

**12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

*30 September to 05 October 2024, Lima, Peru*

**SC 12 – DW 04**

**Australian progress report on its exploratory toothfish fishery**

*Australia*

# Australian National Report on CMM 14f-2024

## Conservation and Management Measure for Exploratory Fishing for Toothfish by Australia in the SPRFMO Convention Area

### Summary

In February 2024, SPRFMO 12 approved an Australian application to conduct exploratory fishing for Toothfish in an area known as the Macquarie Ridge Continuation Research Block (MRCRB). Fishing commenced in late August 2024 and a full report to SC12 is not possible because the data is not available prior to the paper submission deadline. A full report on these fishing activities will be reported to SC13.

### 2024 report

In February 2024, SPRFMO 12 approved an Australian application to conduct exploratory fishing for Toothfish in an area known as the Macquarie Ridge Continuation Research Block (MRCRB). Requirements for the exploratory fishing are contained in CMM 14f – 2024 ([CMM 14f-2024 Exploratory Toothfish AUS \(sprfmo.int\)](#)).

An Australian vessel conducted research fishing in this area in late August 2024, immediately prior to the date for submission of papers to SC. Preliminary reports indicate that 17 shots were conducted and 80,000 hooks were deployed with 4.5t of toothfish being caught. At the deadline for submitting papers the boat had not unloaded and the observer had not been debriefed and the observer report was not available. Therefore, a full summary of this trip is not able to be provided to SPRFMO SC 12 but will be provided to SC 13 in 2025.