
Title: Loligo fishery: Closure of Southern Area

Date: 23rd February 2022 (see Review dates)

Report of DNR

Background:

The loligo first season generally operates between the 24th February to the 28th April. In 2022 the start of the season is the 23rd February.

Presentation and Consultation:

During the pre-recruitment survey in mid-February, catches revealed high concentrations of commercially “small” Loligo. The Loligo Producers Group approached DNR following an internal discussion to request a voluntary closure of the southern area (from 52°30’s) to be reinforced by DNR.

In order to maximise the impact/success of this closure the DNR science team recommend that the closure is set south of 52°s

The purpose of the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005 is to provide for the **“utilisation” of the fisheries resources while “ensuring sustainability”**.

Ensuring Sustainability means

- (i) *Maintaining the potential of fisheries resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (ii) *avoiding, remedying, or mitigating adverse effects of fishing on the marine environment so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so;*

Utilisation means

conserving, using, enhancing and developing fisheries resources to enable the Government of the Falkland Islands to provide for the social and economic wellbeing of the Falkland Islands, either directly or by contribution to government revenues.

It is therefore considered that closing the southern area of the Loligo fishery for “commercial” reasons is justified by the law.

Recommendations:

Following LPG feedback, it is recommended that the area south of 52°30’s is closed for a period of 7 days commencing at 0001 on 23rd February.

Should LPG need further support in this matter they must communicate any further request to DNR accordingly.

Review dates

- On 4th March, LPG again requested the area south of 52°30's be closed due to the continuing small size of squid being fished. The closure was requested for a period of 7 days, effective from 0001 on 5th March and this was agreed by DNR.
- On 10th March, prior to the expiry of the current closure, LPG again requested the area south of 52°30's remain closed for a further period of 3 days from the current expiry date of 12th March. This essentially meant that the area would remain closed until 0001 on 15th March. This request was also agreed by DNR.
- On 18th March, LPG requested a further closure of the area south of 52°30's for a period of 5 days – terminating at 0001 on 23rd March. This request was also agreed by DNR.

Approved



for

Dr Andrea Clausen
Director