



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



# Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

MINUTES  
SOUTHMAC 32  
2 APRIL 2014

## **SUB-ANTARCTIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SouthMAC)**

**CHAIR:** Mr Peter Neville

**Date:** 2 April 2014

**Venue:** Australian Antarctic Division, Hobart

### **Attendance**

#### **Members**

Mr Peter Neville – Chair

Dr Malcolm Haddon, Scientific Member, CSIRO

Ms Lihini Weragoda, AAD

Mr Les Scott, Industry Member

Mr Jon Bryan, Conservation Member

Ms Jo Fisher, AFMA Member

Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie (Executive Officer)

### **Introduction**

The thirty second meeting of the Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC 32) was held in Hobart on 2 April 2014.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to discuss:

- Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (MITF) stock assessment and 2014/15 total allowable catch (TAC) recommendations;
- the outcomes of the thirty second meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXXII);
- the Fishery Assessment Plans (FAPs) for the sub-Antarctic fisheries; and
- the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery Closure Directions.

### **Agenda item 1 - Preliminaries**

SouthMAC 32 was opened at 9.17 am on 2 April 2014 by the Chair, Mr Peter Neville. As this was the Chair's first face-to-face meeting he provided some history about his experience. Mr Neville was previously the Queensland Fisheries Director, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) Chair and Chair of the AFMA Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee (MAC). Mr Neville noted that he had also recently received a request to chair the Northern Territory Barramundi MAC.

#### **1.1 Declaration of interests**

The AFMA member stated that as outlined in the *Fisheries Administrations Act 1991* and AFMA Fisheries Management Paper No. 1, all members (but not permanent observers or invited participants) of SouthMAC must declare any pecuniary interest in the Fishery at the commencement of the meeting and also at the commencement of each agenda item. The Committee noted that if a member discloses an interest in an item, the member must absent themselves from the meeting before the item is considered and the MAC must make a decision as to whether the member can participate in the discussion and in making of a recommendation or remain absent from the meeting for the item. The AFMA member



stressed that the MAC must fully comply with these requirements in relation to conflicts of interests during the meeting.

Members acknowledged that AFMA has members on the consultative groups such as MACs because of people's expertise in areas that are relevant to discussions.

Mr Neville declared that he was the Principal of a fisheries consulting business (P.J.Neville & Associates) but had no pecuniary interest in the sub-Antarctic fisheries. Mr Neville further declared that he was the Chair of the Victorian Ministerial Fisheries Advisory Council.

Dr Haddon advised he is employed by CSIRO and is not undertaking specific research projects in relation to Sub-Antarctic fisheries, although he does provide advice to other researchers in relation to stock assessments, particularly for the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery (MITF). Dr Haddon is also a member on AFMA's Northern Prawn Fishery Resource Assessment Group (RAG), Southern Eastern Scafish and Shark Fishery RAG and Shelf Resource Assessment Group and attends SharkRAG, Deepwater RAG and SlopeRAG. Dr Haddon advised he has no pecuniary interest in sub-Antarctic fisheries and his salary is not dependent on any research conducted for the sub-Antarctic fisheries.

Mr Scott advised that he is the Managing Director of Australian Longline Pty Ltd which holds various fishing rights and operates vessels in the Australian Sub-Antarctic fisheries and waters under the jurisdiction of CCAMLR. Mr Scott further advised he is a member on AFMA's SlopeRAG, South East MAC, the Sub-Antarctic demersal longline member on the Threat Abatement Plan, industry representative on the Australian delegation to CCAMLR, Director to Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) and Director of SETFIA. Mr Scott was not aware of any investigation or prosecution action by AFMA against his Company or of any legal action by his Company against AFMA.

Lihini Werogoda advised that she is an employee of the AAD and her colleagues conduct HIMI stock assessment. Ms Werogoda attends international meetings related to Antarctic fisheries and no pecuniary interest in Antarctic fisheries and that her salary is not dependent on AAD, industry and other research collaborations.

Jon Bryan advised he is an employee of the Tasmanian Conservation Trust and also a member on AFMA's Small Pelagic Fishery RAG and Scallop MAC. Mr Bryan stated that he is a member on a number of Tasmanian fisheries advisory committees including recreational, scallop, abalone, crustacean and scafish but has no pecuniary interest in Antarctic fisheries.

Ms Fisher advised she is employed by AFMA and is the Acting Manager for Antarctic fisheries and has no pecuniary interest in the sub-Antarctic fisheries.

