

14th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

7 to 12 September 2026, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

SC14 - DW 05

Exploratory Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish Fishery in the SPRFMO Area

European Union

Fisheries Operation Plan (succinct description)

Paragraphs 6 and 8 of CMM13-2024 require any Member or CNCP seeking to permit a vessel that flies its flag to fish in an exploratory fishery, or to fish in an exploratory fishery with a gear type that has not been used in that fishery for the previous ten years to submit no less than 120 days prior to the next annual meeting of the Scientific Committee a succinct description of their intended Fisheries Operation Plan for information purposes.

Member/CNCP	European Union (Spain)
Area	George V Fracture Zone Research Block, FAO area 57.4 (see attached map)
Target Species	<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> (Patagonian toothfish)
Proposed Methods of fishing	Longline, Spanish double line system
Proposed maximum catch limit	218t in Block A, and 66t in Block B (see attached map). Total TAC 284t
Expected operation period	Between 1 May and 15 November each calendar year 2027-2029
Submission date	4 May 2026

Succinct detail & rationale for the proposal:

FV Tronio has operated successfully for five seasons (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 & 2025) in FAO area 57.4 with a TAC of 75t for the years 2021-2023 (CMM 14e-2021 & CMM 14e-2023) and a TAC of 129t & 33t in RB-A and RB-B respectively for the years 2024 & 2025 (CMM 14e-2024). Preliminary stock assessments using the Chapman tag-return method have now been carried out on four years of data in RB-A, with the latest results suggesting the biomass in RB-A to be 12,149t (CI_Upper 28,069t, CI_Lower 7,270t). The two years of exploratory fishing in RB-B have not yet resulted in any tag-returns, and so no assessment can yet be completed for this RB.

The new fishing proposal is currently being prepared. It is proposed that the currently licenced area, with two Research Blocks (GVFZ RB-A and B) is maintained for the next proposal. Exploratory fishery activities have now occurred in the RB-A (for 5 years) and in RB-B (for 2 years), but there are several other promising seamounts in the Southeastern sector of RB-B that we believe also have potential and should be explored.

The preliminary biomass estimates can sensibly be applied to block A, as this is the only area where fishing has been taking place since commencing exploratory fishing in 2021. We propose that a TAC of 218t for this block would be both appropriate and precautionary, if we apply a 3% extraction rate of the lower Confidence Interval of the biomass estimate with the Chapman tag-return. This TAC should be for the three years of this proposal (2027-29).



For block B we suggest a doubling of the precautionary TAC from 33t (2024-26) to 66t for the next 3-year period. The seabed area of Block B is estimated to be 6,449km², whereas the seabed area of Block A is estimated to be 11,115km². If a 218t TAC is allocated to Block A, this would equate to 19.61kg/km². A reasonable TAC for Block B may therefore be 126t based on that same principle. However, we believe that ~1/2 of this amount (i.e. 10.23kg/km²) may be more appropriate and indeed precautionary, i.e. 66t, whilst still encouraging further exploration of sectors of this RB that have not yet been explored.

Scientific data collection such as biological data collection, tagging at a rate of 5 fish per tonne green weight, CTD data recording, & benthic camera work will continue in the proposed 3-year continuation survey, as it has in the two recent fishing surveys. DNA analyses using SNP of samples already collected from both RB-A and RB-B will hopefully provide further insight into the stock identity. Additionally, the tag return data will help to further understand the stock connectivity between RB-A and RB-B as well as other regions. Such as for instance the Macquarie Island toothfish fishery, from where a number of tags have been recovered in the last two years' surveys.

European Union proposal for exploratory fishing for Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish within the SPRFMO Convention area, 2027-2029

Table of Contents

1	Purpose	3
2	Introduction.....	4
3	Vessel Specific Details	5
3.1	Vessel details.....	5
3.2	Fishing gear	8
3.2.1	Line sink rate	9
4	Fisheries Operation Plan	10
4.1	Description of the exploratory fishery	10
4.2	Catch and effort limits.....	10
4.3	Time period of the fisheries operation plan	11
4.4	IUU detection and reporting.....	11
5	Biological and Ecological Information	12
5.1	Biological information on the target species	12
5.1.1	Catch and effort - toothfish.....	12
5.1.2	Stock structure	13
5.1.3	Preliminary stock assessment	15
5.1.4	Regional Patagonian toothfish stocks	16
5.2	Non-target bycatch species	16
5.2.1	Bycatch of fish	16
5.2.2	Bycatch of mammals	17
5.2.3	Bycatch of elasmobranchs	17
5.2.4	Bycatch of seabirds	18
5.2.5	Benthic habitats and VMEs	19
6	Ecological Risk Assessment on Non-target Bycatch	22
6.1	Methods.....	22
6.2	Data sources	24
6.3	Non-target fish	24
6.4	Chondrichthyans.....	26
6.5	Seabirds.....	28
6.6	Marine mammals.....	32
6.7	VME	34
6.8	Additional impact of longline fishing activity	37
7	Data Collection Plan	38
8	Post-Survey Science Reporting	41
9	References.....	42

Appendix 1 - Exploratory-Toothfish-EU - 2024-26. 2nd Biomass update Jan 2026 v5.pdf .	45
Appendix 2 – Chondrichthyans recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.	46
Appendix 3 – Seabirds recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.	46
Appendix 4 - Mammals recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.....	49

1 Purpose

The European Union (EU) wish to apply for a third exploratory fishing program for Patagonian/Antarctic toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides* and *D. mawsoni*) in the SPRFMO Convention Area. This application contains the elements established by CMM 13-2024 on the Conservation and Management Measures for the Management of New and Exploratory Fisheries. This proposal includes the Fisheries Operation Plan, including area, target species, proposed fishing methods, fishing gear, period and a preliminary data collection plan for the exploratory fishing activities to be undertaken during 2027-29 in FAO area 57.4 (Figure 1), and which falls under the SPRFMO jurisdiction. The proposal also identifies the relevant elements of CMM 03-2025 on Bottom Fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area, notably an assessment of bottom fishing activities outside the established footprint, and a risk assessment following the Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS) (2019).

Key information	Target species:	<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i> (Patagonian toothfish) <i>Dissostichus mawsoni</i> (Antarctic toothfish)
	Vessel:	<i>FV Tronio</i>
	Fishing Method:	Spanish Benthic Double longline
	Time period:	1 May – 15 November, 2027-2029
	Area:	George V Fracture Zone (GVFZ)
	Proposed TAC:	Research Block A – 218t. Research Block B – 188t

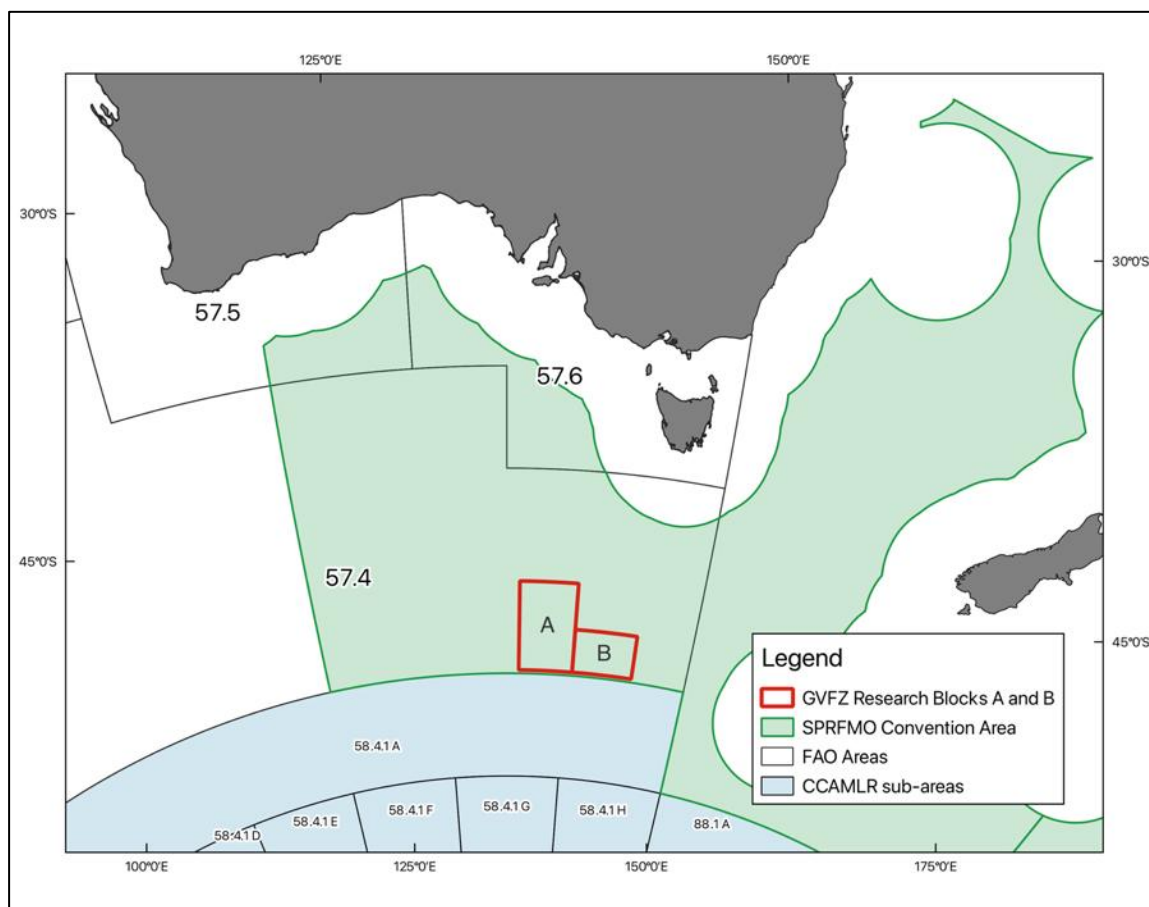


Figure 1: Location of Research Blocks within the GVFZ, SPRFMO Convention Area. Also indicated are FAO area 57.4 and CCAMLR sub-areas.

2 Introduction

This proposal is to conduct a third campaign of exploratory fishing for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) over three consecutive seasons (2027-29) in the area of the George V Fracture Zone (Figure 1). The second three-year campaign (CMM14e-2024) is currently underway, due to be completed in Oct-Nov 2026. The area is spatially partitioned into Research Block A and B, where at the end of the current campaign Block A will have been fished for 6 seasons and Block B will have been fished for 3 seasons. This proposal continues exploration to Research Blocks A and B for continued tagging and assessment of stock and other environmental considerations.

The objectives in this proposal are:

- a) to further explore the presence and distribution of toothfish in the SPRFMO Convention Area;
- b) to collect and provide information and data contributing towards the sustainable management of potential toothfish stocks in specific, data-poor zones of the Convention Area;
- c) to assess the potential for a future sustainable toothfish fishery in specific zones of the Convention Area;
- d) to provide occurrence information on marine mammals, seabirds, sharks, skates and rays and other species of concern;
- e) to better understand patterns of seabirds and marine mammals and their potential for interactions with fishing vessels;
- f) to evaluate the potential impacts of longlines on non-target associated or dependent species, and vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- g) to undertake tagging activities on toothfish to enable future studies on the migration of toothfish as well as a preliminary stock assessment.

All data will be integrated into current Patagonian/Antarctic toothfish stock hypotheses and connectivity analyses with other regions where appropriate.

Prior to the ongoing campaigns in the GVFZ, to the best of our knowledge, there had not been any other recorded toothfish fishing in the area. Application for a third exploratory fishery campaign is permitted under CMM13-2024 paragraph 4(c).

3 Vessel Specific Details

Exploratory fishing will continue to be conducted from the *FV Tronio*. The *Tronio* Captain and crew, as well as Company management, have over 25 years of experience fishing for Patagonian and Antarctic toothfish in RFMO regulated fisheries such as SIOFA, SPRFMO, and SEAFO, as well as in CCAMLR.

3.1 Vessel details

Tronio has Ice Class 1C. Vessel specific details as required under paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex 1 of CMM 05-2026 (Record of Vessels) are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Vessel details.

a) Current vessel flag (using the codes indicated in Annex 2);	EUROPEAN UNION (EU) (SPAIN)
b) Name of vessel;	<i>FV TRONIO</i>
c) Registration number;	3GC-1-2-05
d) International radio call sign (if any);	ECJF
e) UVI (Unique Vessel Identifier)/IMO number (if issued) ² ;	9361603
f) Previous Names (if known);	N/A
g) Port of registry;	CELEIRO (Spain)
h) Previous flag (if any, and using the codes indicated in Annex 2);	UNITED KINGDOM (GBR)
i) Type of vessel (Use appropriate ISSCFV codes, Annex 10 of CMM 02-2018 (Data Standards));	BOTTOM LONGLINER (LL)
j) Type of fishing method(s) (Use appropriate ISSCFG codes, Annex 9 of CMM 02-2018 (Data Standards));	LLS 09.3.0
k) Length; l) Length type e.g. "LOA", "LBP";	55 m LOA
m) Gross Tonnage – GT (to be provided as the preferred unit of tonnage);	1058 GT
n) Gross Register Tonnage – GRT (to be provided if GT not available; may also be provided in addition to GT);	
o) Power of main engine(s) (kW);	1378.70Kw
p) Hold capacity (m3);	632,3 m ³
q) Freezer type (if applicable);	TUNNEL
r) Number of freezers units (if applicable);	3
s) Freezing capacity (if applicable);	30Mt
t) Vessel communication types and numbers (INMARSAT A, B and C numbers);	Inmarsat C :422462320 Inmarsat FBB: +870773184117
u) VMS system details (brand, model, features and identification);	Satlink ELB 2014
v) Name of owner(s);	PESQUERÍAS GEORGIA, S.L.
w) Address of owner(s);	Muelle Sur, Almacén 21- Celeiro – Spain
x) Date of inclusion into the SPRFMO Record;	01 Jan 2009
y) Vessel authorisation end date;	31 Dec 2026
z) Flag Authorisation Start Date;	01 Jan 2026

aa) Good quality high resolution photographs of the vessel of appropriate brightness and contrast, no older than 5 years, which shall consist of:	
• one photograph not smaller than 12 x 7 cm showing the starboard side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;	See below Figure 2
• one photograph not smaller than 12 x 7 cm showing the port side of the vessel displaying its full overall length and complete structural features;	See below Figure 3
• one photograph not smaller than 12 x 7 cm showing the stern taken directly from astern.	See below Figure 4



Figure 2: Tronio starboard side view.



Figure 3: Tronio port side view.



