

**PRESS RELEASE**

Reunion Island, 03 September 2013

**MSC CERTIFICATION FOR KERGUELEN TOOTHFISH**

Toothfish fishery in the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) of Kerguelen obtained MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certification thus recognizing the work done by all the actors involved in this activity in order to preserve the resources while respecting the marine environment's equilibrium.

The French ship owners, part of an organization named S.A.R.P.C (Reunion Freezer Longliner Syndicate) since 2002, are composed of 6 members, operate 7 Longliner ships and have an annual TAC (Total Admissible of Capture) of around 5 100 T. The preservation of the resource has always been a strong commitment for the ship owners and the TAAF (French Southern and Antarctic Lands) administration, managers of the EEZ.

The evaluation process that led to this certification has strengthened the collaboration between the M.N.H.N (French National Natural History Museum of Paris), the French authorities, the ship owners and the C.C.A.M.L.R. (Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources) in all areas:

- stock management, thanks to the POKER fishing campaigns
- modeling method,
- TAC calculation
- ...
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This certification is part of a long term commitment proven by actions implemented for the next five years which will allow a greater management of the fishing activity.

The entire ecosystem of the ZEE of Kerguelen presents a diversity quite exceptional that must be preserved at all costs while still being a viable economic activity. The members of the S.A.R.P.C, aware of these issues, are active participants in the scientific and exploratory campaigns and make every effort to comply with measures to protect marine life, including limitation of incidental catch and catch of juveniles and seabirds, having almost completely eradicated accidental birds mortality, and benthos by the use of fishing engines less aggressive. The ship owners' project of creating the Fondation d'Entreprise des Mers Australes (Foundation of companies of the southern seas) was to initiate, support, finance or participate in the financing of selected studies or research actions, all linked to the southern seas and in connection with the fauna, flora, bottom of the sea and fishing activity follows in the footsteps of this certification, as were and still are the common actions of the ship owners in regards to illicit fishing.

The ship owners of the S.A.R.P.C. welcome with pleasure this MSC certification and would like to thank the French authorities and the M.N.H.N for letting them achieve a goal that will be proof of this fishing activity's exemplarity and will hopefully be recognized as such internationally.

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## **About SARPC:**

The ship owners allowed in the EEZ have been grouped since November 2002 in an organization named S.A.R.P.C. (Reunion Freezer Longliner Syndicate). The main purpose of the S.A.R.P.C. is to protect the future of this activity, by working mainly on the responsible management of the resource and the preservation of its environment.

All ship owners have a fishing authorization. Based on this they are capable of presenting all documents connected to their toothfish sales and comply with strict regulations.

## **Seven longliners operated by six ship owners**



Armas Pêche → ship: Mascareignes III



Cap Bourbon → ship: Cap Horn I



Comata Scapêche → ship: Ile de la Réunion



Les Armements Réunionnais → ship: Ile Bourbon



Pêche Avenir → ship: Saint-André

Pêche Avenir



Sapmer → ships: Albius & Croix du Sud