



PRESS RELEASE
Reunion Island, 02 March 2017

TOOTHFISH FROM CROZET NOW MSC CERTIFIED

As part of their southern seas toothfish fishing activities, the members of the S.A.R.P.C (Reunion Freezer Longliner Syndicate) obtained the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification at the beginning of 2017 for their Crozet fishery.

This certification recognizes the work done by the stakeholders in terms of sustainability of the resource. It is in line with the MSC certification obtained for the toothfish fishery in the Kerguelen EEZ in 2013.

The French ship owners, grouped within the S.A.R.P.C (Reunion Freezer Longliner Syndicate) since 2002, operate seven longline vessels. After evaluation of the resource by M.N.H.N (National Museum of Natural History), which is then validated by CCAMLR, each of these vessels is allocated a quota by the T.A.A.F administration (French Southern and Antarctic Territories), managing authority of the fishery. This new certification comes in as a result of the work done by all the ship owners historically engaged in this economic activity carried out in respect of the marine environmental balance.

This certification is based on several fundamental criteria:

1. Sustainable fish stocks: fishing effort must be at a level that ensures the sustainability of the fish population.
2. Minimize the environmental impact: fishing activities must be managed in such a way as to maintain the structure, productivity, function and diversity of the ecosystem.
3. To put in place an efficient and transparent management system that controls the number of toothfish stakeholders and ensures the sustainability of the fishery.

Audits are carried out annually to evaluate if these criteria are being followed, which conditions the certification being kept.

Like Kerguelen, the entire ecosystem of the EEZ of Crozet presents a unique diversity that must imperatively be preserved while allowing an economically viable activity. The members of the S.A.R.P.C, conscious of these environmental issues, participate very actively in the scientific and exploratory campaigns. Compliance with the management plan as agreed in September 2015 between the TAAF administration and all stakeholders in the fishery is thus seen as an essential guarantee of the sustainability of the resource by protecting the marine fauna, and specifically by limiting by-catches and juveniles. Bird mortality has thus been reduced or virtually eliminated through the introduction of specific measures.

The members of the S.A.R.P.C are still actively collaborating with the authorities in the fight against illegal fishing thanks to a public-private partnership and a GIE responsible for the management of a patrol vessel: OSIRIS.

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The ship owners, members of the S.A.R.P.C. welcome this recognition which confirms the exemplary nature of this unique 'responsible' fishery at an international level.

The members of the S.A.R.P.C. would like to remind everyone that this certification was obtained thanks to the implementation of the best practices that have scrupulously been respected during their past fishing campaigns, which underlines the imperative need not to call into question the management plan adopted in 2015 by the Prefect of the TAAF administration and constantly ensure that the utmost professionalism and transparency, from authorization to control of the toothfish fishery, is always in place.

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About S.A.R.P.C:

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.

The ship owners, members of S.A.R.P.C are:

ARMAS PECHE - SAPMER → ship: Mascareignes III

CAP BOURBON → ship: Cap Kersaint

COMATA - SCAPECHE → ship: Ile de la Réunion

LES ARMEMENTS REUNIONNAIS - SAPMER → ship: Ile Bourbon

PECHE AVENIR → ship: Saint-André

SAPMER → ships: Albius & Cap Horn 1