Figure 4: Tronio stern view

3.2 Fishing gear

The fishing gear to be used in the exploratory fishery is the Spanish style double longline system (Figure 5); a well-known gear configuration used in many toothfish longline fisheries (as specified in CCAMLR Gear Catalogue, specifically WG-FSA-11/53). The total length of the line can vary by deploying more, or less sections (or baskets) per set line ranging from 60-170 baskets (3,640-10,240 hooks). This translates into a variation of length between 5,824 and 16,384 meters. Typically, in exploratory areas, and following acoustic bathymetric surveying of the area of interest, a shorter line of approximately 5,000 hooks is set to first establish fish abundance. Normally, and depending on the fishing success of any initial lines, longer lines may be set to optimize efficiency. However, because of the exploratory nature of this proposal, only lines of approximately 5,000 hooks (estimated length 8,000m) will be set. A 2% variation in number of hooks set may be expected for operational reasons. This detail will be recorded by the bridge and Scientific Observer.

Setting speed is between 7 and 8.5 knots. The average duration of the line setting operation of 5,000 hooks) is ~45 mins, whereas that of line hauling is ~4 hours. Usually there are between 3 and 4 lines in the water simultaneously. Soak time for lines is typically 12-18hrs.

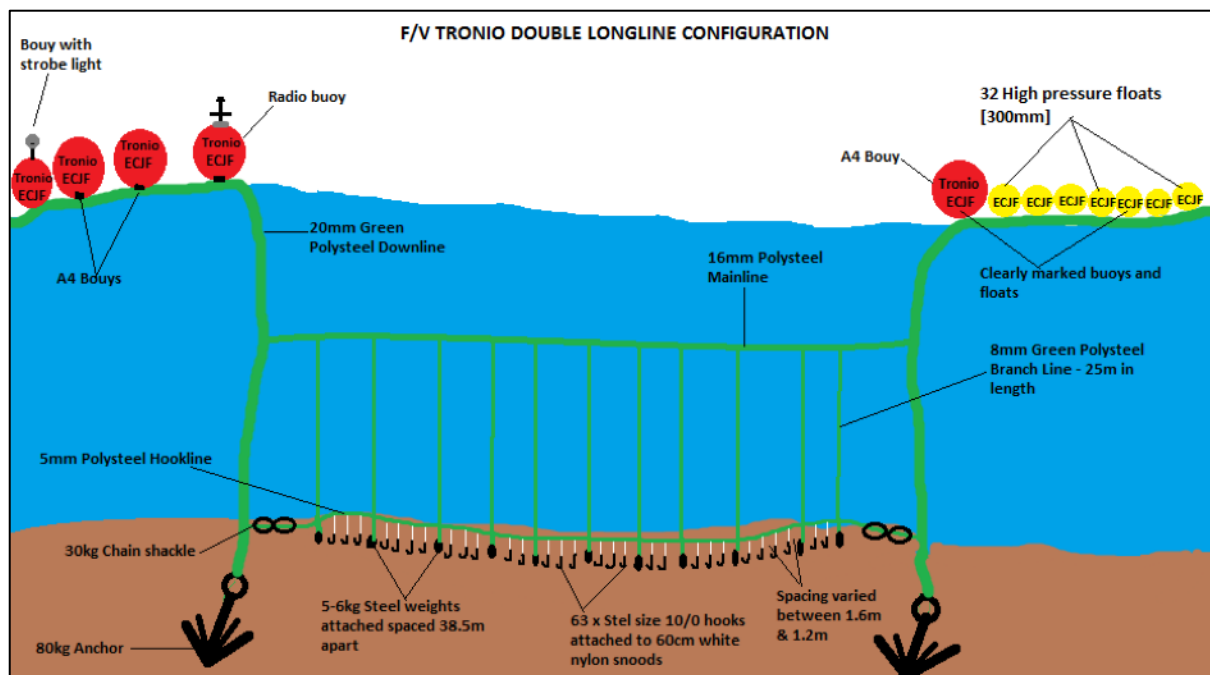


Figure 5: FV Tronio Spanish system. Note that all steel weights are now 6kg (not 5kg).

Hook size used is 'J' type, size 10 (A Poutada) with a 60cm white nylon snood. All hooks are marked to identify the ship. Two types of markings are used; either a rectangle or double line on the shank near the eyelet (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Marked hooks used on FV Tronio during STR exploratory fishing program and subsequently in the GVFZ campaigns.

3.2.1 Line sink rate

Between 2011 and 2017, 63 sink rate tests using the bottle test were conducted by Scientific Observers. *FV Tronio's* mean line sink rate was 0.44m/s (Figure 7), which was faster than the CCAMLR requirements for sink rate (0.3m/s), as detailed in CCAMLR CM 24-02 (2014). Improved sink rate was achieved through increasing hydrodynamic steel sink weights to 6kgs each (Figure 8).

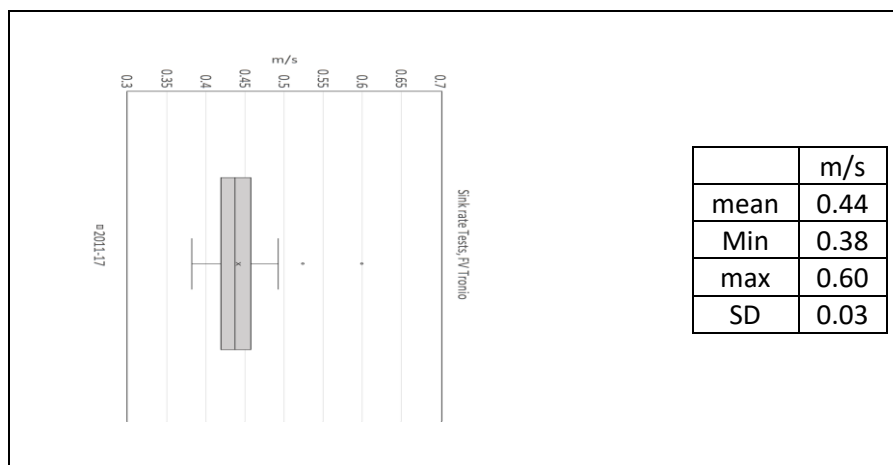


Figure 7: Results of line sink rate tests conducted on FV Tronio, 2011 and 2017.



Figure 8: Hydrodynamic shaped steel line weights, 6kg each.

4 Fisheries Operation Plan

4.1 Description of the exploratory fishery

The proposed study area has been named the George V Fracture Zone Research Block (GVFZ). Within this area, Research Blocks A and B have been designated (with coordinates listed in Table 2). Fishing depths will range between 600m and 2500m depth (Figure 9). With these depth constraints, the total fishing area in RB-A area is approximately 6,983 km², and in RB-B the fishing area is approximately 6,002km². The fishable depth area is calculated from the bathymetric information provided by GEBCO (2024). However, it is suspected that there may well be inaccuracies, as bathymetric survey activities in this region have been limited. For uniformity and to facilitate analyses, all sets will be lines of ≤ 5,000 hooks (~8,000m in length). The minimum distance between the centre point of each set is 3nm.

Table 2: Proposed study location (corner coordinates) for the Research Blocks A and B.

Research Block	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Block A	NW	50° 30' S	136° E
	NE	50° 30' S	140° 30'E
	SE	54° 50' S	140° 30'E
	SW	54° 50' S	136° E
Block B	NW	52° 45' S	140° 30'E
	NE	52° 45' S	145° 30'E
	SE	54° 50' S	145° 30'E
	SW	54° 50' S	140° 30'E

4.2 Catch and effort limits

The target species is Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*). There is a possibility of also catching Antarctic toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*), although none has been caught thus far after two seasons of fishing in the area.

Preliminary stock assessments were carried out for GVFZ RB-A based on 2021-2025 catch and effort data, and tagging (see Appendix 1 for details). For RB-A, a precautionary 218t TAC is recommended. An assessment for RB-B could not be completed due to lack of tag returns. Therefore, a 188t TAC is recommended for RB-B based on calculating the fishable seabed area (600m-2500m) of RB-A and RB-B, and applying a proportionate TAC to RB-B. See Appendix 1 for details.

A conversion factor of 1.68 is recommended in the GVFZ. The conversion factor is a value applied to the total processed (HGT) product weight caught for conversion to whole green weight catch. The conversion factor is monitored by Scientific Observers by taking >100 measurements of whole fish and final HGT product each year.

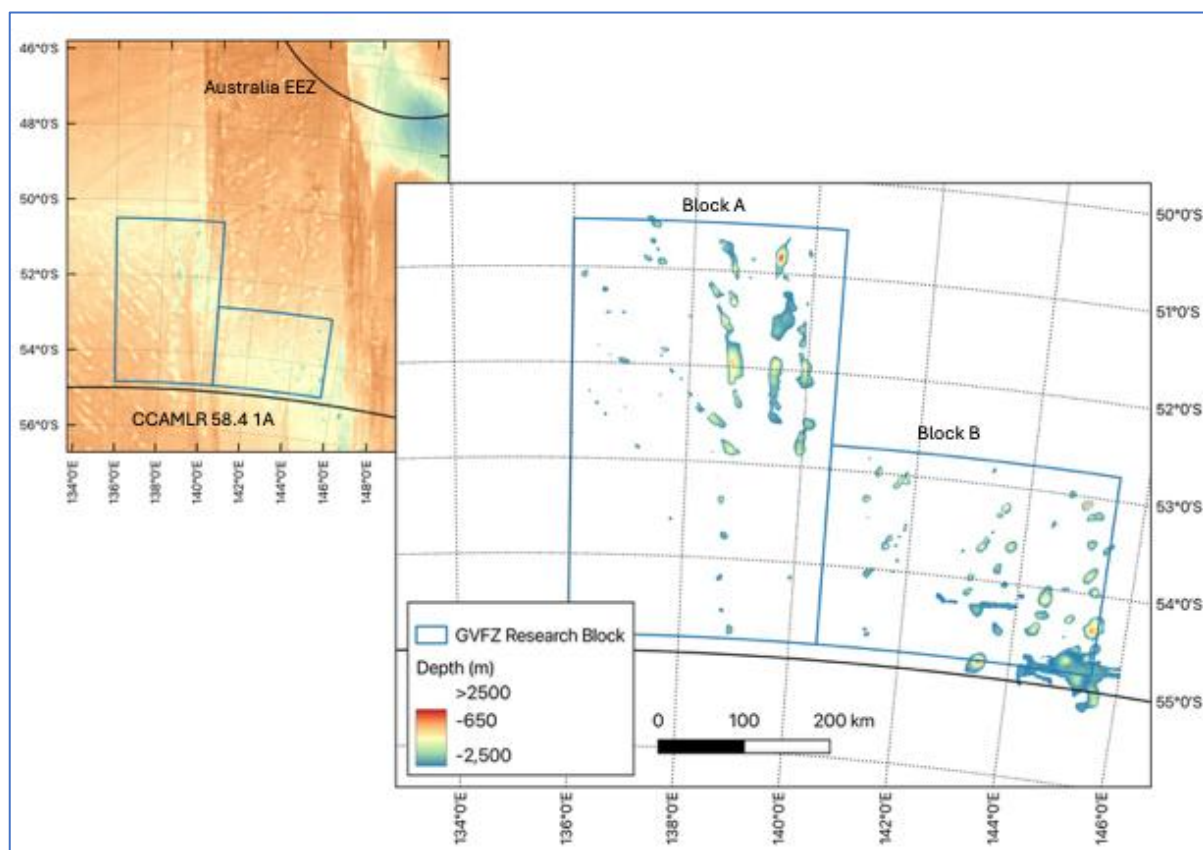


Figure 9: Area of the GVFZ Research Blocks A and B, highlighting the proposed fishing depths ranging between 600 and 2500m depth. Bathymetry based on GEBCO (2024).

4.3 Time period of the fisheries operation plan

The requested time period for the exploratory survey is 1 May to 15 November, for three consecutive years 2027-29. This would provide good consistency with previous exploratory fishing (CMM 14e 2024). In 2025, surveys were completed (reaching TACs in respective RBs) in 27 days and 8 days in RB- A and RB-B respectively. With respect to proposed TACs for RB-A and RB-B, it is predicted that fishing will be completed in approximately 60-80 days.

4.4 IUU detection and reporting

Whilst undertaking the exploratory fishing survey in the GVFZ RBs, the *FV Tronio* will document and report any sighting of fishing vessels suspected of IUU fishing activities to the SPRFMO Secretariat. Furthermore, any abandoned or retrieved fishing gear suspected to be of IUU origin will be photographed, reported with relevant details on position, type of gear, any catches, and retrieved where possible. This is the vessel's normal operating practice under CCAMLR CM 10-02 Annex 10-02/A while fishing in the CCAMLR Convention Area.

5 Biological and Ecological Information

5.1 Biological information on the target species

There is a paucity of information on the toothfish stock and the biological/ecological character of the GVFZ area. Prior to 2021, there were two records of Patagonian toothfish registered with OBIS and apparent records held by the Australian Government (L. Georgeson pers. com.).

The detailed results of exploratory fishing by *Tronio* in 2021-23 and 2024-26 campaigns (with 2024 and 2025 completed at the time of writing this proposal) are provided in cruise reports following each year (SFL 2022, SFL 2023, SFL 2024, SFL 2025). Presented in those reports are catch and effort, sex/maturity and length frequency of toothfish and bycaught species, and reporting of VME, seabird, and mammal bycatch and observations, and other science conducted. These reports are briefly summarised here and in proceeding sections examining bycatch risk assessment.

5.1.1 Catch and effort - toothfish

Exploratory fishing in 2021 - 2025 in RB_A and RB-B is shown in Figure 10. Fishing was restricted to somewhat isolated topographic features such as seamounts and hills. No Antarctic toothfish were caught. The over-all mean CPUE between 2021 and 2025 was 273 kg/km line, with wide variability in CPUE within years between lines set. Inter-annual changes in CPUE are not significant; details are found in Appendix 1 – Preliminary Assessment.

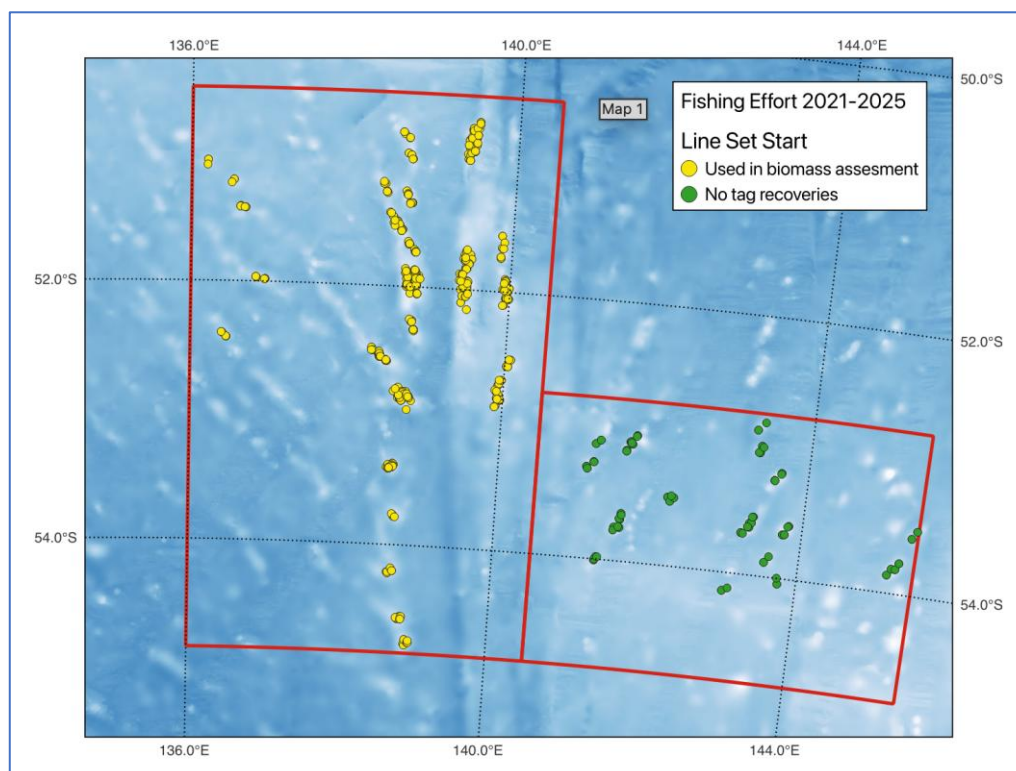


Figure 10: Location of lines set (set start) between 2021-2025 for RB-A, and 2024-2025 for RB-B. Indicated are those lines where tags have been released; these site are used in tag-recapture biomass estimation. Fishing depths range between 600m – 2500m depth.

