



Toothfish Fact Sheet

ARGENTINA

SOUTH ATLANTIC

Argentine EEZ - FAO Area 41

• **2018 TAC:**
3,700 T

• **5 VESSELS:**

ARGENOVA XIV
ARGENOVA XXI
CENTURION DEL
ATLANTICO
ECHIZEN MARU
TAI AN

• **4 OPERATORS:**

ARGENOVA
ESTREMAR
PESANTAR
SAN ARAWA

***As at 15/05/2018**



The Toothfish fishery in Argentina began in the early 1990s.

At first, vessels fished with few limits, but as more information on stocks was gathered, the Federal Fisheries Council (CFP) proceeded to regulate the fishery by:

- Drastically reducing the TAC;
- Setting Individual Transferable Catch Quotas per vessel for a 15-year period - the first species for which such quotas were set;
- Mandatory VMS;
- Restricting fishing to deeper than 800m;
- Reducing bycatch by trawlers to less than 1.5% per trip;
- Restricting juvenile catches to below 15% per trip; and
- Establishing a tag and release program to track Toothfish movement.

A limit on the number of vessels has drastically reduced effort in the fishery, and the CFP has also closed areas to

protect spawning grounds, and set measures to protect seabirds.

Each trip, vessels are required to carry one fisheries inspector and two fisheries observers, who monitor catches and compliance measures, and collect biological data for the National Fisheries Research Institute (INIDEP). This monitoring covers 100% of fishing.

INIDEP is the national agency which makes recommendations to the CFP to set conservative quotas based on data from the commercial fleet, and studies conducted throughout the year. Their most

recent study showed improving health of the resource.

The Toothfish fishery occurs throughout Argentina's EEZ, mainly between 40°S and 52°S. It is now fished by trawl due to catch efficiencies and avoidance of whale depredation.

All Toothfish is required to be landed and exported with a valid *Dissostichus* Catch Document (DCD), and all offloads are inspected and open, by requirement, to other stakeholders.

