1000 metres in the EEZ
Cost-effective and high quality research is carried out in relation to the fishery in accordance with a five year strategic research plan, the results of which are included in the assessment process of the fishery published in the assessment reports of the fishery taken into consideration in determining the total allowable catch, and other management arrangements, in a fishing year.	Achieved. A comprehensive research, data gathering and survey program is in place in line with the five year strategic research plan for the fishery. The data gathered are analysed and reviewed annually by the Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). The results are fed into the annual SARAG, SouthMAC and CCAMLR process and are reflected in the TACs for the fishery. Reports on the fishery are published annually.



Performance Criteria	Level of Achievement as at 30/06/11
	A collaborative research program between Australia and France has commenced to determine whether the HIMI toothfish stocks straddle the adjacent areas. This program has been progressed under the Australia – France Co-operation Treaty.
The monitoring required by the fisheries assessment plan has been undertaken.	Achieved. The survey requirements of the HIMI Fisheries Assessment Plan 2010-2011 were successfully completed in March to May 2011. The tagging requirements of the HIMI Fisheries Assessment Plan 2010-2011 were successfully completed by the operators.
Data is collected and analysed in a timely manner to enable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategies to maintain or rebuild the resources of the fishery to an acceptable level modification of those strategies. 	Achieved. Comprehensive survey, logbook and observer data was gathered on the fishery throughout the year. This data was analysed in a timely manner and formed the basis of management decisions in relation to the setting of catch limits. The fishery's stocks are currently maintained at sustainable levels.
The cost-effectiveness of management is assessed periodically.	In July 2011 the draft budgets for the fishery for the 2011/12 financial year were reviewed and comments from SouthMAC were provided to AFMA. AFMA's expenditure is reviewed against the budget at each SouthMAC meeting.
Economic efficiency of the fishery is assessed periodically using economic data provided, on request, by statutory fishing right holders.	ABARES in their 'Fishery Status Reports 2010' state that there has been little quota latency in recent years. The TACs are regularly filled which indicates positive net economic returns for the fishery and it is an example of how ITQs can be used as a primary management control in conjunction with input controls aimed at protecting the environment. The use of ITQs provides the best chance that profits will be maximised subject to a precautionary harvest strategy and strict operational constraints placed on vessels. A Management Strategy Evaluation project is being undertaken to assess management inputs and options for management.
The budgetary objectives of the fishery are achieved.	Achieved. Expenditure for the fishery was within budget.
AFMA and SouthMAC must, at least once every five years, assess the effectiveness of the Plan including the measures taken to achieve the objectives of this Plan by reference to the performance criteria mentioned above.	The operation of the HIMI Fishery was reviewed through the strategic assessment review process which was completed in March 2007. An annual status report was prepared for the 2010/11 financial year. AFMA has reviewed all Management Plans and removed parts which are covered in other legislative instruments. AFMA commenced a process to amend the Plan to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> remove the minimum quota holding requirement for non-trawl fishing methods; move the mechanism for setting the minimum quota holding for trawl fishing methods to a determination; and make minor changes to some definitions and remove specific reference to the Bycatch Action Plan.



Performance Criteria	Level of Achievement as at 30/06/11
AFMA must include in its annual report for a financial year a statement of the extent to which the performance criteria mentioned above were met in the year.	Achieved.
Each year, SouthMAC must assess the extent to which the performance criteria mentioned above have been met in that year.	Achieved. SouthMAC provided input into the annual review of the Management Plan.



Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006

Performance Criteria	Level of Achievement as at 30/06/11
AFMA includes in its annual report details of the range and cost of services provided by AFMA in that year.	Achieved.
AFMA's management of the fishery is assessed periodically and is acknowledged by government and key stakeholders to be pursuing a cost effective service.	In July 2011 the draft budgets for the fishery for the 2011/12 financial year were reviewed and comments from SouthMAC were provided to AFMA. AFMA's expenditure is reviewed against the budget at each SouthMAC meeting.
Patagonian toothfish population numbers must not fall below the sustainable reference point set.	Achieved. The total allowable catch (TAC) for both the Aurora Trough and Macquarie Ridge were set using the agreed reference points.
A total allowable catch is set for Patagonian toothfish for each fishing year, and that (unless provision is made for corresponding reductions in subsequent years) the amount of fish that may be taken in a fishing year is not exceeded in the year.	Achieved. The catch limits were not exceeded the Aurora Trough was exceeded in the 2010/11 season which ended on 14 April 2011. The catch limits bycatch species were not exceeded in the 2010/11 fishing season
Statutory fishing rights are granted to eligible persons.	Achieved. Statutory fishing rights have been granted to eligible persons and are fully tradeable.
No more than three boats operate in the fishery at any time unless AFMA has authorised more.	Achieved. One boat operated in the fishery during the 2010/11 fishing season.
Effective strategies are in place to ensure that stocks of any depleted fish resources are being rebuilt.	Strategies are not required, as no depleted fish stocks have been identified in the fishery.
The catch of species other than Patagonian toothfish is reduced to, or kept at, a minimum, and below a level that will allow stocks of the species to be maintained at ecologically-sustainable levels.	Achieved. The bycatch of the fishery has remained well below defined reference points. There are significant areas of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around Macquarie Island that have been set aside as marine protected areas, which have been established under the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas. The Macquarie Island Marine Park comprises almost one third of the EEZ around Macquarie Island and contains one of the world's largest 'no take' areas. The Aurora Trough sector is the main trawl ground where the majority of the trawl catch is taken and covers a total of 130 square kilometres. The Marine Park covers 162,000 square kilometres, from a total EEZ area of 476,000 square kilometres.
Cost-effective and high quality research is carried out in relation to the fishery in accordance with a five year strategic research plan, the results of which are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • included in the assessment process of the fishery • published in the assessment reports of the fishery • taken into consideration in determining the total allowable catch, and other management arrangements, in a fishing year. 	Achieved. A comprehensive research and data gathering program is in place in line with the five year strategic research plan for the fishery. The data gathered are analysed and reviewed annually by the Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group and are used in the annual stock assessments prepared by CSIRO.
The bycatch action plan is reviewed each 6 months and a report about the operation of the plan is prepared for the AFMA Board.	There is no longer a bycatch action plan. Low levels of bycatch were reported by observers. There were no interactions reported with Threatened, Endangered or Protected species.



Performance Criteria	Level of Achievement as at 30/06/11
The monitoring required by the fishery assessment plan has been undertaken.	Achieved. The tagging and data collection requirements specified in the MITF Fishery Assessment Plan 2010/11 were successfully completed by the operators.
Data is collected and analysed in a timely manner to enable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategies to maintain or rebuild the resources of the fishery to an acceptable level modification of those strategies. 	Achieved. Comprehensive logbook and observer data was gathered on the fishery throughout the year. This data was analysed in a timely manner and formed the basis of management decisions in relation to the setting of catch limits. The fishery's stocks are currently maintained at sustainable levels.
Economic efficiency of the fishery is assessed periodically using economic data provided, on request, by statutory fishing right holders.	ABARES in their Fishery Status Reports 2010' states there is a low level of latency of quota which indicates positive net economic returns for the fishery. A Management Strategy Evaluation project is being undertaken to assess management inputs and options for management.
The management measures implemented for the fishery allow the holders of statutory fishing rights to pursue practices consistent with maximising economic efficiency in the fishery	Achieved. In April 2011, following a successful trial which showed toothfish could be successfully targeted by longline and effective mitigation strategies could be used to avoid seabird interactions, longline fishing became an approved fishing method which provides operational flexibility. ITQs are used in the fishery.
AFMA has prepared annual budgets, and recommendations for levies have been agreed by the AFMA Board.	Achieved. SouthMAC are provided with expenditure reports against the budget at each meeting.
The government's targets for cost recovery have been achieved through AFMA's cost recovery policy.	Achieved. The cost recovery policy was applied to the costs of managing the fishery.
The budgetary objectives of the fishery are achieved.	Achieved. Expenditure for the fishery was within budget.
AFMA and SouthMAC must, at least once every five years, assess the effectiveness of the Plan including the measures taken to achieve the objectives of this Plan by reference to the performance criteria mentioned above.	The operation of the MITF was reviewed through the strategic assessment process which was completed in November 2010. The effectiveness of measures is reviewed on an ongoing basis as part of the management process for the fishery.
AFMA must include in its annual report for a financial year a statement of the extent to which the performance criteria mentioned above were met in the year.	Achieved.
Each year, SouthMAC must assess the extent to which the performance criteria mentioned above have been met in that year.	Achieved. SouthMAC provided input into the annual review of the Management Plan.

