

## Catch data for the stock assessment of lobster at the Tristan da Cunha group of islands

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This document reports the values of total lobster catches at each of the four islands of the Tristan da Cunha group.

### Recent years

Catch records since 1996 are provided here. These have been obtained from the NRD (Natural Resources Department on Tristan da Cunha), and checked against the concessionaires' annual catch reports. Because these catches are recorded in units of packed weight, they are scaled up here by 2.3% to account for weight lost during processing and over-packing (Edwards *et al.* 2008).

Table 1: Recent catch (in tons) estimates available for assessment of the rock lobster resources at the four islands of the Tristan da Cunha group.

Season	Gough	Nightingale	Inaccessible	Tristan
1996/7	104.111	63.474	73.306	119
1997/8	79.097	52.474	62.521	112
1998/9	99.628	51.812	61.492	114
1999/0	93.647	52.623	64.176	122
2000/1	73.617	52.536	66.637	124
2001/2	90.133	57.037	70.512	127
2002/3	76.608	56.614	70.775	133
2003/4	94.868	57.472	77.283	138
2004/5	65.245	61.368	84.484	158
2005/6	57.071	62.276	92.945	160
2006/7	56.646	62.333	103.281	180
2007/8	62.060	65.584	114.566	187
2008/09	67.533	72.259	114.465	180

## Earlier years

### *Inaccessible, Gough and Nightingale*

Total catches between 1970 and 1989 were obtained directly from the Department of Sea Fisheries, South Africa (Pollock 1994). Catches for Inaccessible and Nightingale islands between 1990 and 1995 were obtained from the TAC reconciliation administered by the NRD. Total catches for Gough over the same period were obtained from summary sheets which were recorded for each vessel trip (Edwards *et al.* 2008).

### *Tristan*

Total catches from 1967 were compiled by Charles Edwards (pers. commn) and were obtained from a number of sources including Roscoe (1979) and Pollock (1981).

Table 2: Earlier catch (in tons) estimates available for assessment of the rock lobster resources at the four islands of the Tristan da Cunha group.

<b>Season</b>	<b>Gough</b>	<b>Nightingale</b>	<b>Inaccessible</b>	<b>Tristan</b>
1967				241.7
1968				145.8
1969				252.8
1970	123	141	80	211.9
1971	380	98	147	231.9
1972	190	49	116	206.5
1973	161	77	214	169.8
1974	182	166	282	165.9
1975	283	245	133	178.3
1976	64	182	224	148.5
1977	130	71	138	97.5
1978	110	34	123	156.6
1979	60	114	141	117.6
1980	113	113	74	114.9
1981	134	57	115	153.7
1982	102	69	92	131.8
1983	135	48	72	128.9
1984	105	80	77	117.5
1985	103	69	90	161.9
1986	110	93	62	151.3
1987	101	70	81	189.9
1988	123	77	72	163.3
1989	164	44	67	174.7
1990	137.099	57.295	78.781	161.4
1991	88.010	62.807	56.552	165.3
1992	99.151	60.686	71.625	138.0
1993	83.941	52.037	59.886	112.1
1994	98.192	52.366	61.586	125.2
1995	105.902	52.310	61.565	112.3

### **IUU estimates**

Andrew James (pers. comm) provides the following IUU catch estimates. He considers that most, if not all of these catches were made at Gough.

<b>Season</b>	<b>IUU (MT)</b>
2001/02	40
2002/03	45
2003/04	34.90*
2004/05	43.48*
2005/06	20
2006/07	20
2007/08	10 <sup>#</sup>
2008/09	10 <sup>#</sup>

\*Based on actual observations of IUU vessels and their landing and export documentation

<sup>#</sup> The justification for the reduction in IUU catches to a nominal 10 tons are that legal vessels have not sighted any potential IUU vessels nor come across any suspicious or unusual gear; and that there are no reports of appreciable quantities of *Jasus tristani* being offered for sale.

### **Acknowledgements**

I wish to acknowledge Charles Edwards who essentially is responsible for collating much of these catch data series.

### **References**

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