Ms Kirkcaldie advised she is employed by AFMA, is also the Executive Officer for the Sub-Antarctic RAG (SARAG) and Southern Bluefin Tuna MAC and has no pecuniary interest in the sub-Antarctic fisheries.

## **1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mr Martin Exel.

## **1.3 Adoption of agenda**

SouthMAC adopted the agenda with the addition of an agenda item on funding of Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery stock assessment.



## Agenda item 2 – Adoption of Minutes from SouthMAC 31

SouthMAC noted that the draft minutes from SouthMAC 31 held on 28 November 2012 were circulated to members and that Mr Exel had provided some comments. Members requested that the Executive Officer incorporate the suggested changes and then circulate for final clearance for a period of two weeks.

**Action arising 1:** Executive Officer to circulate amended draft minutes for final clearance

## Agenda item 3 - Action arising from SouthMAC 31

SouthMAC discussed the action arising from SouthMAC 31.

Item	Status
<b>Mr Bill Nagle</b> - AFMA to draft a letter of thanks to Mr Bill Nagle for his many years of service as SouthMAC Chair.	<b>Completed.</b> SARAG noted that a letter of appreciation was sent to Bill Nagle from the AFMA Chair, Michael Egan on 6 December 2012.
<b>Bycatch and Discard workplan</b> - AFMA to incorporate suggested changes and distribute final Bycatch and Discard Workplan for endorsement.	<b>Completed.</b> Members noted that the Bycatch and Discard Workplan has been finalised for sub Antarctic fisheries.
<b>Observer costs</b> - Chair to write to AFMA seeking information on the cost of observers including the reasons for a 10% increase in cost, the allocation of overheads and market testing of observer services.	Members were informed in early 2013 that AFMA was deciding whether to market test the observer program (ie assess what alternative options might be available, and gauge the level of interest for providing the services). In February 2014 AFMA decided to market test observer services.

## Agenda item 4 – Correspondence

SouthMAC noted the following correspondence had been received between meetings:

- an e-mail dated 25 February 2014 from Sarah Kirkcaldie regarding the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013;
- an e-mail dated 20 February 2014 from Sarah Kirkcaldie advising Members that AFMA's observer program will be market tested;
- an email dated 4 February 2014 from Sarah Kirkcaldie thanking members for their comments on the draft working definition of localised depletion for the small Pelagic Fishery;
- an email dated 30 January 2014 from Jo Fisher seeking comments on the Expression of Interest received from Rich Hillary for the project 'Stock assessment and management strategy evaluation for Sub-Antarctic fisheries:2015-2016';
- an email dated 17 December 2013 seeking comments on the draft working definition of localised depletion for the Small Pelagic Fishery;
- an email dated 5 November 2013 from Sarah Kirkcaldie seeking comments on a revised key policy document by which AFMA administers Resource Assessment Groups (Fisheries Administration paper 12);



- an email dated 16 August 2013 from Sarah Kirkcaldie attaching for information the final 2013-14 budget explanation for the Antarctic fisheries;
- an email dated 14 August 2013 from Sarah Kirkcaldie attaching a letter from Nick Rayns to the MAC and RAG Chairs advising that AFMA will be publishing annual catch data (from Catch Disposal Records) for some Commonwealth fisheries;
- an email dated 12 June 2013 from Peter Neave seeking comments on the annual status reports for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery and the MITF;
- an email dated 16 April 2013 from Peter Neave informing members that AFMA has determined the Patagonian Toothfish total allowable catch of 415 tonnes in the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery for the 2013/14 fishing year and a bycatch limit of 50 tonnes for any one other species;
- an email dated 26 March 2013 from Peter Neave requesting members consider the total allowable catch (TAC) for Toothfish in the MITF for the 2013/14 season;
- an email dated 18 March 2013 from Peter Neave informing members that Mr Peter Neville has been appointed as the SouthMAC Chair;
- an email dated 6 December 2012 from Peter Neave attaching a letter of appreciation to Bill Nagle from the AFMA Chair, Michael Egan.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Report on fishing operations**

SouthMAC noted the verbal report from Mr Scott on fishing operations in sub-Antarctic waters. Mr Scott stated that Australian Longline Pty Ltd would be the only company fishing in the MITF and would be using auto-longline. The vessel is expected to commence fishing on 1 May 2014. Mr Scott stressed the importance of the AFMA Commission considering the MITF TACs as soon as possible.

Mr Scott noted that his company would not commence fishing in the HIMI Fishery until early May 2014 stating that the restriction in April did not make it beneficial to fish.

