Current situation - 2016

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing for Toothfish has been reduced by 95% from its peak in 1997, where boats fished inside countries' waters illegally. Now, IUU fishing for toothfish is at its lowest levels for over 25 years, and any remaining operators are fishing on the high seas, using gillnets, and targeting mainly Antarctic toothfish.

The past 4 years have seen the IUU reaper vessel, the Tiantai, as well as the IUU fishing vessel, Thunder, sink. The remaining 4 fishing vessels either have been, or are still detained, with seizure of cargo and fines handed out to officers. This has meant current IUU catches are at the lowest levels since this problem began in the early 1990s.

Historic IUU Toothfish Catch

At its peak, there were over 55 vessels IUU fishing full time for toothfish

Now less than 2 part time

CCAMLR IUU catch estimates for Patagonian & Antarctic toothfish

IUU Toothfish catch peaked in 1997 with an estimate of 32,500 tonnes caught.

Since 2006, the majority of IUU Toothfish catch has been Antarctic Toothfish caught via gillnet on the High Seas. This is mainly unregulated and unreported catch

1997: 123%
2002: 45%
2007: 20%
2015: 5%

Current IUU Toothfish vs legal Toothfish catch

The Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators

Supporting sustainable toothfish fishing

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Source: www.CCAMLR.org