



# Toothfish Fact Sheet

A U S T R A L I A H E A R D & M C D O N A L D I S L A N D S

## 58.5.2 - Heard Island & McDonald Islands

• **2014/15 TAC:**  
**4,410 T**

• **4 VESSELS:**

**ANTARCTIC  
CHIEFTAN**

**ATLAS COVE**

**AUSTRAL  
LEADER II**

**ISLA EDEN**

• **2 OPERATORS:**

**AUSTRAL  
FISHERIES**

**AUSTRALIAN  
LONGLINE**

\*As at 18/11/2014

The Australian Heard Island and McDonald Islands (HIMI) Patagonian Toothfish fishery began as an exploratory trawl fishery in 1996 and one year later was deemed a commercial fishery by CCAMLR. Two trawlers fished in this fishery until 2005, but since 2003 the proportion of longline caught toothfish has increased, with now 4 longline vessels operating.

In March 2012, this fishery was certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable and well-managed fishery and in 2013 was rated as 'Best Choice' by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program.

These achievements recognise the elimination of IUU fishing in the area; measures to avoid by-catch of seabirds; protection of the sea bed through Marine Protected Areas; as well as numerous other management measures to protect the environment, toothfish and dependent species.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing at HIMI peaked in 1996/97, with over 7,000t of toothfish being taken. However, largely thanks to COLTO; CCAMLR; environmental NGOs; industry; and the Australian and French Governments, this figure was drastically reduced and no IUU fishing has been recorded in the fishery since the 2005-06 season.

The HIMI Marine Reserve was established in 2002 and sets aside 39.6% of fishing grounds shallower than 1000m as a representative, comprehensive and adequate Marine Protected Area.

HIMI longline operators have seasonal restrictions in place, with the core season operating from May 1 to September 30, with the opportunity to fish within an extended season if strict seabird mitigation criteria are met.