SouthMAC further noted that Australian Longline Pty Ltd had submitted a new and exploratory pre-proposal to fish in CCAMLR statistical area 88.1 and 88.2 for the 2014/15 season. Members noted that the CCAMLR Consultative Forum will be discussing the proposal at its meeting on 16 April 2014.

The Executive Officer read out an email from Mr Arangio, Austral Fisheries, regarding their fishing operations. The email stated that since the last SouthMAC meeting, both Austral Fisheries longliners have been in Mauritius tied up but are due to depart Mauritius on 5 April 2014 for the start of HIMI Fishery longline season.

SouthMAC noted that in November 2013, the Southern Champion caught the small amount of remaining 2012/13 toothfish quota and began fishing for 2013/14 Icefish on 1 December 2013 (approximately 230t caught in December). Members noted that the Southern Champion is currently back at HIMI and was fishing for Icefish (as at 11 March 2014 approximately 300t onboard). However, Members noted that the Southern Champion was currently heading to Albany to unload due to a broken crank.



## CCAMLR

Mr Scott and Ms Weragoda declared their interest under Agenda Item 6. The remaining members of SouthMAC agreed that Mr Scott and Ms Weragoda should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 6.

### Agenda item 6 – Report on the outcomes of CCAMLR XXXII

SouthMAC noted the report (Attachment A) prepared by AFMA on the outcomes of CCAMLR XXXII and associated meetings which were held in Hobart from 23 October to 1 November 2013. Members noted the minor editorial amendments to the report.

The AFMA member reported that the 2012/13 TAC for Toothfish was rolled over for the 2013/14 season as two CCAMLR Members had raised concerns in the Scientific Committee (and its Working Group on Fish Stock Assessments) regarding the stock assessment for the Heard Island Toothfish Fishery for 2013/14 and 2014/15. These issues related primarily to the projection of the stock over a 35 year period (the period utilised by the CCAMLR decision rules on managing toothfish stocks) and the interpretation at CCAMLR XXXII of the CCAMLR decision rules relating to maintaining stock levels above 50% during that 35 year period. SouthMAC noted that HIMI Fishery monthly review meeting group had been formed to address the concerns raised at CCAMLR XXXII.

SouthMAC noted that the AFMA Commission had determined the following CCAMLR agreed TACs in the HIMI Fishery for the 2013/14 season:

#### Target species:

Patagonian Toothfish ( <i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> )	2,730 tonnes
Mackerel Icefish ( <i>Champscephalus gunnari</i> )	1,267 tonnes

#### Bycatch Species:

<i>Macrourus</i> spp	360 tonnes
Unicorn Icefish ( <i>Channichthys rhinoceratus</i> )	150 tonnes
Skates and Rays ( <i>Bathyraja</i> spp.)	120 tonnes
Grey Rockcod ( <i>Lepidonotothen squamifrons</i> )	80 tonnes
All other species	50 tonnes (for each species)

Following inquiry from a member, the AAD member informed SouthMAC that AAD had raised concern at fine scale HIMI Fishery maps with catch and effort data being published on the members only part of the CCAMLR website. Following consultations the reports were removed immediately and agreement was reached to seek CCAMLR advice on a proper process. The draft reports were considered by AAD, fine scale data removed and then a revision was republished. SouthMAC noted that the key concern with fine scale data is the threat posed by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

SouthMAC noted that a CCAMLR catch documentation scheme review was underway. Two nominated by Australia are on the review panel: John Davis (AFMA) and Bob Kennedy (Current Executive Secretary of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna). Industry noted that they would provide comments on the review through AFMA.

## Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery

### Agenda item 7 – Fishery Update



SouthMAC noted the general update for the HIMI Fishery. Members noted that in the 2012/13 season the:

- *Southern Champion* conducted four trips to HIMI and completed the random stratified trawl survey (RSTS) in April 2013;
- *Austral Leader 2* completed one pot trip and two longline trips;
- *Isla Eden* completed two longline trips; and
- *Antarctic Chieftain* completed one longline trip.

SouthMAC noted that the longline catch represented approximately 79% of the total toothfish catch.

The AFMA member noted that when the *Southern Champion* unloads in Albany two compliance officers will be attending.

### **Agenda item 8 – Fishery Assessment Plan**

SouthMAC noted that the HIMI Fishery Assessment Plan (FAP) is a requirement of the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002*. The 2013/14 FAP had been finalised out of session and specifies a tagging rate of two tags per three tonnes of toothfish caught in all fishing operations. The FAP also sets out the timetable for the RSTS. The Committee noted that a detailed discussion on the HIMI research is scheduled for the next SARAG meeting to ensure subsequent FAPs represent the needs of the fishery into the future.