5.1.2 Stock structure

The targeted population of Patagonian toothfish consists of fish ranging between approximately 60-170cm total length, with males generally smaller than females. The length-frequency of TOP from all areas in 2021-2025 is shown in Figure 11. There is a significant change in size distribution between years.

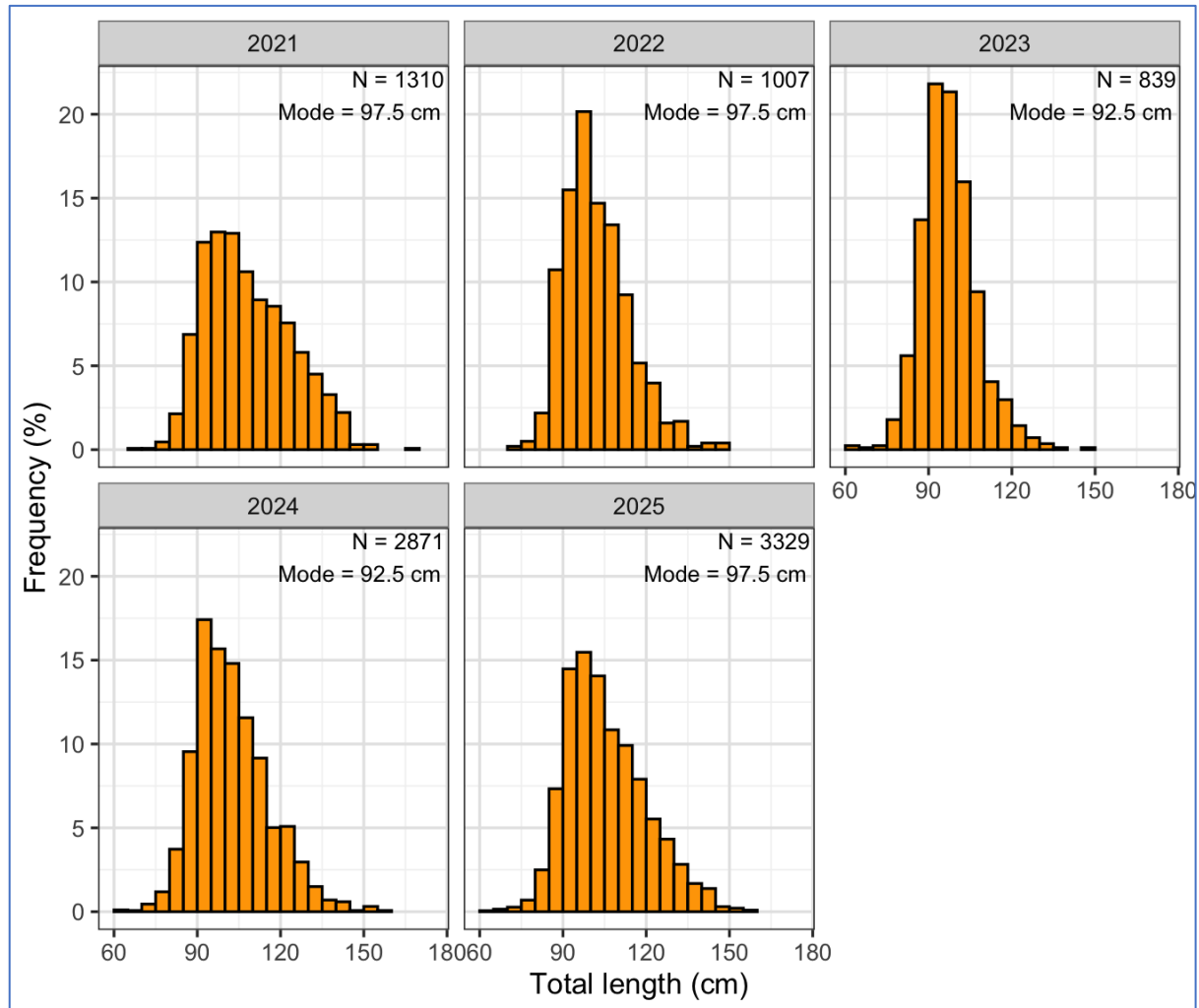


Figure 11: Length-frequency of all TOP in Research Block A and B for 2021-2025.

Captured fish ranged in maturity stages (as described in CCAMLR Scheme of International Scientific Observation Scientific Observer's Manual Finfish Fisheries Version 2023) with all stages being observed in both males and females; Figure 12 give an example of the maturity stage distribution in 2025. Some variability distribution of maturity stages can be seen between years; further surveys will help understand seasonal and any other spatial patterns in reproduction.

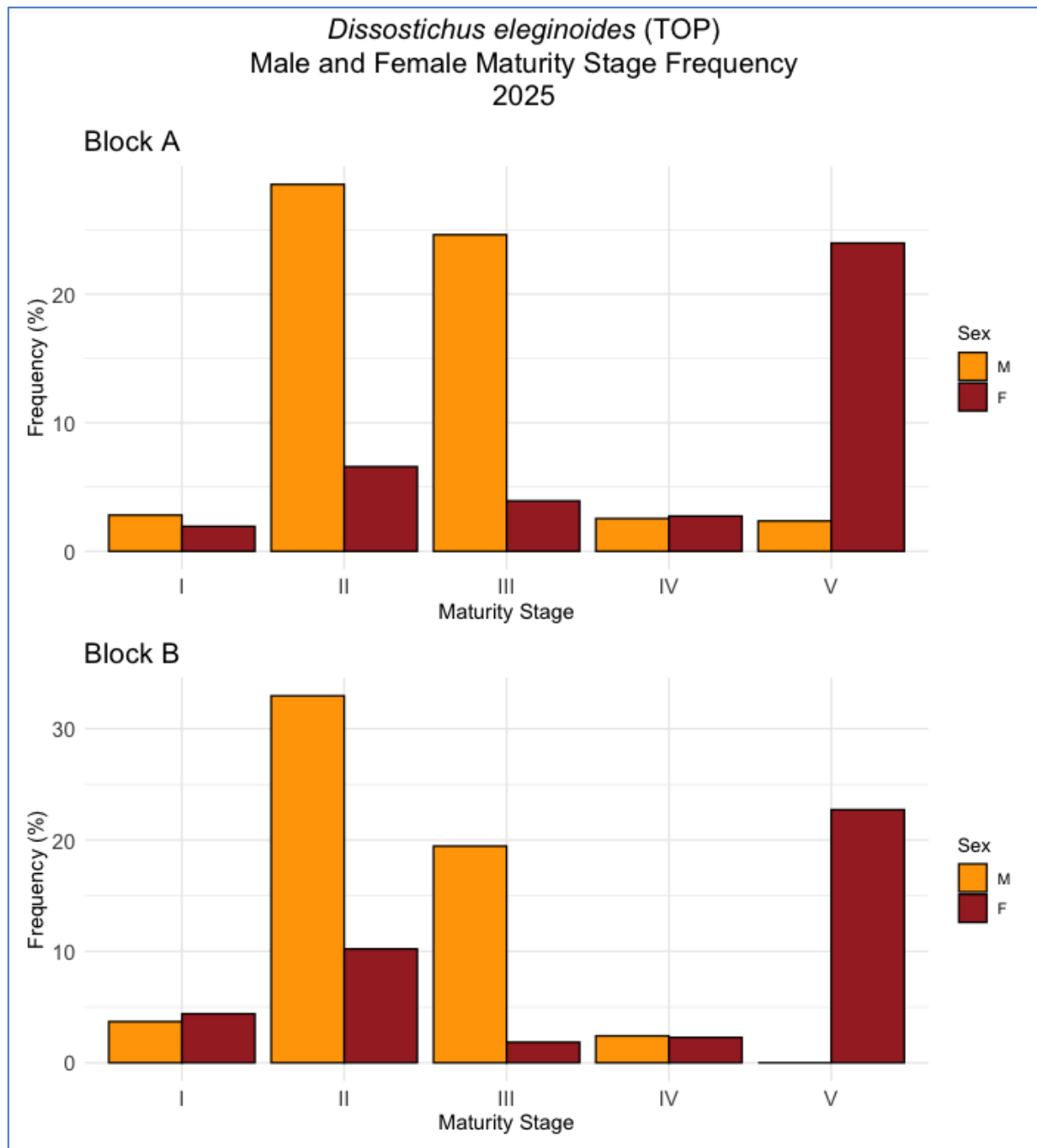


Figure 12: Frequency of maturity of male and female TOP from 2025. Maturity stages for Males: I - Immature, II - Developing or resting, III - Developed, IV - Ripe, V - Spent. Maturity stages for Females: I - Immature, II - Maturing virgin or resting, III - Developing, IV - Gravid, V - Spent.

Tag-releases have been carried out at a rate of 5 fish/tonne in 2021-25 in RB-A, and in 2024-25 in RB-B. As of 2025, all tag recoveries have been from within RB-A, and no recoveries in RB-B. Recoveries in RB-A suggest that fish generally do not move from their release areas, but some movement between seamount/ridge areas might occur. Furthermore, year on year recoveries of tagged fish from the Macquarie Ridge fishery within the GVFZ (Figure 13), particularly two fish recovered that were liberated in 2022, suggest that long distance movement across the region may also commonly occur. This then raises the question of rates of immigration and emigration in and out of the GVFZ that might impact interpretation of tag-based biomass estimates.

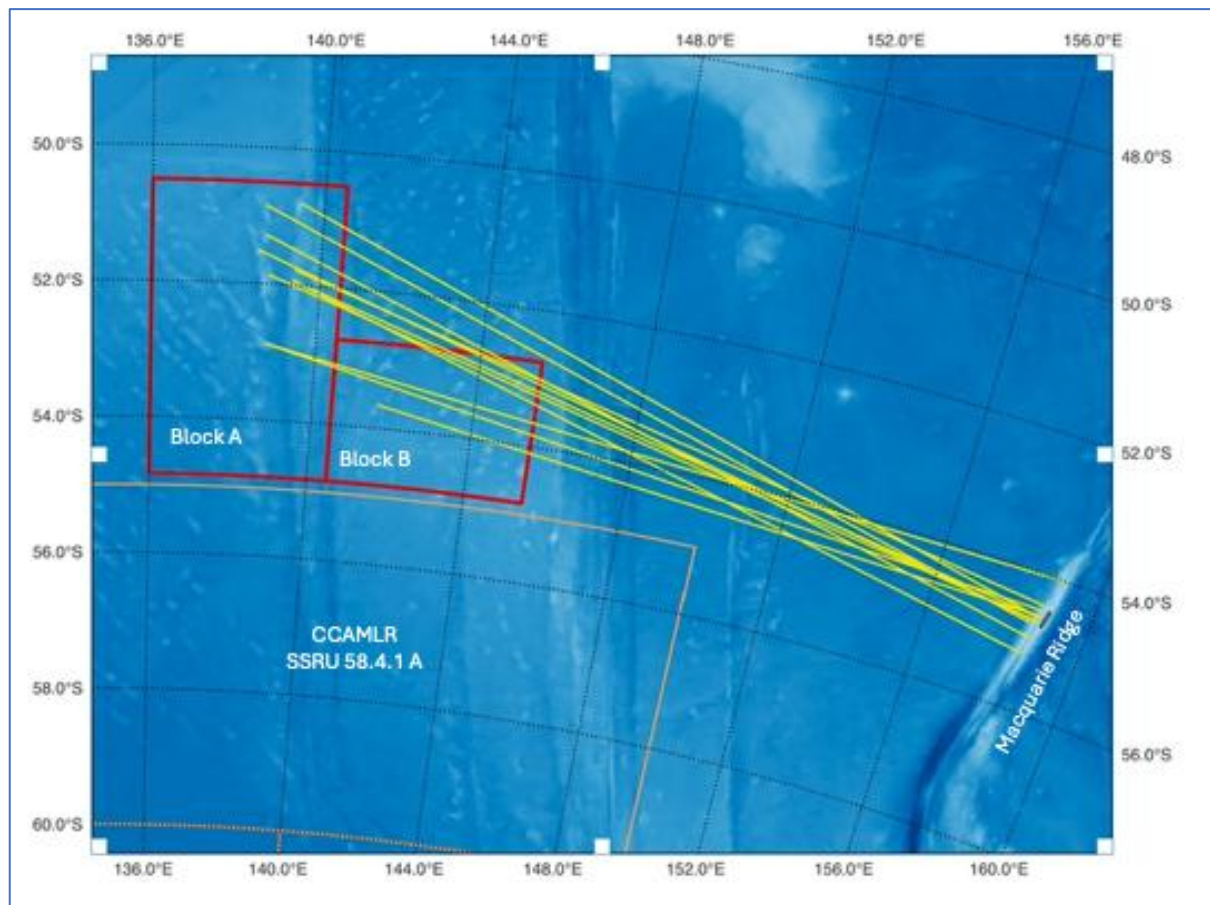


Figure 13: Movement of recaptured TOP into the GFVZ between 2021-25, originally tagged in the Macquarie Ridge area.

5.1.3 Preliminary stock assessment

A preliminary stock assessment was conducted based on 2021-2025 tag recovery data. The full report is presented in Appendix 1. CCAMLR methods for data-limited fisheries were used, namely the Chapman tag-recapture method (CCAMLR SC-XXXV Appendix 5). Tag-release based biomass estimates are limited to RB-A only as there as yet have been no tag recoveries in RB-B. Only the last three years of tag releases are used as per SC-CAMLR-XXXV, Annex 5 para 2.34. Results are shown in Table 3.

