



Toothfish Fact Sheet

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

48.3 - South Georgia

- **2016/17 TAC:**
2200T
- **6 VESSELS:**
TRONIO
RAMBLA
ARGOS GEORGIA
ARGOS FROYANES
SAN ASPIRING
ANTARCTIC BAY
- **4 OPERATORS:**
GEORGIA SEAFOODS
ARGOS
SANFORD
SEAVIEW

*As at 20/06/2017



This fishery was certified as sustainable and well managed by the Marine Stewardship Council in March 2004 and recertified in 2009 and again in 2014.

Patagonian toothfish were taken as early as the 1970s from around South Georgia as bycatch from a bottom trawl fishery. Demersal longlining was introduced to the South Georgia area in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Longlining is now the only commercial fishing method allowed for toothfish in Sub-area 48.3.

Although Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing for Patagonian toothfish was rife in sub-Antarctic Atlantic waters during the 1990s, three arrests of vessels fishing illegally made between 1994 and 1996 in South Georgia waters caused a rapid decline in these activities in this area. In an isolated event, the vessel, *Elqui*, was sighted and subsequently arrested, prosecuted, and fined in

2005 for unlicensed fishing within the area. Since this time, levels of IUU activity have been estimated to be zero.

To protect sensitive marine environments, fishing in key areas (Reduced Impact Areas or RIAs) has been banned as a precautionary measure with the specific intention of protecting benthic habitats. These RIAs have been defined taking into account impacts on the fishery, and also were based on the potential subsequent relocation of fishing activity.

Although up to 23 vessels have historically participated in the fishery only six are licensed in 2015/16.

All of the SGSSI Maritime Zone falls within the boundaries of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Fisheries management in South Georgia waters is based directly on the annual scientific advice and

recommended management measures from CCAMLR. The administrative boundaries for the SGSSI toothfish fisheries are the 200 mile maritime zone extending from South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Exclusive management jurisdiction is exercised within that boundary. The Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands implements the conservation measures set by CCAMLR and enforces these measures with patrol vessels, operating consistent with CCAMLR standards and procedures.

Although seabird mortality as a result of fishing was relatively high before the year 2000, strong management measures including a restriction on daytime setting, the discarding of any offal with hooks, and control of IUU fishing have reduced these numbers significantly.