### **Agenda item 9 – HIMI Closure Direction**

SouthMAC noted that currently there are two Closure Directions in place under the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery Management Plan 2002* which expire on 22 April 2014:

Direction number 10: Closure to the area outside of the Heard Island Plateau to mackerel icefish fishing and

Direction number 11: Closure of waters adjacent to Heard Island and McDonald Islands.

Members noted that Direction 10 prohibits fishing for Mackerel icefish in any area of the fishery outside of the Heard Island Plateau. Direction 11 prohibits fishing in waters between 12 and 13 nautical miles of the Heard and McDonald Islands.

SouthMAC agreed that both Directions should be renewed for a further five years.

### **Agenda item 10 – Update on HIMI Fishery monthly review meetings**

AAD noted that the HIMI Fishery monthly review meetings had been established following CCAMLR in 2013. Four meetings had been held so far and had been beneficial and resulted in more open dialogue. The group had developed and adopted a comprehensive science work plan and activities against which was progressing well. SouthMAC noted that AAD had recently employed two officers to undertake otolith ageing work and significant progress and efficiencies had been realised over the last months. AAD thanked industry for their generous resource contribution to this work. Two post doctorates were also about to commence work with AAD as part of a Fisheries Research Development Corporation project on Kerguelen Plateau work.

Members also noted that an advocacy plan had also been developed by the HIMI monthly review meetings in order to progress intersessional work on HIMI toothfish stock assessment with interested parties.



## **Agenda item 11 – IUU meeting**

SouthMAC noted that at the CCAMLR Consultative Forum meeting in December 2013 Industry requested a meeting on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. A stakeholder meeting to discuss strategies to combat IUU fishing in the CCAMLR Area was held in Canberra on 24 February 2014. Attendees included AFMA, AAD, Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators, Industry, Department of Agriculture, Humane Society International, Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, Antarctic Tasmania, Border Protection Command and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. SouthMAC noted that outcomes of the stakeholder meeting included that Australia should seek to progress work to improve and narrow current IUU catch estimates at CCAMLR XXXIII. The IUU meeting discussion will be continued through the CCAMLR Consultative Forum.

SouthMAC members noted that a Senate inquiry into Australia's future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters, including IUU fishing had been initiated by Senator Whish-Wilson. Members noted that industry and agencies would be making submissions. It was agreed that AFMA would keep members informed of any developments on the Senate enquiry.

Industry noted that many IUU fishers use gillnets which are a destructive fishing method that can be a particular problematic when lost. Industry called for a CCAMLR ban on deepset gillnets.

Action arising 2: AFMA to keep SouthMAC informed of Senate enquiry.



## Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Mr Scott declared his interest under Agenda Items 12, 13, 14 and 15 and left the room. The remaining members agreed Mr Scott should be allowed to return for discussions on all agenda items and recommendations made under Agenda items 12, 13 and 15.

### Agenda item 12 – Fishery update

Members noted that an amendment to the *Macquarie Island Fishery Management Plan 2006* was made in December 2012, which meant that the fishing year is now determined by AFMA rather than being specified in the management plan. SouthMAC noted that the 2013/14 fishing season commenced on 1 May 2013 and the Patagonian Toothfish TAC was 415 tonnes with a single bycatch limit for any other species of 50 tonnes.

The AFMA member noted that although a single TAC had been set for the Fishery at SARAG 48 industry voluntarily adopted a fishing strategy where toothfish TAC would be spread out across the fishery (250 tonnes Aurora Trough, 99 tonnes southern Macquarie Ridge and 66 tonnes northern Macquarie Ridge). However, as the season progressed industry experienced difficult tidal currents and also lost a lot of gear in the northern Macquarie Ridge region and to avoid further gear loss were reluctant to keep fishing here. In August 2013, industry, CSIRO and AFMA had discussions and agreed to reduce the Patagonian Toothfish TAC to 410 tonnes (260 tonnes Aurora Trough, 127 tonnes southern Macquarie Ridge and 23 tonnes in the northern Macquarie Ridge). The Scientific member noted that this change in the TAC would have no impact on the stock assessment as it is assumed that there is one stock that covers the three regions. The purpose of spreading catch over the three regions is to ensure tags are deployed widely. The division between the areas reflects fishing behaviours rather than stock behaviour. Industry thanked AFMA for flexibility when difficulties were encountered in the northern Macquarie Ridge.

