

The amended Tristan OMP

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A range of OMPs was simulation tested and developed by MARAM in 2016 (Johnston and Butterworth 2016). The MARAM-recommended OMP had a value for Ilim (the value of recent CPUE below which Exceptional Circumstances are declared and the TAC brought down faster than the default maximum inter-annual reduction of 5%) of 0.80. This OMP was used to recommend the TAC for Tristan for the 2016² season.

At the 338th Tristan da Cunha Island Council meeting (6 July 2016) discussion took place regarding the ILIM value, and the Acting Administrator (Ms Ann Biddle) communicated that the Council would accept the OMP but with an ILIM value of 0.90. Reasons given for this include:

- The desire for a more conservative OMP
- The fishery to stabilize at Tristan

Note that moving from an ILIM value of 0.80 to 0.90 produces a more conservative OMP. Also note that the recent average CPUE level at the time of setting the 2016 TAC was above 0.90 (and hence 0.80) so neither ILIM value would have triggered Exceptional Circumstances.

The ILIM value for the Tristan OMP will be set at 0.90 for setting the TAC for the following two seasons (2017 and 2018) after which the OMP will come under review.

Reference

Johnston, S.J. and Butterworth, D.S. 2016. Initial results in the development of a new OMP for Tristan da Cunha island rock lobster. MARAM/TRISTAN/2016/MAY/07.

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² The split season is referenced by the first year, i.e. 2016 refers to the 2016/2017 season.