



Australian Government

Australian Fisheries Management Authority



Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC)

MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE
11 APRIL 2013

SUB-ANTARCTIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SouthMAC)

CHAIR: Mr Peter Neville

Date: 11 April 2013

Venue: Teleconference

Attendance

Members

Mr Peter Neville—Chair

Dr Malcolm Haddon, Scientific Member

Mr Les Scott, Industry Member

Mr Jon Bryan, Conservation Member

Mr Peter Neave, AFMA Member

Ms Sarah Kirkcaldie (Executive Officer)

Apologies

Mr Martin Exel

Introduction

A Sub-Antarctic Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (SouthMAC) teleconference was held on 11 April 2013.

The primary objective of the meeting was to discuss the recommendation coming from the Sub-Antarctic Resource Assessment Group (SARAG) on the total allowable catch (TAC) for toothfish and catch limits for bycatch species in the Macquarie Island toothfish Fishery (MITF) for the 2013/14 season, which starts on 1 May 2013.

Agenda item 1 - Preliminaries

The meeting was opened at 10.05am on 11 April 2013 by the Chair, Mr Peter Neville.

Members welcomed Mr Neville as the new Chair of SouthMAC and noted that he had previously chaired the Southern Bluefin Tuna Management Advisory Committee.

1.1 Declaration of interests

SouthMAC noted that Mr Martin Exel and Mr Les Scott had declared their interests in writing in relation to Agenda Item 2 prior to the teleconference. The remaining MAC members had agreed in writing that the industry members could participate in the SouthMAC discussions/recommendations in relation to the setting of the toothfish TAC and bycatch catch limits in Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery.

As this was his first meeting, Mr Neville declared that he was a Director of a fisheries consulting business but had no pecuniary interest in the sub-Antarctic fisheries.

1.2 Apologies

An apology was received from Mr Martin Exel. Members noted that Ms Lihini Weragoda is currently on maternity leave.



1.3 Adoption of agenda

SouthMAC adopted the agenda without change.

Macquarie Island Toothfish Fishery

Agenda item 2 – Stock assessment and TAC recommendations

Members noted that SARAG meet on 19th March 2013 and discussed the CSIRO prepared stock assessment of the Macquarie Island Fishery for Patagonian Toothfish.

Members noted that SARAG agreed that it is important to maintain fishing across the entire fishery and recommended a TAC of 415 tonnes for the 2013/14 season to be taken in approximately the following proportions: 250 tonnes from the Aurora Trough, 99 tonnes in the southern Macquarie Ridge and 66 tonnes in the northern Macquarie Ridge.

SouthMAC discussed the bycatch limits and agreed with SARAG that a 50 tonnes limit on any one species (other than Patagonian Toothfish) should continue to be applied, but there was no need to retain an overall bycatch limit of 200 tonnes for bycatch species. Members noted that the 50 tonnes limit for any one species is consistent with the approach adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and in the Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Fishery. Members noted that in the 2011/12 season the total fish bycatch from longline operations was approximately 19 tonnes.

SouthMAC members agreed to recommend the following catch limits in the Macquarie Island toothfish Fishery, as recommended by SARAG, for determination by the AFMA Commission:

- 415 tonnes for Patagonian Toothfish; and
- 50 tonnes limit for any one bycatch species.

Other

Agenda item 3 – Other Business

No other business items were raised or discussed.

Agenda item 4 - Next meeting

SouthMAC noted that there would be a requirement to hold a teleconference in mid-November 2013 to discuss the HIMI Fishery TAC recommendations arising from SARAG and CCAMLR. It was expected that the next face-to-face meeting of SouthMAC would be held in Hobart in early December 2013.

The Chair thanked members for participating in the teleconference and closed the meeting at 10.15 am.