The Industry noted that in 2013/14 the fishing vessel the *Janas* undertook two trips and trialled pots on one of the trips. The potting trial was largely unsuccessful and the company is unlikely to continue to pot in the near future.

### Agenda item 13 – Fishery Assessment Plan

Members noted that the Fishery Assessment Plan (FAP) is a requirement of *the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Management Plan 2006*. SouthMAC noted that consistent with the 2013/14 FAP the draft FAP for 2014/15 proposed a tagging rate of two toothfish per tonne caught at Macquarie Island. Members noted that trained observers do all the tagging at Macquarie Island and tagging mortality is believed to be less than overall CCAMLR assumed mortality of 10%. The scientific member noted that observers very carefully choose the most robust toothfish for tagging and also hold them in tank for 30 minutes to help with survival. The observers also have a tagging overlap quota. The scientific member further noted that tag shedding is only a small problem and believed to be less than 6%. Members noted that 40 % of the MITF Exclusive Economic Zone is closed off to fishing.

Members agreed to finalise the FAP with minor editorial amendments.

### Agenda item 14 – Stock assessment and TAC recommendations

Members noted that SARAG met on 1 April 2014 and discussed the CSIRO prepared stock assessment of the Macquarie Island Fishery for Patagonian Toothfish. SouthMAC noted that two additional papers were also presented to SARAG: 'Exploration of impact of unaccounted for tag dynamics on the key stock assessment quantities of the Macquarie Island toothfish fishery' and 'Appropriate growth models for Macquarie Island toothfish'.



Members noted that the assessment uses the Stock Synthesis assessment software and fits data obtained from the tag-recapture program since 1995, to length composition information for the years 1994-2013, and age-at-length data obtained from aged otoliths (1997-2010). Members noted that more otoliths are expected to be aged by AAD once the 2014 HIMI Fishery stock assessment is completed so new data should be available for the next MITF stock assessment.

SouthMAC noted that changing the weighting on various data sources changes the estimated biomass trajectory and degrades the overall fit to the data, but has little effect on the estimate of current stock status.

Members noted the stock assessment catch levels that satisfy the CCAMLR control rule have been calculated under ten alternative assumptions with variations on how the catches will be allocated to fleet and region. The projected 2014/15 catch from these scenarios ranges from 400t to 440t. SouthMAC noted SARAG agreed it is important to maintain fishing across the entire fishery and recommended a TAC of 410 tonnes for the 2014/15 season to be taken in approximately the following proportions: 250 tonnes (maximum 260 tonnes) from the Aurora Trough, between 96 - 128 tonnes in the southern Macquarie Ridge and 32 - 64 tonnes in the northern Macquarie Ridge.

SouthMAC noted that the distribution of catches was a voluntary agreement with Industry and the Committee appreciated Industry's efforts to abide by the agreement.

SouthMAC discussed bycatch limits and agreed with SARAG's recommendation that a 50 tonnes limit for any other single species taken in the fishery should continue to be applied. Members noted that the 50 tonnes limit for any one species is consistent with the approach adopted by CCAMLR and in the HIMI Fishery, and that bycatch in the MITF is very low.

SouthMAC members agreed to recommend the following TAC limits in the MITF, as recommended by SARAG, for determination by the AFMA Commission:

- Patagonian Toothfish at 410 tonnes ; and
- 50 tonnes for any other single species taken in the fishery.

### **Agenda item 15 – Direction specifying gear**

Members noted that the 'Direction Not to Engage in Fishing', Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery Direction No. 1 of 2011, prohibits the use of fishing methods other than trawling or longlining. The Direction entered into force on 20 April 2011 and ends on 14 April 2016, unless revoked earlier. SouthMAC were informed that a similar Direction applied in HIMI Fishery until 25 November 2010, when the Direction expired and was not renewed. Trawling, longlining and potting are permitted in the HIMI Fishery through CCAMLR Conservation Measures. No other fishing methods are permitted in the HIMI Fishery.

Following the expiry of the similar Direction at HIMI, SARAG had questioned whether the MITF Direction was necessary or could it be revoked and remove red tape.

The AFMA member presented four options:

- Option 1: The fishery be open to all fishing methods, reducing administration by not requiring another 'Direction Not to Engage in Fishing';
- Option 2: The existing 'Direction Not to Engage in Fishing' be amended to prohibit the use of fishing methods other than trawling, longlining, trotlining and potting;
- Option 3: The existing 'Direction Not to Engage in Fishing' be amended to prohibit the use of fishing methods other than trawling, longlining, trotlining and potting after sufficient data has been collected on trotlining.