The estimated stock biomass estimate for Research Block A is 12,149 tonnes (CI-lower - 7,270; CI-upper - 28,069) (Table 3). The Chapman estimate is impacted by the high rate of recaptures in 2025.

Whilst a TAC of 129t and 33t was set for Research Block A and B respectively under CMM14e-2024 and this was reached in the 2025 fishing campaign (approximately 1% of the estimated biomass), there is a great deal of variability around the biomass estimate. Precaution in proposing a TAC will continue to be applied due to 1) a limited number of fishing years, 2) new adjacent areas are now being explored, 3) observed variability in CPUE and length-frequency distributions, and 4) questions around immigration/emigration of fish in the GFVZ.

A TAC in RB-A based on 3% exploitation rate of the lowest CI of the mean biomass suggests a TAC in RB-A for 2027-2029 of 218t. As no tag-release based assessment could not be done for RB-B an approximation can be made by way of a seabed area -proportional scaling. This is an acceptable alternative in this case because 1) RB-B is geographically adjacent to RB-A and could be considered part of a contiguous underwater geomorphological feature, and 2) the CPUE's for RB-B are similar to those found in RB-A, meaning that toothfish densities are likely to be similar in the 2 areas. Using GEBCO (2024) as a basis, the topographic surface area between 600-2500m depths in RB-A is 6,983 km². The topographic surface area in RB-B is 6,002 km². Therefore, a scaled TAC for RB-B is 188t. Future work will continue to develop a unified tag-release based biomass estimate.

Table 3: Biomass estimates for GVFZ RB-A.

Research Block	Species	Season (recapture)	Biomass Est (t)	CI_lower	CI_upper	N_Recaptures	N_Hauls	Method
GVFZ_A	TOP	2022	5,955	2,992	13,478	3	32	Chapman
GVFZ_A	TOP	2023	6,302	3,513	13,226	3	17	Chapman
GVFZ_A	TOP	2024	27,227	11,528	32,170	1	45	Chapman
GVFZ_A	TOP	2025	12,149	7,270	28,069	10	56	Chapman

5.1.4 Regional Patagonian toothfish stocks

Patagonian toothfish are characterised by slow growth and late maturity (Collins et al., 2010). It is a benthopelagic species, where juveniles are found at shallow (< 200m) and adults in deep (~ 2200m in the GVFZ) depths. Despite being widely distributed in sub-Antarctic waters surrounding islands, seamounts and continental shelves of the southern Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans, genetic discontinuities in populations have been described. For example, Patagonian toothfish of the Macquarie region are genetically differentiated from other fished areas in the Kerguelen, Crozet, HIMI, South Georgia, South Sandwich Islands (Toomey et al., 2016). Recent genetic work in the southwest Atlantic suggests the designation of a new species of *Dissostichus australis* for Patagonian toothfish populations below the Antarctic Polar Front (APF), as distinct from those North of the APF (Arkhipkin et al., 2022). Tissue samples collected in the GVFZ campaigns will help confirm the species identity and genetic connectivity of Patagonian toothfish in the GVFZ.

As far as we have been able to establish, there has never been any Patagonian toothfish fishing in the adjacent CCAMLR area 58.4.1 SSRU A, or at least not since the establishment of the SSRUs. An average of 5t of Patagonian toothfish are caught per year in CCAMLR Subarea 88.1 (Ross Sea fishing area) (CCAMLR Statistics Bulletin Volume 37, 2025). It is likely that they are at their southern spatial range edge here, but their origin is unclear. However, one Patagonian toothfish was caught in SSRU 88.1B in 2007, originally tagged in the Macquarie fishery (pers comm T. Lamb, Australian Antarctic Division). In 2025, the Tronio recaptured a fish that was allegedly originally tagged in CCAMLR Subarea 88.1, but the details of this event are unclear.

5.2 Non-target bycatch species

5.2.1 Bycatch of fish

Fish bycatch has been below the trigger levels (CMM 14e-2024) in all years of the last two fishing campaigns. Fourteen fish taxa have been reported (Table 4) however it is possible that some species have been misidentified. For example, *Macrourus holotrachys* were found in 2021, but a mix of *M. holotrachys* and *Macrourus carinatus* were found in 2022. Similarly, *Muraenolepis* spp. were

recorded in 2021, and in 2022 *Muraenolepis microps* were recorded. Bycatch is dominated by Macrourids and *Antimora rostrata* with catches of each varying between years.

Table 4: Fish bycatch in the GVFZ, 2021-2025. Total catch (kg) is reported by Scientific observers.

Species/Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<i>Antimora rostrata</i>	134	142	10	291	367
<i>Coryphaenoides armatus</i>				6	
<i>Coryphaenoides spp.</i>	3				17
<i>Lepidion microcephalus</i>				14	
<i>Lepidion spp.</i>		4	3		2
<i>Macrourus caml</i>	1				
<i>Macrourus carinatus</i>		66	7		
<i>Macrourus holotrachys</i>	352	338	154	1387	743
<i>Macrourus whitsoni</i>			28	1	
<i>Muraenolepis microps</i>		21		145	
<i>Muraenolepis spp.</i>	89	11			
<i>Ophidiidae</i>					9
<i>Parastromateus niger</i>				2	
<i>Spectrunculus grandis</i>			6		

5.2.2 Bycatch of mammals

No marine mammal bycatch nor observations were reported in 2021-2025.

A total of 30 marine mammals were identified as overlapping with the GVFZ RB to varying degrees (Section 6.6). Many whale species have a high degree of potential overlap with the GVFZ RB region. Otariid seals have been associated with toothfish longline vessels and have been observed to depredate on catch. Fur seal and sea lion toothfish fishing related mortalities appear to be very rare in general, and have never been reported at all on Tronio.

Elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) have been tracked through the GVFZ area (Section 6.6). They can dive for up to 2h to depths over 1500m and bottom times of up to 15mins at deep-depths. Males tend to dive deeper (down to ~2000m) compared to females (~800m) (Prof. Mike Fedak pers com). Elephant seals are known to travel thousands of kilometres on 10-month long foraging trips (Hindell et al., 2016). The closest colony to the GVFZ RB is on Macquarie Island. IUCN distribution data suggests overlap with the GVFZ RB. Elephant seal tracking data (Fabien et al., 2018) suggest that elephant seals may primarily travel south from Macquarie Island. However, elephant seals have been tracked across GVFZ RB on a number of occasions with some individuals spending some time in the area rather than simply transiting through.

5.2.3 Bycatch of elasmobranchs

No shark or skate bycatch was reported in 2021-2025. There are no records in OBIS of skate catch in the GVFZ RB region. Additionally, there are no skate species with predicted distributions in the region (Section 6.4).

A total of 6 shark species were found to have possible distributions over the proposed fished area of the GVFZ RB (Section 6.4). A mix of demersal and pelagic species are identified.

5.2.4 Bycatch of seabirds

Seabird observations were made by Scientific Observers during line setting and hauling in 2021-25. The number of bird species and individuals varies by year where year and numbers may in part, depend on the experience of the Scientific Observer. An example of species and number of birds observed is given in Table 5 for 2025 observations. Despite the variety and number of individuals present, no mortalities have been reported in any of the fishing campaigns. Birds observed have IUCN conservation statuses of either Least Concern (LC), Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), or Endangered (EN).

Table 5: Seabirds identified during setting and hauling in 2025. IUCN conservation statuses are; Least Concern (LC), Near Threatened (NT), Vulnerable (VU), or Endangered (EN).

Species	Common Name	IUCN Status	2025	
			Observations during Line Setting	Observations during Line Hauling
<i>Daption capense</i>	Cape petrel	LC	276	439
<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy albatross	NT	-	12
<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed albatross	EN	3	5
<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed albatross	LC	255	424
<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering albatross	VU	158	254
<i>Fulmarus glacialoides</i>	Southern Fulmar	LC	6	9
<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue petrel	LC	334	622
<i>Macronectes spp</i>	Giant petrel	LC	274	1001
<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm-petrel	LC	24	106
<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Sooty shearwater	NT	70	63
<i>Phoebetria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	NT	27	34
<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned petrel	VU	-	4
<i>Phoebetria fusca</i>	Sooty albatross	EN	1	-
<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic prion	LC	62	94
Total			1490	3067

A search of various online data sources (e.g. IUCN, OBIS) indicates that a total of 57 species of seabirds have been identified as overlapping with the GVFZ RB to varying degrees (Section 6.5); birds observed in 2022 are captured in this list.

There is a candidate Important Bird Area (cIBA) in the region the GVFZ research block (Indian Ocean, Antarctic and Southern 52 – Marine, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/indian-ocean-antarctic-and-southern-52--marine-iba-high-seas>), proposed on the basis of suggested breeding assemblage between November – April. The depth range within that cIBA ranges from 3354 to 4181m depth.

5.2.5 Benthic habitats and VMEs

The George V Fracture Zone (Sempéré et al., 1996) straddles the Southeast Indian Ridge at approximately 139°E / 53°S. The area is characterised by short chains of seamounts and spreading ridges (Harris et al., 2014) generally rising to approximately 1000m depth (500m depth for the highest seamount), and surrounded by abyssal hills of approximately 2500m – 3500m depth. Geologically, the area has received a great deal of attention in relation to processes and formations along Southeast Indian Ridge system of active propagating rifts and transform faults, proximity to the Australian-Antarctic Discordance to the west and hydrothermal vent fields along its axis (e.g. Wang et al., 2011). The ridge system extends from the Rodriguez Triple Junction in the West and the Macquarie Triple Junction in the East, which joins further ridge systems to the East and west forming a continuous ridge system between the South Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. This suggests that biologically, the ridge system may be an important feature connecting distinct faunal assemblages of Atlantic and Pacific vent fields (Van Dover et al., 2001; Nakamura et al., 2012).

Herraiz-Borreguero and Rintoul (2011) summarise the circulation and physical properties of the Southern Ocean south of Australia. The region of the GVFZ RB is sandwiched between the Subantarctic Front in the north, and the Polar Front in the south. Eastward flowing Subantarctic Surface Water lies above Antarctic Intermediate Water to a depth of approximately 1500m followed by Antarctic Deep Water to the seabed. The region is characterised by relatively low annual surface productivity, situated between areas of relatively high productivity to the north and south (<https://oceancolor.gsfc.nasa.gov>).

Very little bycatch of VME indicator taxa has been recorded in the 2021-2025 exploratory fishing campaigns. An example of VMEs recorded are shown in Table 6 for 2021. VME move-on rules were not triggered at any time (CMM 03-2025). When physical samples were brought up on the line, observers collected representative living samples and were kept frozen until *Tronio* returned to port. Samples were then photographed and sent to museum specialists for identification and curation.

Table 6: Example VME indicator taxa bycatch recorded by scientific observers in 2021.

Line	VME Species Code	VME Group name	Weight (kg)	Comments
1	CSS	Scleractinia	0.025	Dead fragment
3	AJZ	Alcyonacea	0.05	
6	AQZ	Antipatharia	0.17	
5	CSS	Scleractinia	0.05	Dead fragment
12	CSS	Scleractinia	0.2	Dead fragment
12	GGW	Gorgoniidae	0.05	

18	GGW	Gorgoniidae	0.05	
18	CSS	Scleractinia	1.3	Dead fragment
21	CSS	Scleractinia	0.05	Dead fragment
23	CSS	Scleractinia	0.05	Broken when coming up to the roller – estimated weight.

Figure 14 shows locations where video footage of the seabed was captured in 2021-2025. Camera video footage of the seabed supports the notion of potentially low VME abundance in the GVFZ Research Blocks. Seabed habitats fished in RB_A are made up of cobble, possibly exposed bedrock, and sand. Few invertebrates are seen on rock surfaces (Figure 1). Larger lithodid crabs are often seen. A notable change in habitat is found in RB-B where sea pens (Pennatulacea) are observed for the first time (Figure 15). In the water column, chaetognaths and caridean shrimps can be observed swimming through the image field.

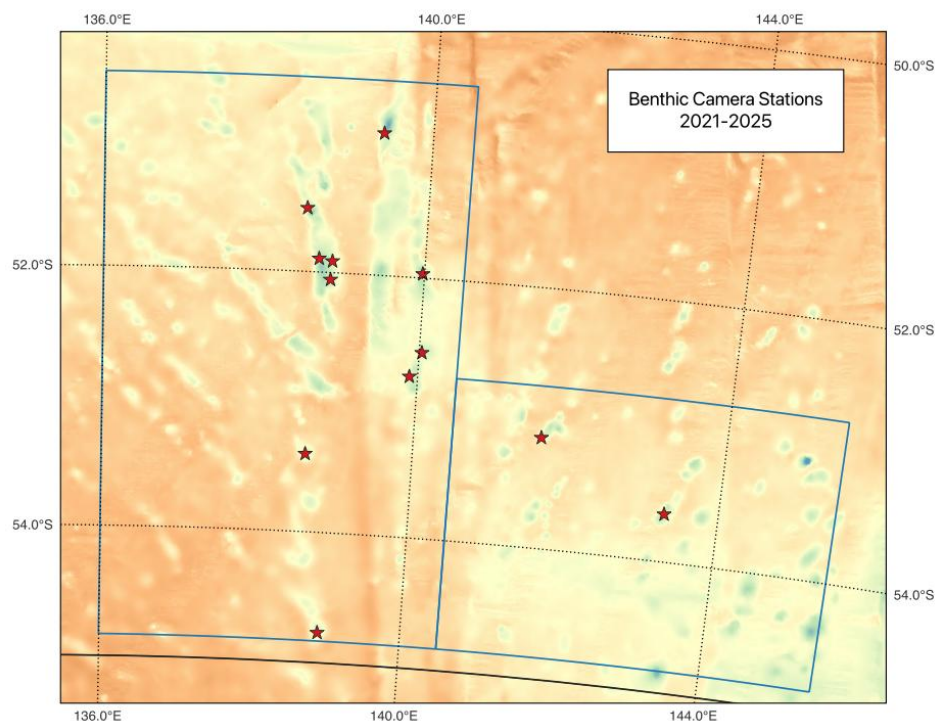


Figure 14: Benthic camera video stations in GVFZ 2021 - 2025 fishing seasons.

Seabed images tend to verify results of VME predictive modelling conducted by others in recent years, where modelling results indicate that the seamounts of the GVFZ RB may have relatively low habitat suitability for VME indicator species. Anderson et al. (2016) found habitat suitability indices of between <0.2-0.4 (range is 0-1) for the GVFZ RB; Tittensor et al. (2009) found decreasing habitat suitability with increasing seamount summit depth (0.6 at 500m depth to near zero probability at 1500m depth); and Davies and Guinotte (2011) predicted zero suitability in a binary model. Most recently, ensemble predictive models based on past modelling and new data were presented to SPRFMO Scientific Committee in 2020 by Australia and New Zealand, which covered the GVFZ RB (SC8-DW07 rev 1). Areas in the GVFZ appear to have relatively low habitat suitability in all VME indicator groups tested. However, the study also notes that environmental data is lacking in the

GVFZ area, suggesting lower certainty in the predicted relationship between species occurrence and environmental predictor.

