



# Toothfish Fact Sheet

## Australian EEZ - Macquarie Island

- **2023/24 TAC: 635 T**

- **1 VESSEL: ANTARCTIC DISCOVERY**

- **2 OPERATORS:**

**AUSTRALIAN  
LONGLINE**

**AUSTRAL  
FISHERIES**

\*As at 15/06/2023

Australia's Macquarie Island Patagonian Toothfish fishery lies outside CCAMLR jurisdiction, but is managed by the Australian Government in accordance with CCAMLR regulations.

In 2012 it received MSC certification as a sustainable and well managed fishery, and in 2013 was rated 'Best Choice' by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program.

This fishery began as an exploratory trawl fishery in 1994. Only one trawler originally fished here, to reduce risks to seabird populations on the island. In 2007, following successful development of seabird mitigation measures, a four year longline trial was undertaken. The results of this trial were very positive (zero seabird interactions recorded) and the fishery now permits longline fishing. To this day, the fishery has had zero seabird mortality associated with longline fishing gear.

The current Total Allowable Catch includes limits on where that catch can be taken, to assist in spreading fishing effort across the fishery.

Operators have strict regulations to adhere to within their permit conditions, to ensure sustainable fishing takes place with minimal environmental impact, including a very short longline season of 15 April to 31 August, as well as stringent seabird bycatch limits that have the potential to close the fishery if a single bird is caught with fishing gear.

The Macquarie Island Marine Park was established in 1999 as one of the largest Marine Protected Areas in the world, and sets aside 16.2 million hectares of no take zone, resulting in a representative, comprehensive and adequate MPA.

The island has a permanent scientific base, as well as tourism and overflights to help monitor any possible IUU activity.

Further information can be found on the [AFMA](#) and [AAD](#) websites.