Option 4: The 'Direction Not to Engage in Fishery' remains status quo which means operators who wish to pot or trotline in the MITF are required to obtain a Scientific Permit.

SouthMAC stated that they did not support options 1 or 4. Members recommended examining option 2 and 3 further and to provide the following information to SouthMAC for consideration:

- Industry to examine the impact of changing the Direction on Marine Stewardship Council accreditation;
- AFMA to ensure the change would not affect the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* accreditation;
- Possible additional FAP requirements;
- What SFR conditions would be required;
- What data already exists; and
- Ensure any new direction remained consistent with CCAMLR Conservation measures, noting that the MITF falls outside of the CCAMLR Convention Area.

Industry indicated that they were committed to longlining for the next two years so would not be trotlining before then but considered that MITF would be a better environment to trotline than longline. Members agreed that it is unlikely that trotlining would result in more risk to seabirds or the benthic environment.

## **Finance**

### **Agenda item 16 – 2014/15 budget and 2013/14 acquittals**

The AFMA member explained that the draft 2014/15 budget is expected be sent out next week for a four week consultation period. SouthMAC noted that overall there was likely to be a 5-6% increase in the AFMA budget. The AFMA member stated that the bycatch program will now be cost recovered as it had previously been funded through the 'Caring for our Country' initiative. The bycatch program will now be funded 50% government and 50% industry. The Industry member expressed concern that AFMA is losing government funding and these costs will be shifted to industry.

SouthMAC noted that the 2013/14 budget was slightly underspent and the 2013/14 acquittals would be sent out when available.

## **Other**

Dr Haddon declared his interest under Agenda Item 17. The remaining members of SouthMAC agreed that Dr Haddon should be allowed to return for all discussions and recommendations made under Agenda item 17.

### **Agenda item 17 – Other business**

#### **Future funding for the Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery stock assessment**

SouthMAC discussed the Macquarie Island Toothfish stock assessment and agreed to support CSIRO continuing the stock assessment. SouthMAC agreed that it was important for AAD to continue to give critical review of the MITF stock assessment as CSIRO does for the HIMI Fishery stock assessment prepared by AAD.



## Other business

As discussed at Agenda Item 11, SouthMAC noted that a Senate Inquiry was underway into Australia's future activities and responsibilities in the Southern Ocean and Antarctic waters. Members noted the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry and that a number of agencies would be providing submissions. AFMA agreed to keep members informed of the Senate enquiry.

Members also noted that Dr Tony Press (previous Director of AAD) was leading an Antarctic Strategic Review.

SouthMAC further noted that the HIMI Marine reserve had been recently expanded by approximately 2%. The AAD member noted that the HIMI conservation zone was recently assessed and a recommendation to include parts of the conservation zone in the HIMI marine reserve had been accepted. Members noted that the new areas included in the marine reserve would protect a range of conservation values including nursery areas for juvenile fish.

**Action arising 2:** AFMA to keep SouthMAC informed of Senate enquiry.

## Agenda item 18 – MAC self assessment

SouthMAC noted that AFMA Fisheries Management Paper number 1 outlines the requirement for each MAC to conduct a self-assessment of their performance at least every two years.

Members completed a MAC self-assessment in session with the compiled summary annexed (Attachment B). In general, members stated that SouthMAC was functioning highly effectively.

The outcome of the self-assessment will be reported to the AFMA Commission.

## Agenda item 19 - Next meeting

SouthMAC agreed to meet via teleconference in May 2014 (if required) to discuss the 2014/15 budget and in November 2014 to discuss SARAG consideration of the HIMI stock assessment. Members agreed the next face-to-face meeting of SouthMAC would be held in Hobart in early 2015 in conjunction with SARAG, unless a need arose to meet earlier.

Item	Action arising	Action person
1	<b>SouthMAC 31 minutes</b> - Executive Officer to circulate amended draft minutes for final clearance	AFMA
2	<b>Southern Ocean Senate Enquiry</b> - AFMA to keep SouthMAC informed of Senate enquiry.	AFMA



**REPORT ON THE KEY OUTCOMES OF THE THIRTY SECOND MEETING OF THE  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING  
RESOURCES (CCAMLR XXXII)**

HOBART, AUSTRALIA  
23 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2013

This document sets out the key outcomes of the thirty-second 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 are available on the CCAMLR web site [www.ccamlr.org](http://www.ccamlr.org).