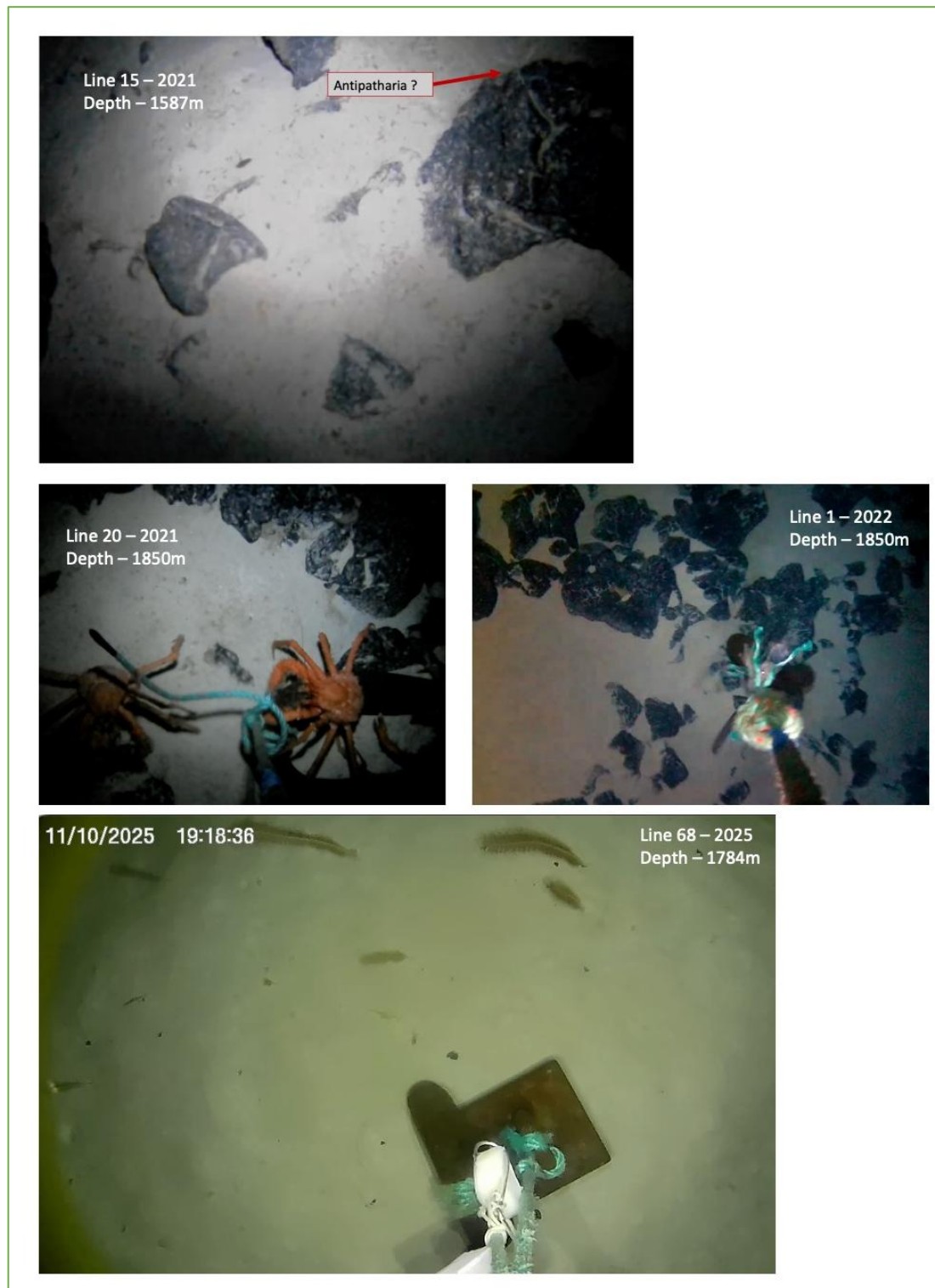


Figure 15: Screenshots of video imagery taken at four fished locations in the GVFZ. Depths of lines shown are the average of start and end line setting depths. The bottom image is from RB-B showing firm sand habitat and sea pens.

6 Ecological Risk Assessment on Non-target Bycatch

This section is aimed at providing the SPRFMO Scientific Committee (SC) sufficient knowledge to make informed recommendations to the Commission, as required under CMM 13-2024 paragraph 5.

6.1 Methods

The SPRFMO Bottom Fishery Impact Assessment Standard (BFIAS, 2019) sets out the hierarchical methodology for identifying Significant Adverse Impacts (SAI) and conducting an ecological risk assessment for effects of fishing (Figure 16). The decision tree is dependent on both the level of information/analysis available as well as the level of unmitigated and mitigated residual risk.

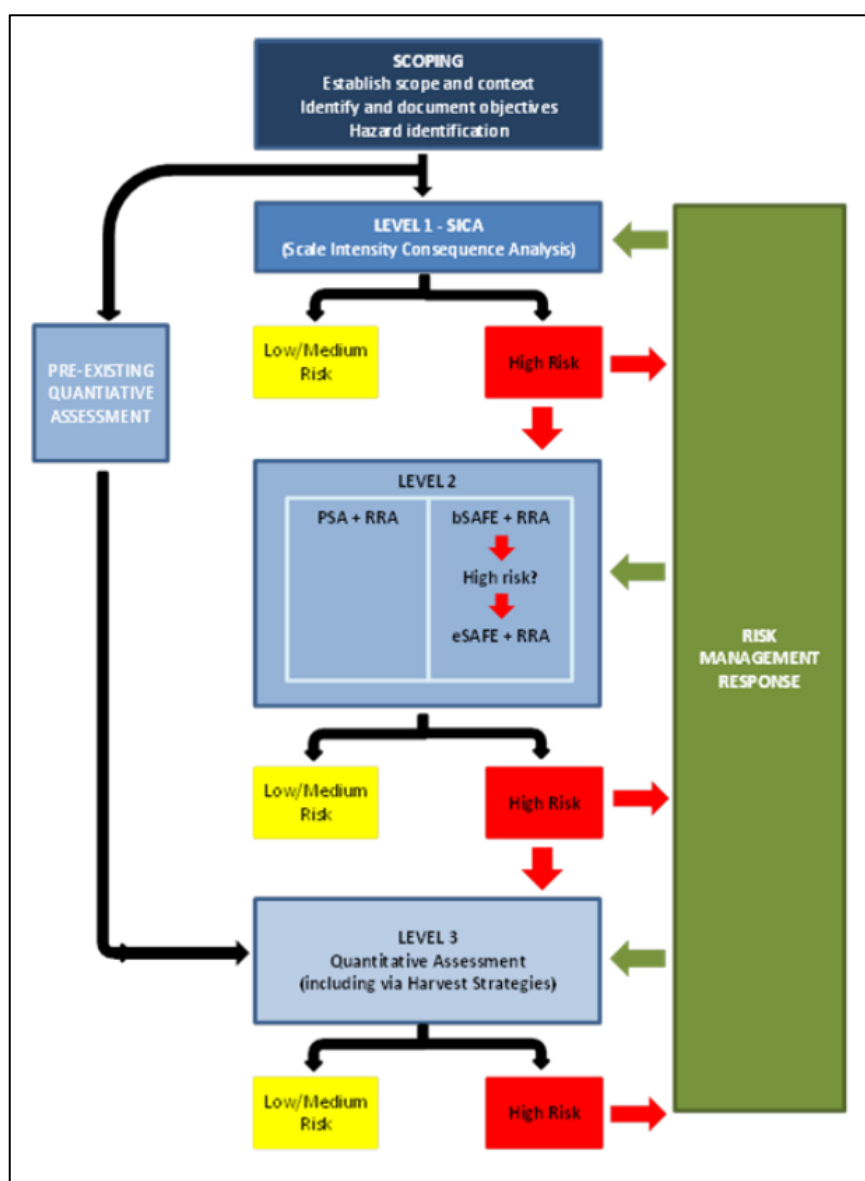


Figure 16: Hierarchical methodology for the Ecological Risk Assessment as set out in the SPRFMO BFIAS.

Scoping. Scope of the current assessment has been described in detail in the previous Sections 3, 4 and 5.

As this is an exploratory fishery in an area not well understood in terms of species presences or abundances, our assessment is limited largely to a Level 1 - SICA (Scale Intensity Consequence Analysis) approach. A qualitative assessment is done incorporating key characteristics of the bycatch species' 'likeliness' and 'consequence' of interactions with demersal longline fishing for toothfish in the GVFZ.

Our SICA process is shown schematically in Figure 17. Data on spatial overlap and catchability is evaluated and given qualitative assignments of 'Low', 'Med', 'High' and combined to form overall risk. Risk Management Response is applied through mitigation, and an RRA (Residual Risk Analysis) was done. Species' IUCN status is used to inform decisions on triggers and actions to be taken for managing risk. Finally, there is a feed-back process for using new knowledge gained to reduce risk through enhanced mitigation.

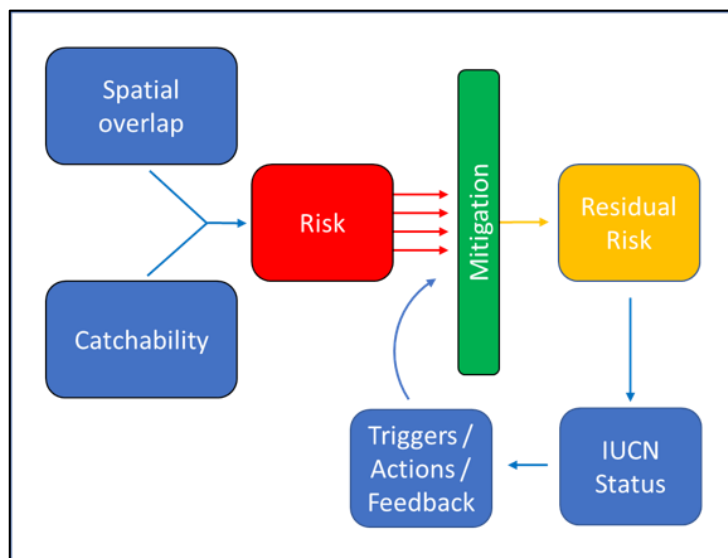


Figure 17: SICA assessment process.

Catchability is considered in the risk assessment. Assuming no mitigation, we assess if the species is susceptible to being caught during demersal longline fishing operations. For seabirds, size, diving behaviour, and other characteristics were considered as gathered from various sources. For non-seabirds, vertical distribution of the species in the water column (either benthic or pelagic) is considered in a relative way; for example, given that the longline is associated with benthic/demersal habitats for long periods (12-16hrs soak time) compared to time spent in the water column during setting and hauling (~6 hrs), higher catchability was applied to benthic/demersal species compared to pelagic species based on longer or shorter exposure times to hooks/gear.

The species' IUCN conservation status is considered in the assessment, acting as a modifier to the above. A more conservative approach to species risk with critical conservation status is taken.

Although seasonality may affect the actual species occurrence at the time of expected fishing in the GVFZ area, an assumption was made that likelihood of impact would be the same in the region despite seasonality, thereby applying the most precautionary assessment.

6.2 Data sources

Data on species observations have been accumulated from the 2021 - 2025 GVFZ fishing campaigns. Additional known and predicted distribution data were gathered from multiple validated online and published sources. Data for taxonomic groups and species were cross validated between multiple sources. Online data sources include:

- OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information Database). OBIS is an open-access web-distributed global atlas of marine biodiversity and biogeographic database, containing georeferenced species occurrence and associated metadata (Grassle, 2000).
- IUCN (www.iucnredlist.org) was used to gather species distribution data using published mapped spatial data (downloaded shape files) and online Threatened Species lists.
- BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org) holds the IUCN distribution shape files and Threatened Species lists for birds.
- Biogeographic Atlas of the Southern Ocean (De Broyer and Koubbi (eds), 2014). A published atlas of Southern Ocean marine species.
- FishBase (www.fishbase.org). A global species database of fish species and mapped predicted distributions via www.aquamaps.org
- Rays of the World (Last et al., 2016)
- Sharks and Rays of Australia (Last and Stevens, 2009)
- Fishes of the Southern Ocean (Gon and Heemstra, 1990)
- Expert opinion from various institutions (SAERI, JNCC, University of St Andrews, Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department)

Species predicted distributions were compared to the fishing area of the GVFZ RB, and a qualitative assessment of likely occurrence overlap was assigned. Qualitative assessment was made on the basis of 1) species observed occurrence in the GVFZ RB region (OBIS data), 2) the assumed distribution (e.g. IUCN) over the GVFZ RB region or if it is at the edge of the assumed range and 3) prediction in adjacent areas of similar depth if not observed in the GVFZ RB. These are calibrated against observations made during 2021-2025 fishing campaigns.

6.3 Non-target fish

Summary Risk

Taxa Group	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk
Macrouridae, Moridae,	High	High	High
Other Gadiformes	Medium	Medium	Medium

Other Teleosts	Low or unknown	Low or unknown	Low or unknown
Mitigation			
Precautionary bycatch limit Low number of lines proposed Lines will be set at least 3nm apart from each other, and not set at previous locations.			
2021-2025 survey data The level of non-target fish bycatch has been very low during the last 2 fishing campaigns. Macrourids are the most frequently caught, followed by Moridae, and both are caught below trigger levels. Further studies into Macrourids are underway to better understand patterns and impacts from fishing.			
Residual risk after mitigation			
Low			

General assessment

In the 2021 - 2025 exploratory fishing campaigns, four species of Macrourids, 1 Morid, and two other Gadoid species were caught frequently caught (Section 5.2.1, Table 4). Macrourid catch was highest, but did not exceed trigger levels. Other species were caught in very low amounts.

A large inventory of fish species observed on the GCFZ RB was produced from OBIS data. A total of 37 Families and 115 species/putative species have been recorded in area searched in OBIS. However, the records located within the proposed research block were very few, totalling 7 records including 4 Myctophidae, 1 Gobiidae, and 2 samples of *Dissostichus eleginoides*. Other records for the wide region were predominately small pelagic species.

Sources of risk

Risk to fish bycatch comes from the reduced ability of the population to recover from being captured on hooks. Demersal fish species would be at highest risk. Pelagic species are at risk during line setting and hauling, however this risk is limited due to the line being suspended in the water column for brief periods of time (10s of minutes, less than 1 hour). Fish species also must be large enough to be caught on the hook, which means there is a natural size selection of species that can be caught.

Mitigation

CMM 14e-2024 21(k) established a bycatch limit and move-on rule for Macrourus species, stating:

If the by-catch of Macrourus spp. reaches 150 kg or exceeds 16% of the catch of toothfish in any one haul or set, the vessel will move-on to another location at least 5nm distant.

This mitigation measure will remain in place. Although catch of other bycatch species caught previously were well below this trigger level, bycatch will be reviewed annually by EU scientists to monitor cumulative impact.

