

TOOTHFISH

AUSTRALIAN (HEARD ISLAND AND McDONALD ISLANDS) TOOTHFISH FISHERY NOW INDEPENDENTLY CERTIFIED AS A SUSTAINABLE AND WELL MANAGED FISHERY

WELL MANAGED

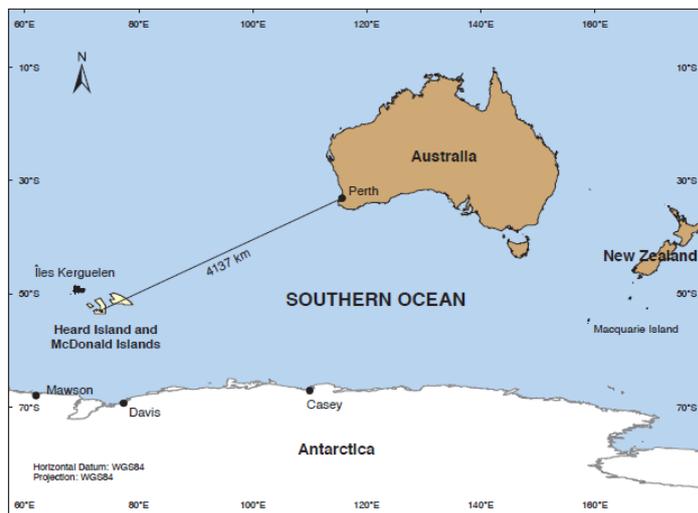
Australian toothfish vessels operate under some of the strictest management measures in the world. Vessels are required to be licensed and must report their position via satellite every four hours. Vessels carry two government observers every trip and are subject to inspection both at sea and in port. Vessels must report their catches regularly and depart the area when the Total Allowable Catch limits (TAC) is reached.

SUSTAINABLE

The Heard Island and McDonald Islands toothfish fisheries undergo an annual stock assessment. Vessels are required to conduct a minimum number of research cruises and tag and release a certain number of toothfish. TACs for legal operators were reduced substantially from their peak of 3,800 tonnes to their low of 2,550 tonnes a year, which took into account the illegal (IUU) catches in Australian waters, as well as our improved information on the biology and status of toothfish around HIMI. By regulating the legal fishery, and eliminating IUU fishing, as well as continuing the extensive research programs on toothfish in the HIMI fishery, the Australian government and CCAMLR have ensured that fishing for toothfish at HIMI is sustainable.

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE

Vessels are required to operate under strict environmental protection measures. These include no dumping of waste, offal, fuel or oil, all rubbish to be retained onboard, particular care of plastic packaging bands. One of the world's largest marine protected areas is established around the islands, with no fishing permitted in the MPA.



SEABIRD SAFE

Vessels have rules to ensure minimal interactions with seabirds, including season limits (no fishing when seabirds are provisioning their chicks), no dumping of offal overboard (to avoid attracting birds) and use of streamer lines when setting and hauling our fishing gear to scare birds away from the hooks, as well as line weighting used in the mainlines, in order to avoid catching birds accidentally on hooks. Accidental catches of seabirds in Heard and McDonald Islands have remained at virtually zero since the fishery began in 1996.

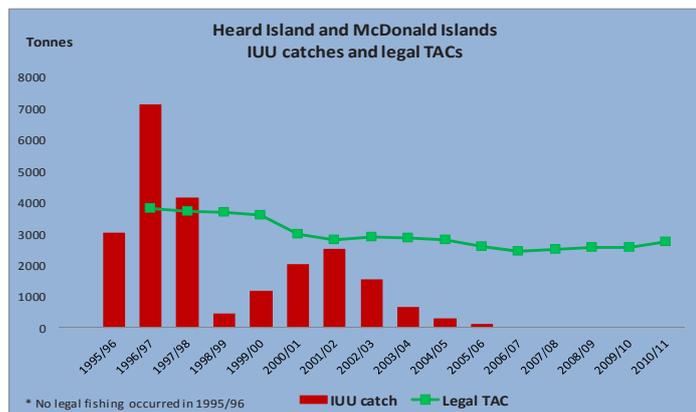
FULLY TRACEABLE

All Heard Island and McDonald Islands toothfish is caught and traded under a catch documentation scheme which tracks the fish from the point of landing, through to the point of final consumption. At several points in the trade cycle, the toothfish is checked and authorised by government officials, and the validated documents accompany the fish at every point. This occurs both in Australia, and internationally if the fish is traded overseas.

NO ILLEGAL FISHING

Australian operators are founding members of the Coalition of Legal Toothfish Operators (Inc) a not-for profit group of legal fishermen and supporters who have successfully worked with governments and conservation groups to eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing of toothfish.

Thanks to enforcement action and patrols by the Australian Government, as well as the combined efforts of COLTO members and CCAMLR nations, no illegal fishing has occurred in the Heard Islands and McDonald Islands fishery since 2006.





ABOUT THE MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is the world's leading certification and ecolabelling program for sustainable seafood.

The MSC's fishery certification program and seafood ecolabel recognise and reward sustainable fishing. The MSC is a global organisation working with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public to promote the best environmental choice in seafood.

With experts, the MSC developed standards for sustainable fishing and seafood traceability. These ensure that MSC-labelled seafood comes from, and can be traced back to, a sustainable fishery.

The MSC meets the highest benchmarks for credible certification and ecolabelling programs, including the UN Food and Agriculture Organization guidelines and the ISEAL Code of Good Practice.

MORE INFORMATION

For more details on how the Heard Island and McDonald Island toothfish fishery is sustainably managed, and how it's been accredited by an independent international certification group as meeting the Marine Stewardship Council standards for a sustainable and well managed fishery, visit:

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Australian Fisheries Management Authority www.afma.gov.au

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

www.ccamlr.org