- **Report of the thirty-second meeting of the Commission (CCAMLR XXXII)**
- **Report of the thirty-second meeting of the Scientific Committee (SC)**
- **Schedule of Conservation Measures in Force 2013/14**
- **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 Standing Committee on Implementation and Compliance (SCIC)**

**1. Outcomes of CCAMLR XXXII (2013)**

The thirty second meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR XXXII) was held from 23 October to 1 November 2013 at the CCAMLR Headquarters in Hobart.

The Australian delegation was led by the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD, Dr Tony Fleming) and included representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Attorney-General's Department, the Australian fishing industry, conservation non-government organisations and a representative from State/territory governments (Tasmania).

Marine Protected Areas

The Commission was unable to reach consensus on the Australia, France and European Union proposal for an East Antarctic Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (EARSMPA), or the joint New Zealand/United States proposal for a Ross Sea Region Marine Protected Area. However, both proposals were discussed at length and important progress was made with all Members expressing in-principle support for CCAMLR adopting Marine Protected Areas.

In response to feedback from Members, and in an attempt to foster positive negotiations, Australia, France and the European Union submitted a revised proposal introducing a staged approach to the development of the EARSMPA. This included reducing the number of areas proposed for initial protection from seven to four. The MacRoberston, Drygalski, and D'Urville Sea-Mertz areas were proposed to be established in the first stage, due to their values as scientific reference areas along

with the Gunnerus area to provide representation of the West Indian Province in the system.

### Compliance Evaluation Procedure

Following adoption of the compliance evaluation procedure at last year's meeting, the procedure was implemented this year through the Summary CCAMLR Compliance Report, which was considered and worked through by all Member nations during the meeting. The procedure was introduced to strengthen the compliance framework for Members. Discussions took place on how the data should be presented, and how to determine compliance status consistently.

The procedure enables a strengthened compliance framework, through a formal mechanism for assessing compliance with CCAMLR's conservation measures. In the coming years the Summary CCAMLR Compliance Reports will also be valuable in identifying patterns of non-compliance by Member nations, or with specific conservation measures.

### HIMI Stock Assessment

Two Members raised concerns in the Scientific Committee (and its Working Group on Fish Stock Assessments) regarding the stock assessment for the Heard Island Toothfish Fishery for 2013/14 and 2014/15. These concerns related primarily to the projection for the stock over a 35 year period (the period utilised by the CCAMLR decision rules on managing toothfish stocks) and the interpretation at CCAMLR XXXII of the CCAMLR rules relating to maintaining stock levels above 50% during that 35 year period. While the stock assessment undertaken by Australia, and the resulting proposed catch limit were within the CCAMLR decision rules, significant pressure resulted in Australia agreeing to reduce its calculated Total Allowable Catch (TAC) from the proposed 3005 tonnes to the 2011 stock assessment catch limit of 2730 tonnes. This catch limit will only be in place for one year (as opposed to the normal two years) with Australia expected to produce a further stock assessment in 2014, addressing the various issues raised by the WG-FSA and Scientific Committee.

Australia also came under considerable pressure from a number of members in relation to bottom trawling for toothfish in the Convention Area. A number of members sought a total ban on the use of trawl methods for catching toothfish and this issue will need to be addressed before the next CCAMLR meeting. Australia's fishing is consistent with CCAMLR conservation measure 22-05, which prohibits trawling except in areas which have traditionally been fished.

### CCAMLR Finance and Administration

At this year's Standing Committee on Administration and Finance (SCAF), a report of the CCAMLR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Sustainable Financing (ICG-SF) was discussed, which explored options to improve the financial sustainability of CCAMLR.

Australia played a crucial role in SCAF which adopted a number of measures to reduce deficit and undertook to continue its work to develop a sustainable financing strategy in the coming intersessional period.

## CCAMLR Performance Review

The meeting reflected on the recommendations of the 2008 Performance Review and requested the Secretariat to prepare a summary document outlining the status of the recommendations, to assist with implementing outstanding recommendations, effectively endorsing Australia's proposal as submitted to the meeting.

### Krill notification and fishery management

In 2012/13 (to September 2013), 12 vessels from five Members harvested 212,000 tonnes of krill, compared with the total reported catch in 2011/12 of 156,289 tonnes (however noting that fishing was continuing at the time of the meeting till 30 November). Notifications for krill fishing in 2013/14 have been received from six Members for 19 vessels with a notified total predicted catch of 545,000 tonnes.

The Scientific Committee endorsed revised guidelines for notifying how the green weight of krill will be estimated by each vessel intending to participate in the krill fishery.