Consequences to populations

After evaluation of spatial overlap, catchability and mitigation, it is considered that the consequences to the non-target fish populations are low with a high likelihood of recovery over short time frames.

After the third year of the previous exploratory fishing program, fisheries data for Macrourids has been collected for determining possible impacts on the population from fishing.

6.4 Chondrichthyans

SPRFMO SC6-DW08 Risk Assessment for Chondrichthyans

In this assessment for sharks and skates, the risk assessment completed in SC6-DW08 is also considered here in a comparative way. That is to say, the qualitative assessments assigned in this study use some similar concepts as the quantitatively scored, integrated assessment in SC6-DW08 using the PSA and SAFE methods, and therefore any direct use of that assessment here might be confounding.

SC6-DW08 notes that there are both “false positives” and “false negatives” that result in part, from lack of real- world interaction with fishing gears and lack of overall vessel reporting of interactions respectively. In this sense, the assessment for sharks and skates in this study (and indeed all groups assessed here) is made in consideration of possible interactions using a specific gear type (demersal longline) with known bycatch profiles based on other toothfish fisheries, but from a region (GVFZ RB) where there is little available historic longline fishing knowledge.

Summary Risk

Taxa group	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk
Skates	Medium	High	Low
Sharks	Medium	High	Medium
Mitigation			
Precautionary bycatch limit Skates are able to be released alive Caveat - Risk assessments are possibly over-precautionary due to limited data.			
2021-2025 survey data No elasmobranchs have been caught over the last 2 fishing campaigns, despite spatial overlap and catchability. Therefore, using the current fishing methods and fishing rates, risk is thought to be low for Chondrichthyans overall.			
Residual risk after mitigation			
Low			

General assessment

No skates or sharks were caught in the 2021-2025 exploratory fishing campaigns. Therefore, despite intrinsic susceptibility to fishing impacts (i.e. life history and ecology), it is felt the risk to skate and shark populations are highly likely to be low in this area. Current mitigations will remain in place for the 2027-29 campaign as a precaution.

There are no records in OBIS of skate catch in the GVFZ RB region. Additionally, there are no skate species with predicted distributions in the region (Last et al., 2016). A total of 6 shark species were found to have possible distributions over the proposed fished area of the GVFZ RB (Appendix 2). A mix of demersal and pelagic species are identified. Catchability of demersal species were considered to

be 'high' whilst pelagic species were considered 'medium' catchability given the shorter time the line is suspended in the water column compared to time on the seabed.

Specific at-risk species

Of the shark species potentially encountered on the GVFZ RB, three are listed as 'VU – Vulnerable', one species as 'NT – Near Threatened', and 2 as 'DD – Data Deficient'. Skate species are not determined.

Included in the compiled list of species potentially encountered in the GVFZ is one CMM 02-2026 (Data standards) Annex 14 species; *Lamna nasus* (Porbeagle shark).

Sources of risk

Risk to skates and sharks comes from the reduced ability of the population to recover from being captured on hooks. Demersal species are at highest risk. Pelagic species are at risk during line setting and hauling, however this risk is limited by the fact that the line is suspended in the water column for brief periods of time (10s of minutes, less than 1 hour).

Mitigation

Skates can often be recovered from the line and released alive, and this will be done in all cases where skates are likely to survive release. In the case of sharks, it is not likely that any will be in such condition to be released alive, particularly the larger species (e.g. some Somniosidae, Lamnidae, Cetorhinidae), however every attempt will be made to release shark species alive where it makes practical sense and there is no risk to crew.

Primary mitigation for reducing risk to chondrichthyans is through precautionary bycatch limits. It is also likely that risk assessments here are over-precautionary, given paucity of available data for most chondrichthyans in SPRFMO and, particularly for demersal longline fishing in the region of the GVFZ RB.

Full biological information will be captured from retained individuals.

Move-on rule

CMM 14e-2024 established a bycatch limit and move-on rule for chondrichthyans species, stating;

If more than 4 individuals of any of the following families Somniosidae, Lamnidae, Cetorhinidae, Alopiidae are caught or if more than 2 individuals of any one of these families of sharks are caught in one haul or set, the vessel shall move on for the duration of the trip, and a next line shall not be set closer than 5 nm from the centre of the preceding line;

As in the previous campaigns, if the retained skate by-catch exceeds 5% of the toothfish catch or reaches a maximum of 100 kg in any one haul or set, the vessel will move-on to another location at least 5 nm distant.

Consequences to populations

After evaluation of spatial overlap, catchability and mitigation, and considering the lack of skate and shark bycatch in the last 2 campaigns, it is considered that the consequences to the skate and shark populations are low with a high likelihood of recovery over medium time frames.

6.5 Seabirds

Summary Risk

Taxa Group	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk of mortality
Albatrosses	High	High	High
Fulmars	Low	High	High
Petrels	High	Medium	High
Penguins, Prions	Low	Low	Low
Mitigation			
Meets CMM-09-2026 Exceed CMM-09-2026; use of 2 x tori lines Meets paragraphs 24 of CMM 14e-2024 (offal discard management) Vessel light management at night Proposed fishing time of year avoids overlap with Short-tailed Shearwater breeding in Candidate IBA 2021-2025 survey data No incidental seabird mortality has been recorded over the last 2 fishing campaigns, despite spatial overlap and catchability of numerous species observed in large numbers from the vessel. Therefore, using the current fishing methods, fishing rates and fishing timing, risk is thought to be low for seabirds overall. As the pre-mitigation risks remain high, and as some IUCN ‘Vulnerable’ and ‘Endangered’ birds are observed, current mitigations will remain in place for the 2027-29 campaign. Furthermore, observations may be seasonally variable such that observed species and numbers of individuals may vary in future driven by seasonal and/or shorter term met-ocean variability.			
Residual risk after mitigation			
Low			

General assessment

Up to 14 different species of seabird have been recorded in 2021-25, however there is likely some misidentification or genus level grouping of identification due to variable levels of scientific observer experience. Of note is the occurrence of IUCN ‘Endangered’ species *Thalassarche chrysostoma* (Grey-headed albatross) and *Phoebastria fusca* (Sooty albatross), albeit observed rarely and in very low numbers, and ‘Vulnerable’ species *Procellaria aequinoctialis* (White-chinned petrel) observed very low numbers, and *Diomedea exulans* (Wandering albatross) commonly observed in relatively high numbers.

A total of 57 seabird species were identified as overlapping with the GVFZ to varying degrees in the OBIS record (Appendix 3). There is a candidate Important Bird Area (cIBA) in the region the GVFZ research block (Indian Ocean, Antarctic and Southern 52 – Marine, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/indian-ocean-antarctic-and-southern-52--marine-iba-high-seas>), proposed on the basis of suggested breeding assemblage between November – April. The depth range within the cIBA ranges from 3354 to 4181m depth.

Sources of risk

Seabirds interact with deep-set longline vessels in a number of ways. At the surface, birds are attracted to baited hooks during line setting at the stern of the vessel, where some species may be caught at the surface only (e.g. most albatrosses) or underwater if the species is able to dive and chase baited hooks while descending (e.g. white chinned petrels). During line hauling, birds are attracted to the starboard side of the vessel nearest the hauling bay with the risk again being caught by hooks while attempting to feed on bait. At-risk seabirds are therefore those larger seabirds that are able to feed on squid and herring bait.

Birds striking the vessel itself, so called light-strike, may be a risk particularly at night when vessel lights can attract seabirds from a great distance. This would be a risk primarily to smaller birds or juveniles rather than larger adult albatross species, storm petrels and prions. Although this is not necessarily bycatch, it is related to ship fishing operations.

Mitigation

Taking note of CMM 09-2026, and particularly the specifications in Annex 1, the *FV Tronio* is able to comply fully with all aspects. The bird mitigation devices themselves are detailed below. Officers and crew in collaboration with onboard Compliance officers and Scientific Observers have refined some practical aspects of the devices to best suit the vessel. Figure 18 details the streamer line system deployed during each setting as in place on the vessel since 2017, and which it still uses currently. Figure 19 and Figure 20 show two types of towed devices. The device as shown in Figure 20 shows some of the latest improvements. Note that CCAMLR specifies a single Bird Scaring line, whereas the *Tronio* deploys a Double BSL.

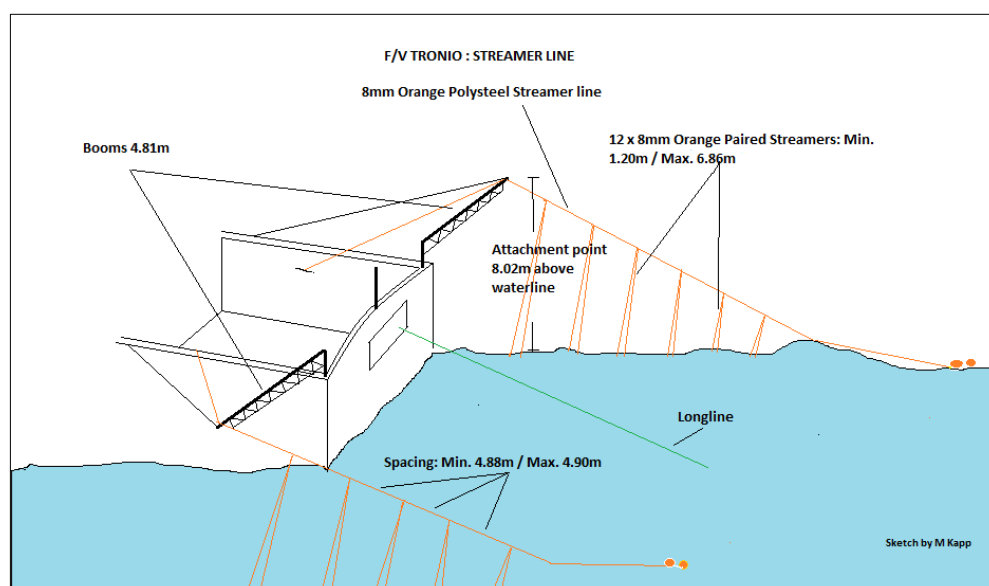


Figure 18: Streamer line alignment during setting.



Figure 19: Towed device option 1



Figure 20: Towed device option 2, providing additional drag

Seabird interactions during hauling are mitigated against in a number of ways. Firstly, the vessel always deploys a Bird Exclusion Device (BED) around the hauling bay to deter any seabird interaction with the line as shown in Figure 21.

Discard management will meet paragraph 24 of CMM 14e-2024, specifically:

- a) no dumping of offal while lines are being set or hauled,
- b) any offal or discards shall be macerated prior to discarding.
- c) discarding shall take place only at the end of haul or while steaming; and no biological material shall be discarded for at least 30 minutes before the start of any set or during any set, and
- d) discarding will only take place from the opposite side to the hauling position.

The *FV Tronio* has the ability to meet CCAMLR CM 26-01 (2022), which requires offal/discard storage and prohibits dumping of this south of 60°S.

Paragraph 6 of CCAMLR CM 25-02 (2024) requires hook removal from by-catch and discard species and this is standard practice on the vessel.



Figure 21: FV Tronio bird exclusion device (BED) around the hauling bay.

Management of light emission from vessel at night will be done to avoid vessel-strike, reducing the use of light to the minimum required for safety reasons.

SPRFMO CMM 09-2026 sets a trigger level of 0.01 birds/1000 hooks before additional mitigation measures must be made. In the instance of exceeding this limit, an evaluation of mitigation measures will be made, including ensuring correct deployment of mitigation, and strengthening mitigation where possible (e.g. further reducing night hours of setting).

Consequences to populations

After evaluation of spatial overlap, catchability and mitigation, it is considered that the consequences to the seabird populations are very low with a high likelihood of recovery over short time frames considering there has been no incidental mortality in 2021-25 using the current mitigations.

6.6 Marine mammals

Summary Risk

Taxa Group	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk
Whales	High	Low	Low
Dolphins	High	Low	Low
Otariids	High	Low	Low
Phocids	High	Medium	Medium
Mitigation			
Meets paragraphs 24 of CMM 14e-2024 (offal discard management) Avoidance of areas of visible mammal activity Elephant seals may have limited distribution in the GVFZ RB during proposed fishing period. Fishing planned for November - likely low Elephant seal encounters 2021-2025 survey data No marine mammals have been caught or observed during the 2021-2025 fishing campaigns. Whales, dolphins, and otariids would typically be highly conspicuous if present in the area, such that lack of observed individuals is likely to be a true representation of absence. Phocids (Elephant seals) however, are likely to be much less apparent if in the area, and so there remains the possibility of Phocids being in the area but undetected. Furthermore, observations may be seasonally variable such that future mammal observations may vary depending on seasonal and/or shorter term met-ocean variability. Future fishing campaigns are likely to be in the same time of year, meaning that there remains a low likelihood of encountering marine mammals.			
Residual risk after mitigation			
Low			

General assessment

No mammals were caught or observed during 2021 - 2025 exploratory fishing campaigns in the GVFZ.

A total of 30 marine mammals were identified as overlapping with the GVFZ RB to varying degrees (Appendix 4).

The majority of whale species have a high degree of potential overlap with the GVFZ RB region. Whales are likely to be at risk at or near the surface during setting or hauling, where entanglement would likely result in injury or drowning. Catchability of whales is thought to be very low and varies with species (Werner et al., 2015). Orcas and Sperm whales have a very high degree of association with toothfish longline vessels, where interactions are more damaging economically to the vessel in terms of lost or damaged gear and depredation of catch off the line. Damage to individuals may occur, with mortalities low to near-zero. Similarly, dolphin mortalities are thought to be very rare among toothfish longline vessels.

Otariid seals have been associated with toothfish longline vessels and have been observed to depredate on catch. Mortalities of fur seal and sea lions in relation to toothfish fishing appear to be very rare.

Specific at-risk species

Southern Elephant (*Mirounga leonina*) seals may be at risk to incidental mortality, as has been found in other regions. Van Den Hoff, Kilpatrick and Welsford (2017) summarise recent and historic reports of Elephant seal bycatch. These reports include video evidence of interactions with caught toothfish on the seabed as well as reports made by Scientific Observers of Elephant seal mortalities by drowning related to longline fishing.

Elephant seals can dive for up to 2h to depths over 1500m and bottom times of up to 15mins at deep depths. Males tend to dive deeper (down to ~2000m) compared to females (~800m) (Prof. Mike Fedak pers. com). Elephant seals are known to travel thousands of kilometres on 10-month long foraging trips (Hindell et al., 2016). The closest colony to the GVFZ is on Macquarie Island. IUCN distribution data suggest overlap with the GVFZ RB. Elephant seal tracking data (Fabien et al., 2018) suggest that elephant seals may primarily travel south from Macquarie Island. However, elephant seals have been tracked across GVFZ RB on a number of occasions with some individuals spending some time in the area rather than simply transiting through (Figure 22).

