



# 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

• **2022/23 TAC:**  
**2,510 T**

• **3 VESSELS:**

**ANTARCTIC  
AURORA**

**CAPE  
ARKONA**

**ISLA EDEN**

• **2 OPERATORS:**

**AUSTRAL  
FISHERIES**

**AUSTRALIAN  
LONGLINE**

\*As at 15/06/2023

Australia's 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. Initially, longline fishing was banned to protect seabirds. Successful longline trials that avoided catching seabirds were held from 2003 to 2006, and longline has since been a permitted method in the fishery, with four longline vessels now operating.

The fishery has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable and well-managed fishery since 2012, 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 benthos 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.