CCAMLR made further progress towards the development of a feedback management strategy for the krill fisheries and endorsed the Scientific Committee's work plan, including four key stages in the development of the feedback management strategy.

CCAMLR also noted the advice of the Scientific Committee with respect to climate change, including the discussion of the potential effects of climate change on krill, krill-dependent predators and krill habitat, and other initiatives of direct relevance to climate change in the Antarctic ecosystem.

### Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

There were no new vessels proposed for inclusion in the Contracting Parties (CPs) or Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) IUU Vessel List for 2013/14, and no changes made to the lists.

The Commission noted that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a problem in the CCAMLR Area where eight vessels, often supported by a cargo vessel, appear to be persistently engaged in IUU fishing. The Commission acknowledged Australia's efforts to combat IUU fishing and the information provided in the form of a background paper to the Commission.

CCAMLR noted the advice from the Scientific Committee that observed IUU fishing is most persistent in the northern part of the Indian Ocean Sector of the CCAMLR Area, and has also occurred in the Southeast Atlantic region. Evidence of IUU fishing appears to occur in both open and closed areas, and suggests that in some instances even the presence of licensed vessels may not deter unidentified vessel activity.

The Commission noted that INTERPOL has issued the first Purple Notice for the FV *Snake* (which has since changed its name to *Berber*) believed to be engaged in illegal fishing activities.

### Seabird By-catch and season extension

The Scientific Committee reported that during 2012/13 the total extrapolated incidental mortality of seabirds in all longline fisheries in the CCAMLR Area was 141

seabirds. Incidental catches of seabirds in the French EEZs have decreased by around 90% since 2007/08. The Scientific Committee recommended and the Commission agreed that on the basis of the low risk of seabird mortality, season extensions in Division 58.5.2 and Subarea 48.3 be allowed and that WG-FSA would assess the impact of these extensions during the next meeting. The extensions are subject to the same conditions as previous extensions, including a by-catch limit of three seabirds per vessel. The season extensions in Division 58.5.2 are based on proposals submitted by Australia to WG-FSA that were developed with the assistance of the fishing industry.

#### Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

The Commission noted that the number of non-Contracting Parties, not cooperating with CCAMLR by participating in the Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) that may be involved in the harvest and/or trade of toothfish is increasing. The Commission agreed to enhance cooperation by allowing limited access to the electronic CDS. It was agreed that this will provide valuable information to the Commission regarding the trade of toothfish.

The Commission considered the paper submitted by Singapore which provided an update on their fisheries legislation review and IUU-listed vessel port visits. The review is progressing as scheduled, with completion and target implementation of the strengthened legislation by the end of 2014.

CCAMLR agreed to undertake a review of its CDS and endorsed the terms of reference for the review.

#### Improving fishing vessel safety in the CCAMLR Area

The Commission agreed to require the provision of vessel communication details to facilitate the use of CCAMLR's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) in support of search and rescue operations in the CCAMLR Area. The Commission agreed that such data may be provided in support of search and rescue activities undertaken by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) subject to the terms of a memorandum of understanding between the Secretariat and the competent MRCC to be considered by Members intersessionally.

#### Scheme of International Scientific Observation (SISO) Review

The Scientific Committee agreed that a detailed consideration of the results of the SISO review needed to be held over to its meeting in 2014 following further consideration by a correspondence group (CG). It was agreed that this CG would also review the Terms of Reference of ad hoc TASO and that the CG would be led by Dr Dirk Welsford.

## **2. Fisheries update**

#### Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery

Table 1 shows the catch limits agreed to by CCAMLR for the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery for the 2013/14 season, which commenced on 1 December 2013, and a comparison with the catch limits set for the 2012/13 season. The limits have been determined by AFMA for the 2013/14 season.

#### **Table 1: Catch limits for the HIMI Fishery**

<b>Target species</b>	<b>2013/14 limits (tonnes)</b>	<b>2012/13 limits (tonnes)</b>
<b>Patagonian toothfish</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>2,730</b>
<b>Mackerel icefish</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>679</b>
<b>By-catch species</b>		
<b><i>Macrourus</i> spp.</b>	360	360
<b>Unicorn icefish</b>	150	150
<b>Skates and Rays</b>	120	120
<b>Grey rockcod</b>	80	80
<b>Each other species</b>	50	50

#### CCAMLR New and Exploratory Fisheries

No Australian flagged vessel is operating in CCAMLR New and Exploratory fisheries in the 2012/13 season and no proposals were submitted by Australian operators to participate in CCAMLR New and Exploratory fisheries in 2013/14.