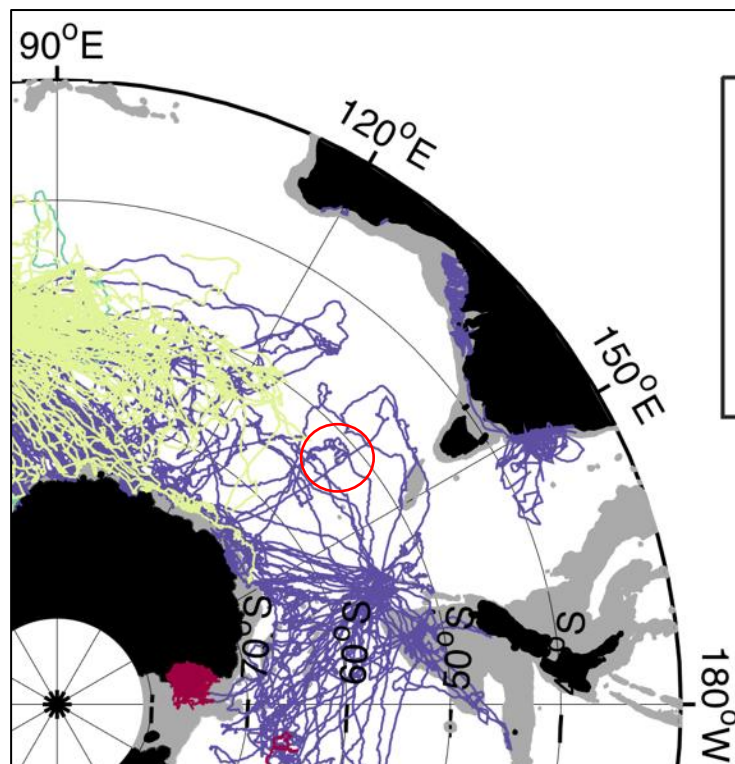


Figure 22: Elephant seal tracking data from Fabien et al. (2018), cropped to focus on the GVFZ RB (red circle). Dataset is MEOP-CTD SH dataset: 387893 profiles, 122 deployments, 891 tags.

IUCN listing for all seals are “LC – Least Concern”. Among whale species Fin, Sei, and Blue whales are listed as “EN – Endangered”. Sperm whales are listed as “VU – Vulnerable”, 5 species listed as “LC – Least Concern” or less, and 12 species listed as “DD – Data Deficient”. Dolphins are listed as either “LC- Least Concern” (4), or “DD- Data deficient” (3).

Sources of risk

Risk to mammals comes from entanglement in the longline leading to drowning. If caught, it is highly unlikely that the animal can be recovered and set free. However, entanglement is very rare among all groups.

Mitigation

Few mitigation measures have been recommended to avoid marine mammal by-catch. In the case of Orcas and Sperm whales, the vessel will naturally aim to avoid interactions due to depredation behaviour of toothfish, characteristic of these species. Seasonal avoidance has been recommended for depredation mitigation and may also be effective for reducing by-catch among other species. Pre-setting and hauling assessments of mammal abundance in the vicinity will be done, and judgement will be made on a case-by-case basis as to whether vessel avoidance is necessary.

In the case of Elephant seals, there have been no effective mitigation measures recommended for avoiding elephant seal by-catch due in part, to their deep and long-duration diving capabilities. Seasonal avoidance is suggested, where fishing could be conducted in September-November when adult seals are primarily ashore (Van den Hoff et al., 2017).

Any seal or whale by-catch will trigger a re-evaluation of fishing strategy.

In the very unlikely case of a whale entanglement and possible mortality as a result, prior to all subsequent lines being hauled a one-hour observation period will be conducted to ensure no whales are present.

Consequences to populations

After evaluation of spatial overlap, catchability, mitigation, and lack of observations during fishing campaigns, it is considered that the consequences to the mammal populations are low with a high likelihood of recovery over medium time frames.

6.7 VME

Summary Risk

Taxa Group	Spatial overlap	Catchability	Risk
All VME indicator taxa	Medium	High (damaged on seabed)	Medium
Mitigation			
Limited impact of longline footprint 3nm separation between lines Benthic camera observations suggest few VMEs Observations partly validate low model prediction of VME habitat in the area Spatial overlap of line setting in subsequent years will be dependent on the previous year's review, with the aim of eliminating cumulative effects			
2021-2025 survey data Very little VME has been caught on the line and brought to the surface. This seems to align with the very infrequent observations of VME species on seabed video images. The majority of seabed imagery has been collected in RB-A. Seabed video captures in RB-B indicates a somewhat different habitat at one location, where sea pens are observed for the first time. This may			

indicate a change in habitat in that area, or indicate that some habitats in RB-A have yet to be observed. A such, fishing strategy will not be changed in 2027-29 and the use of seabed video cameras will continue.

Residual risk after mitigation

Low

General assessment

Very small amounts of VME indicator taxa have been brought up on lines during past exploratory fishing in the GVFZ (Section 5.2.5), both in terms of numbers of individuals and weights captured. Weights were very low and did not meet any trigger levels (CMM 03-2025 paragraph 28). Seabed video in RB-B indicate at one location, the presence of sea pens, suggesting either a change in habitat in the area, or incomplete understanding of habitat distribution throughout the area.

OBIS data were used to compile an inventory of possible VME species that will be encountered in the GVFZ RB. Very few records were found, with a total of 19 benthic invertebrate species (and putative species) recorded. There were only four records of benthic species within the GVFZ RB, and of these, these were found at depths greater than 2500m depth. There have been VME species encountered in the area (L. Georgeson pers. com), and these records have been requested from the Australian authorities.

The small amount of VME recovered from lines as well as seabed images collected during the 2021-2025 exploratory fishing campaigns tend to verify results of VME predictive modelling conducted by others in recent years, where modelling results indicate that the seamounts of the GVFZ RB may have relatively low habitat suitability for VME indicator species. Anderson et al. (2016) found habitat suitability indices of between <0.2-0.4 (range is 0-1) for the GVFZ RB; Tittensor et al. (2009) found decreasing habitat suitability with increasing seamount summit depth (0.6 at 500m depth to near zero probability at 1500m depth); and Davies and Guinotte (2011) predicted zero suitability in a binary model. Most recently, ensemble predictive models based on past modelling and new data were presented to SPRFMO Scientific Committee in 2020 by Australia and New Zealand, which covered the GVFZ RB (SC8-DW07 rev 1). Areas in the GVFZ appear to have relatively low habitat suitability in all VME indicator groups tested. However, the study also notes that environmental data is lacking for the GVFZ area, suggesting lower certainty in the predicted relationship between species occurrence and environmental predictor.

Specific at-risk species

Many studies (e.g. Parker et al., 2009) have identified certain invertebrate groups (Orders, Families) that are either sensitive to demersal longline fishing or are indicators of sensitive habitats. Specific species have not been identified as being particularly at-risk, but broadly include those species that form hard structures or frameworks, and with slow recovery potential.

Sources of risk

It should be prudently assumed that VME indicator species will be impacted by demersal longline fishing through mechanical impact from anchors, weights, hooks, and the line but not necessarily by detecting by organisms being brought up on the line. Impact on VMEs from trawl fisheries is

mitigated by triggering move-on rules based on catch weights. Challenges in prescribing similar VME management tools for demersal longline fisheries have been identified, primarily related to the lack of comparative longline-derived VME catch and effort data, and the likely low detection rate of VME indicator species when using demersal longline fishing gear.

The footprint of a demersal longline is thought to be relatively low (BFIA SWG-10-DW-01A). This combined with the low number of lines being set across a large spatial extent will ensure low local impact as well as ensure short-term recoverability of impacted habitat. In addition, it is proposed that each line set will be at least 3nm apart (measured from the mid-point of each line). In addition, lines set positions in subsequent years will not overlap previous year line setting positions depending on an annual review of VME indicator species catch and evidence from seabed video monitoring. This will ensure that there are no risks of cumulative impacts on VME, satisfying paragraph 22 of CMM 03-2025.

Mitigation

The potential impact of the longline is considered to be low (BFIA SWG-10-DW-01A). The Spanish system minimizes contact between the main line and seabed due to its positive buoyancy. Contact may be increased by other factors such as longitudinal movement of the main line over the seabed during hauling, or lateral (sweeping) movements of the main line and hooks during hauling. Movement of the fishing gear may occur in the presence of strong currents.

According to Sharp et al. (2009) and Welsford et al. (2014), longline movement on the seabed occurs mainly during hauling. Studies using video cameras attached to the gear show that there is lateral movement of the line over the seabed during the first phase of hauling where there is an inverse relationship between gear depth and lateral movement of the mainline and the hooks. These studies have been carried out on autoline fishing systems where the entire line lies on the seabed. In the case of Spanish longlines, both hauling and main line have positive buoyancy: only the anchor (sometimes with additional chain or 50kg weights) and weights on the line (6 kg) joined to the hauling line are in direct contact with the seabed (although this may be unlikely at all times). Thus, there may be lateral movement of the gear during hauling, but its impact is expected to be smaller compared to for instance autoline systems. Recent work in the Falkland Islands corroborates the notion of limited seabed impact by seabed longline fishing gear, where initial estimates of seabed contact were in the order of 10s -100s of meters in the immediate vicinity of the longline (Brewin et al., 2020).

The footprint for the Spanish longline system needs a more nuanced evaluation since, the gear having positive buoyancy, most of the gear does not touch the sea bottom. The parts of the gear that will have a direct impact on the bottom are:

1. The weights used as ballast.
2. The anchors and chains used for anchoring both ends of the gear.

The impact of these two parts on the seabed is due to crushing on impact at the time of setting, and also potentially being dragged limited distances along seabed at the time of hauling. Movement of these while on the seabed is considered to be very limited.

3. Hooks and lines should hang above the seabed with mostly only drop weights coming in contact with the seabed. However, in practice hooks and lines also may come in contact with the seabed as evidenced from invertebrates often being caught on lines and/or hooks. This may be due to variable tensioning on the line, uneven topography, or currents causing drag on the fishing gear. As such,

although not likely to be the case 100% of the time, a precautionary assumption would be that the entire longline will at some point, come in contact to the seabed during setting, fishing, and hauling periods.

The officers and crew of *FV Tronio* have broad experience working in the CCAMLR Convention Area where different CMs are in place regarding VME potential encounters (CCAMLR, CMs 22-06 and 22-07).

CMM 03-2025 para 28 requires vessels to cease bottom fishing activities within one nautical mile of any location where evidence of a VME is encountered in the course of fishing activities, and to report the encounter, so that appropriate conservation measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site. However, no move-on rule is applicable to the current proposed fishing plan because all lines will be set at minimum 3nm apart (measured from the mid-point of the line) as part of the Fisheries Operation Plan.

Consequences to populations

After evaluation of spatial overlap, catchability, mitigation, and data collected in 2021-2025 it is considered that the consequences to the VME populations are low with a high likelihood of recovery over medium time frames, and over small spatial scales.

6.8 Additional impact of longline fishing activity

Gear Loss

Gear loss or parts of it is very infrequent. We estimate that 1% to 2% of the total number of hooks may be lost, but most are loose hooks without any line, hence they may have limited impact on benthic organisms.

Line breakage can occur during hauling, but typically does not result in gear loss because the line can be hauled from either end of the longline. In 2021, there were 6 line breakages during hauling out of 27 lines (SFL 2022), and in 2022, there were 2 out of 32 lines broken during hauling (SFL 2023). All gear was recovered. No lines or sections thereof were lost in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Mitigation for line breakage can be done in places with a higher risk of line breakage or loss (e.g. ice, strong currents and tides), where the line set is usually shorter and the number of lines set at any one time is also smaller, therefore limiting gear loss. The occasions in which gear is lost (primarily in ice-bound areas) are due to loss of the main buoy with radio beacon. Although challenging, in those instances recovery of lost lines has been achieved through a grapnel system to try and recover all or part of the line.

Impact on other relevant fisheries

There are two Australian Patagonian Toothfish fisheries that are prosecuted in their territories such as the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery and the Macquarie Island fishery of which the latter is the nearest: the Heard and McDonald Island EEZ is some 2066+nm to the West of the GVFZ RB, whereas the Macquarie Island EEZ is some 700nm to the East GVFZ RB. The Macquarie Island Patagonian Toothfish fishery dates back to the mid 1990s and has been a certified MSC fishery since 2012 (<https://fisheries.msc.org/en/fisheries/macquarie-island-mi-toothfish/@@view>). The annual

TAC for this fishery has up until the 2018/19 season been 450t (<http://www.afma.gov.au/fisheries/macquarie-island-fishery/>), but has since been increased to 555t (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L00286>) for the years 2020/21 and 2021/22 and 635t for the years 2022/23 and 2023/24. Given the distances involved between the GVFZ RB and the two nearest regulated toothfish fisheries mentioned it is unlikely that there will be impact on the toothfish stocks in either the Heard Island and McDonald Islands Fishery and the Macquarie Island fishery fisheries. To date, 11 tagged fish originally tagged in the Macquarie fishery have been recovered in the GVFZ 2021-2025 campaigns, suggesting at least some connectivity between the two regions. Although other tagging studies have also shown such occasional long distances migration, the majority of migration in other *D. eleginoides* fisheries suggest this to be an exception to the rule, with migration limited to less than 50km in the Falklands region (Brown et al., 2013), and most fish less than 20km in the South Georgia region (Marlow et al., 2003). The proposed collection of DNA and geochemical samples in the present study may help establish whether any and what regional connectivity between populations exists.

Trophic impact

Toothfish are a higher trophic level predator, and the only likely natural predators are elephant seals and sperm whales (reviewed in Collins et al., 2010; Hanchet et al., 2015). Evidence shows that Elephant seals and Sperm whales will prey on toothfish (Slip, 1995; Collins et al., 2010; Hanchet et al., 2015). However, dependence on toothfish in their diet is likely to be low. Given the low potential extraction of toothfish in this proposed survey, there is low likelihood of any impacts on dependent or related species.

7 Data Collection Plan

For the Fisheries Operation Plan period, the data collection referred to below are proposed for collection in addition to other elements that the Scientific Committee might develop in accordance with paragraph 8 of CMM 13-2024.

The *FV Tronio* will fulfil the data to be collected detailed in CMM 02-2026, and specifically those included in Annex 3 (Standard for Bottom long lining fishing activity data) and a number of sections from Annex 7 (Standard for Observer Data):

Annex 7

Section A: Vessel & Observer Data to be Collected for Each Observer Trip

Section D: Catch & Effort Data to be Collected for Bottom Long Line Fishing Activity

Section E: Length-Frequency Data to Be Collected

Section F: Biological Sampling to be Conducted

Section G: Data to be Collected on Incidental Captures of seabirds, mammals, reptiles (turtles) and other species of concern

Section H: Detection of Fishing in Association with Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (where relevant for long lining)and

Section I: Data to be collected for all Tag Recoveries.

The *FV Tronio* will comply with SPRFMO data collection requirements regarding standardized seabird, and marine mammal observations and other data recordings and opportunistic observations.

