

SERAWG-01-12

First Meeting of the Stock and Ecological Risk Assessment Working Group (SERAWG1)

20-22 March 2019

Report on the  
Patagonian toothfish scoping study

*Relates to agenda item: 4.2*

Working paper  Info paper

Consultant's Report

# 1. Executive summary

In preparation for the fourth scientific committee of SIOFA, a confidential scoping study has been undertaken to source all existing data on the Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*; FAO code: TOP) that may aid in stock assessments and to inform the SERWG and SC considerations. These data are presented in this confidential SIOFA SC report, in line with SIOFA confidentiality recommendations ([CMM 2016/03](#), paragraph e). This work was completed in conjunction with the SIOFA Secretariat, SC Chairperson, Co-chair of the stock assessment in SERA-WG, the project manager and contracting parties (CPs) to the extent possible. All attempts were made to find fisheries-related information that covered not only commercial fisheries but also surveys, research cruises and other relevant activities. Information is as detailed and at the finest spatial and temporal scale possible.

As defined in the Terms of Reference for this study ([Appendix 1](#)), data were collected with the intention to include 1) fisheries information (e.g., description of the fisheries, catch, bycatch), 2) abundance related information (e.g., catch and effort, catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE), including different types of effort), and 3) biological information (e.g., size, length, weight, sex, maturity, fecundity, age, stock structure) for the SIOFA area, and 4) stock assessment information in CCAMLR (e.g. biological information, stock structure, harvest control rules, reference points, management measure and data poor method).

SIOFA currently has nine Contracting Parties: Australia, the Cook Islands, France on behalf of its Indian Ocean Territories, the European Union (including the French Republic and separate from France (Territories)), Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mauritius, the Seychelles and Thailand. Thailand, Seychelles, and Cook Islands have confirmed that they have no fishing on TOP in the SIOFA region. Mauritius does not fish SIOFA major fish species, but via their Port Control Unit, they have transshipment data on 13 calls to Port Louis by vessels that targeted TOP in the SIOFA area. Australia found two records of apparently individual fish from trawl gear in 2003 in the southern SIOFA region that they note may be reporting errors, and as such, are not included in this study.

Fine-scale data of TOP fishing have been previously submitted to SIOFA by Japan, France (Territories), the European Union, and the Republic of Korea. The Head of Delegations for each of these CPs gave their approval to release the data for the purposes of this study, and under conditions of confidentiality as outlined in [CMM 2016/03](#). These data were daily, monthly, or annual summaries of fisheries information (i.e., the number of vessels), catch and bycatch information, and abundance-related information (i.e., CPUE, catch and effort). During the course of this study, Japan provided finer-scale daily and set-by-set scale catch data.