Sufficient data will be collected with the aim of establishing baselines to build future monitoring and mitigation, as required under CMM 13-2024, and to assist the SC in providing recommendations to the Commission under the primary objective of CMM 03-2025 and CMM-03a-2026, as well as and Annex 7 of CMM 03-2025.

All set and hauled lines (for which detailed start/end position, depths, date/time of start/end setting and start/end hauling, duration, bait type, etc. is recorded) the catch will be assessed for the following (responsible parties in brackets):

1. Identification of the entire catch (target and by-catch species of fish, skates and rays, mammals, sharks, seabirds) by species to the lowest possible taxonomic level. (crew with assistance from Compliance Officer/National Observer).
2. Weight and number of all specimens of all species. (crew as directed by the Compliance Officer/Observer)
3. Representative random biological sampling of each fish species detailing size, weight (sub-samples), sex, maturity. A suggested representative sampling rate of catches could be 50 toothfish and any by-catch species per line (Compliance officer/Observer and National observer).
4. Tagging of toothfish at a rate of 5 fish per 1t per toothfish species. Acknowledging the MoU between SPRFMO and CCAMLR (SC-04-DW-01, "Collaboration between CCAMLR and SPRFMO in respect of Toothfish"), CCAMLR tags will be obtained and used during this exploratory period (Compliance officer/Observer and National observer). A minimum tag-overlap statistic of 60% will be achieved.
5. Collection of representative samples for ageing and other requirements of the target species. (Compliance officer/Observer and National observer)
6. Checking and confirmation of previously established Conversion Factors (to calculate green weight) already employed for Patagonian and Antarctic Toothfish.
7. Identification (to the lowest taxonomic level possible) and quantification of any potential VME species adopting the same protocols as those in place within CCAMLR waters. Unless provided with alternative material by the SPRFMO SC, the company proposes to use CCAMLR VME identification guides. The total benthos recovered will be registered for each line. VME indicator units for each line segment and the midpoint of each line segment on all lines, including zero catches, should be reported in the fine-scale data. (Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer)
8. Regular (daily) deployment of underwater camera with light system for recording of benthic habitat (Figure 23). This is to record data on:
 - a) VME identification and benthic habitat
 - b) Impact of the longline on the seabed
 - c) Any predator/prey interactions(Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer)

9. Collection of representative samples (frozen or DNA samples or both) of VME species for interested institutes, such as Museum Victoria. (Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer).
10. Collection of representative samples (frozen or DNA samples or both) of fish, skate and shark species for institutes such as Museum Victoria. (Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer).
11. Representative collection of tissue samples for DNA (SNP) analysis from Patagonian/Antarctic Toothfish, to allow for comparison with other Patagonian/Antarctic Toothfish stocks. (Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer).
12. Collection of whole Patagonian toothfish for taxonomic/morphological analysis.
13. Seabird/mammal observer tasks will be carried out. These include recording at each setting and hauling the species, number present, and interaction levels. If pinniped mortalities occur, whisker, teeth and DNA samples will be collected, if possible, the animal will be kept for future necropsy. (Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer)
14. Monitoring of light strikes. Daily checking of all deck spaces to monitor and log strikes, detailing species and condition. (Crew, Compliance Officer/Observer and National Observer)
15. Following paragraph Section G Annex 7 CMM02-2026, we will identify and photograph all captured shark species
16. If sharks and skates are alive, they will be returned to sea with least possible damage and if possible, hooks removed. Animals with low chance of survival will be retained for sampling, including representative DNA samples for ID.
17. Oceanographic data – Starr-Oddi CTD deployment on at least 50% of the lines. Alternatively, Valeport FastCTD deployments on some lines



Figure 23: Benthic camera system deployed on longline. Camera system includes Akaso Brave 4 Pro (<https://www.akasotech.com/product/brave-4-pro>), battery pack, and LED light (2100 lum).

Science Team

The science team will be instructed and guided by the Company's general manager, Joost Pompert, who has over 25 years of experience in at sea commercial fisheries science activities, and also took part in the survey on the South Tasman Rise in Oct-Nov 2019. An experienced toothfish/longline observer will be contracted through Capricorn Fisheries Monitoring CC (www.capfish.co.za). A National Observer will also be on board for the duration of the voyage. Factory and hauling crew will be tasked as appropriate.

8 Post-Survey Science Reporting

The purpose of collecting the data as outlined above is to meet all the SPRFMO data collection requirements, which, inter alia, will advise the SPRFMO Commission on spatial management and sustainable catch levels in the GVFZ RB.

In the case of shark catches, we will aim to fill two main data gaps as identified in SC6-DW08, namely:

- a) "Note that the assessment has highlighted that additional work on post capture mortality and gear selectivity of deep-water chondrichthyans would aid future analyses and inform potential future mitigation strategies that would minimise risk associated with susceptibility."
- b) "Recommend to the SPRFMO Commission that identification protocols and biological data collection for deepwater chondrichthyans is strengthened for SPRFMO demersal fisheries."

In the case of VMEs, data will be collected to fill knowledge gaps as identified in Section 6 of SC6-DW09, specifically "Note that insufficient data from bottom longline fisheries exists to develop a data-informed move-on rule for that method".

- VME data collection will help to develop VME maps for the SPRFMO area as required under CMM 03-2025.
- Provide data to develop alternative VME threshold methods for demersal longlines such as the incorporation of a biodiversity component, as described in Section 2.6 of SC6-DW09.
- A deep-water video camera will be used to examine species occurrence, density and species / habitat relationships,), as recommended by the BFIAS (2019). In addition, the real-world impact of demersal longline fishing on VME species and habitats will assessed.
- Environmental data will be collected (Conductivity, Temperature, Depth) to be incorporated into regional predictive modelling, as recommended by the BFIAS, and where appropriate.

In addition to the mandatory reporting of data to the SPRFMO Secretariat (CMM 02-2026), analyses of supplementary data and samples collected on the first year's survey will be treated in the following manner:

Data Analyses	Responsibility	Delivery date
Catch and by-catch data, tagging details	Georgia Seafoods Ltd./SAERI (Falklands) Ltd./IEO Spain	60 days before the next SC meeting
VME mapping/spatial analyses	SAERI (Falklands) Ltd.	60 days before the next SC meeting
Deepwater Camera footage	SAERI (Falklands) Ltd.	60 days before the next SC meeting
DNA samples	Prof Stuart Piertney	University of Aberdeen
Taxonomic/Morphometrics	Dr Paul Brickle	SAERI
VME and fish samples	Museums Victoria	TBC

As this proposal covers a period of three years 2027-2029, it is envisaged that 3 annual reports will be submitted to the SPRFMO SC, with a final more comprehensive report following the third survey. This third report will include detail as above from the entire period 2027-2029. Furthermore, it is envisaged that an approach to assessing stock size can be attempted using these data. This should provide information sufficient for the SC to be alerted to any sustainability concerns and what, if any, additional measures might be required to restrict the potential bycatch of deep-water sharks or other non-target species.

The company, in collaboration with their environmental consultants (SAERI (Falklands) Ltd) (SFL), <https://www.south-atlantic-research.org/sfl>, based in the Falkland Islands) have been engaged to provide the detail at the next Scientific Committee meeting following the initial survey, providing detail on the presence of the target species, by-catch species, as well as any encounters with VME species. Any fishing impact will be established through the data and imagery collected during this period, and this will be reported on. SFL employs a benthic ecologist (Dr. Paul Brewin) whom will be leading on the analyses. The toothfish DNA samples will be sequenced at University of Aberdeen under contract with Prof. Stuart Piertney (<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stuart-Piertney>). The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal. Toothfish morphological comparisons will be made by Dr Paul Brickle (SAERI) using whole fish.

Museums Victoria (Melanie Mackenzie, Collection Manager, Marine Invertebrates) has agreed to receive all VME samples for curation and identification.

Museums Victoria (Dr. Martin Gomon, Senior Curator, Ichthyology) has agreed to receive any fish specimens to enhance their coverage of the Australasian region.

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Appendix 1 - Exploratory-Toothfish-EU - 2024-26. 2nd Biomass
update Jan 2026 v5.pdf

Appendix 2 – Chondrichthyans recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.

Group	Species	common name	IUCN status	Habitat	Spatial Overlap	Catchability	Risk	Residual Risk	SC6-DW08 assessment (PSA / SAFE)
Skates	<i>Rajiformes</i>	Skates	-	Demersal	Unknown	High	Medium	Low	Low / Low
Sharks									
Alopiidae (Thresher sharks)	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher shark	VU	Pelagic	High	Medium	Med-High	Low-Med	Low / Med
Lamnidae (Mackerel sharks)	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	VU	Pelagic	High	Medium	Med-High	Low-Med	Med / Low
Somniosidae (Sleeper sharks)	<i>Scymnodalatias albicauda</i>	Whitetail dogfish	DD	Pelagic	Med-High	Med	Med	Low	Med / Low
	<i>Somniosus antarcticus</i>	Southern sleeper shark	DD	Pelagic	Med-High	Med	Med	Low	Med / High
Carcharhinidae (Whaler sharks)	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark	NT	Pelagic	Low-Med	Med	Medium	Low	Low / Low
Triakidae (Houndsharks)	<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>	School shark	VU	Pelagic	Low	Med	Medium	Low	Med / Low

Appendix 3 – Seabirds recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.

Group	Species	common name	IUCN status	Spatial Overlap	Hooked during setting	Hooked during hauling	Light strike	Risk	Residual Risk
Penguins	<i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	Emperor Penguin	NT	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Aptenodytes patagonicus</i>	King Penguin	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes chrysocome</i>	Southern Rockhopper Penguin	VU	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes chrysolophus</i>	Macaroni Penguins	VU	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes schlegeli</i>	Royal Penguins	NT	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes pachyrhynchus</i>	Fiordland Penguin	VU	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes robustus</i>	Snares Penguin	VU	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eudyptes sclateri</i>	Erect-crested	EN	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Pygoscelis papua</i>	Gentoo Penguin	LC	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Albatross	<i>Diomedea exulans</i>	Wandering Albatross	VU	High	Med	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>	Southern Royal	VU	Medium	Med	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>	Northern Royal Albatross	EN	Medium	Med	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	Black-browed Albatross	LC	High	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche chrysostoma</i>	Grey-headed Albatross	EN	High	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>	Indian Albatross	EN	Low	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	EN	Low	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche salvini</i>	Salvin's Albatross	VU	Low	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Shy Albatross	NT	Medium	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>	Buller's Albatross	NT	Low	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassarche impavida</i>	Campbell Albatross	VU	Medium	High	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i>	Light-mantled Albatross	NT	High	Med	Med	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Phoebastria fusca</i>	Sooty Albatross	EN	Med-High	Med	Med	Med	Med-High	Low
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Southern fulmar	LC	High	Med	High	Med	Med-High	Low
Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>	Cape Petrel	LC	High	Med	High	Med	Med-High	Low
	<i>Thalassoica antarctica</i>	Antarctic Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Aphrodroma brevirostris</i>	Kerguelen Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma lessonii</i>	White-headed Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Great-winged Petrel	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Soft-plumaged Petrel	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>	White-winged Petrel	VU	High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	Mottled Petrel	NT	High	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Pterodroma cookii</i>	Cook's Petrel	VU	Low	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	White-chinned Petrel	VU	High	High	High	Low	High	Low
	<i>Procellaria parkinsoni</i>	Black Petrel	VU	Low	High	High	Low	High	Low
	<i>Procellaria cinerea</i>	Grey Petrel	NT	Med-High	High	High	Low	High	Low
	<i>Procellaria westlandica</i>	Westland Petrel	EN	Low	High	High	Low	High	Low
	<i>Halobaena caerulea</i>	Blue Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	High	Medium

	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Wilson's Storm Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Fregetta tropica</i>	Black-bellied Storm Petrel	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Garrodia nereis</i>	Grey-backed Storm Petrel	LC	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pelecanoides georgicus</i>	South Georgia Diving-petrel	LC	Low	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i>	Common Diving -petrel	LC	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant Petrel	LC	High	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low
	<i>Macronectes halli</i>	Northern Giant Petrel	LC	High	Low	High	Low	Medium	Low
	<i>Pagodroma nivea</i>	Snow Petrel	LC	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low
Shearwaters	<i>Puffinus tenuirostris</i>	Short-tailed Shearwater	LC	High	High	Med	High	Med-High	Medium
	<i>Puffinus grisea</i>	Sooty Shearwater	NT	High	High	Med	High	Med-High	Medium
	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	Fluttering Shearwater	LC	Low	High	Med	High	Med-High	Medium
	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	Little Shearwater	LC	Low	High	Med	High	Med-High	Medium
Prions	<i>Pachyptila belcheri</i>	Slender-billed Prion	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>	Antarctic Prion	LC	High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pachyptila salvini</i>	Salvin's Prion	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pachyptila turtur</i>	Fairy Prion	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
	<i>Pachyptila vittata</i>	Broad-billed Prion	LC	Med-High	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Terns	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Arctic Tern	LC	Medium	Low	Low	High	Low	Medium
Gulls	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Kelp Gull	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
Skuas	<i>Stercorarius spp</i>	Skuas	LC	Med	Low	Med	Low	Low	Medium

Appendix 4 - Mammals recorded in online and published sources for the GVFZ.

Group	Species	Common name	IUCN status	Spatial Overlap	Catchability	Risk	Residual Risk
Seals	<i>Arctocephalus gazella</i>	Antarctic Fur Seal	LC	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Arctocephalus tropicalis</i>	Sub-Antarctic Fur Seal	LC	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>	New Zealand Fur seal	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Afro-Australian Fur Seal	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Southern Elephant Seal	LC	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
	<i>Hydrurga leptonyx</i>	Leopard Seal	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
Whales	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Common Minke Whales	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin Whales	VU	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei Whales	EN	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Balaenoptera bonaerensis</i>	Antarctic Minke Whale	NT	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue Whale	EN	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Berardius arnuxii</i>	Arnoux's Beaked Whale	DD	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whales	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	Southern Right Whales	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm Whales	VU	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer Whale	DD	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Globicephala melas edwardii</i>	Southern Longfinned Pilot Whale	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Mesoplodon grayi</i>	Gray's Beaked Whale	DD	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Mesoplodon layardii</i>	Strap-toothed Whale	DD	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Mesoplodon bowdoini</i>	Andrew's Beaked Whale	DD	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Caperea marginata</i>	Pygmy Right Whale	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Hyperoodon planifrons</i>	Southern Bottlenose Whale	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
	<i>Tasmacetus shepherdii</i>	Shepherd's Beaked Whale	DD	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Dolphins	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low

<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>	Dusky dolphins	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
<i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	Hourglass dolphins	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i>	Southern Right Whale Dolphin	LC	High	Low	Low	Low
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Short-beaked Common Dolphin	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's Dolphin	LC	Low	Low	Low	Low
<i>Phocoena dioptrica</i>	Spectacled Porpoise	DD	High	Low	Low	Low