


THE POWER OF SUSTAINABILITY STEWARDSHIP WITHIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN HAKE DEEP-SEA TRAWL FISHERY.



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South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association

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OCEAN ECONOMY?

** In a context of fisheries:

- Sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs, while also preserving the health of the marine ecosystem.
- Catch the fish without causing harm in the marine environment **(Is it possible?)**
- **Sustainable practices = Balancing marine ecosystem, while preserving fish and protect environment**

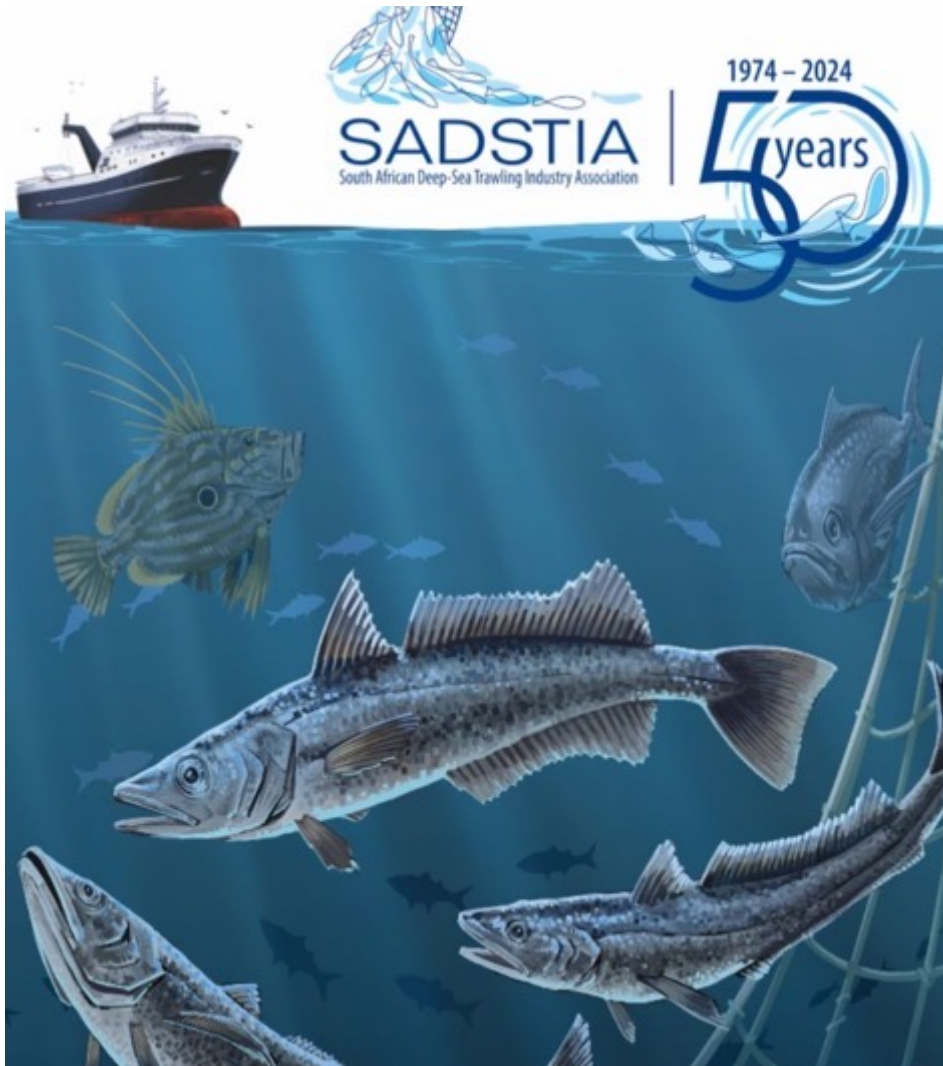
PURPOSE OF THE SADSTIA

- Represents 37 rightsholders (2024) that catch, process, and market Cape hake.
- Promotes an understanding of the HDST fishery and plays a vital role in the ocean economy.
- Strives to create a well-managed marine environment for sustainable fishing.
- Engages with relevant stakeholders, including government, the science community, NGOs, and the broader fishing industry.

****SADSTIA CAN NOT ACHIEVE ITS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF SUSTAINABLE FISHING ALONE****



KEY STAKEHOLDERS NOT LIMITED TO THESE



PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

“THE OCEAN BODYGUARD”

- **Marine Stewardship Council:** independent international NPO that works closely with the fishing industry and the science community to ensure that environmental sustainability is a priority .
- Hake fishery is the first in the world to achieve the MSC certification.



PROUDLY SUSTAINABLE & WELL-MANAGED FISHERY

Priority of MSC Standard three Principles:

- **P1: Sustainable fish stocks.** Are enough fish left in the ocean?
* Ensure that the fish population remains productive and healthy.
- **P2: Minimizing environmental impact.** What are the impact of fishing?
* Ensure that other species and habitats within the ecosystem remain healthy.
- **P3: Effective fisheries management.** Are operations well managed?
* Prioritize compliance relevant laws and regulations and adapt to changing environmental circumstances.

STRATEGIES OF PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN HAKE DEEP-SEA TRAWLING INDUSTRY

(1) Independent scientific observer programme

- Key to maintaining the Marine Stewardship Council's certification of the South African trawl fishery for hake.

(2) Proclamation of Marine protected areas (MPAs)

- 12 MPAs have been introduced for several reasons and HDST fishery respect adopted prohibited rules.
 - E.g. Specific time/area closure is aimed at protecting Kingklip spawning grounds.

(3) Implementing Ring-fencing initiative:

- A VOLUNTARY measure adopted by the hake trawl industry in 2008.
 - Seabed mapping experiments conducted to detect areas that contain sensitive habitats

(4) Minimise seabird mortalities:

- Protect the trawl warps and other cables, avoid offal discharge and discards, and reduce the time the net is exposed on the surface of water

5) Bycatch limitation measures:

- Introduced precautionary bycatch management measures for monk (catch limits) and kingklip (catch limits and seasonal closures).
- Vessel should move at least 5 n.m. from the fishing position if the catch of non-targeted species exceeds 2% of a hake-directed catch.

OFFSHORE OBSERVER PROGRAMME



Image credit: NOAA Fisheries Observer

- Collecting catch composition data that includes the quantification of discarded bycatch species.
- Observer data also plays a valuable role in the collection of biological data in support of stock assessments
- Collected data contributes substantially to the annual surveillance audits of the hake trawl fishery that are conducted on behalf of the Marine Stewardship Council.
- Monitor the use of bird-scaring lines and other methods of mitigating seabird bycatch.

MITIGATION MEASURES OF SEABIRD MORTALITIES



Credited: SADSTIA ANNUAL REVIEW 2019

- Mandatory deployment of bird scaring devices (tori lines).
- Implementation of vessel-specific offal management measures.

90%

reduction in seabird mortalities, and 99% reduction in accidental albatross deaths



RING-FENCING INITIATIVE



Image credit: Benthic Trawl Experiment conducted to monitor changes in the benthic habitats where trawling was stopped, Ski Monkey camera deployed.

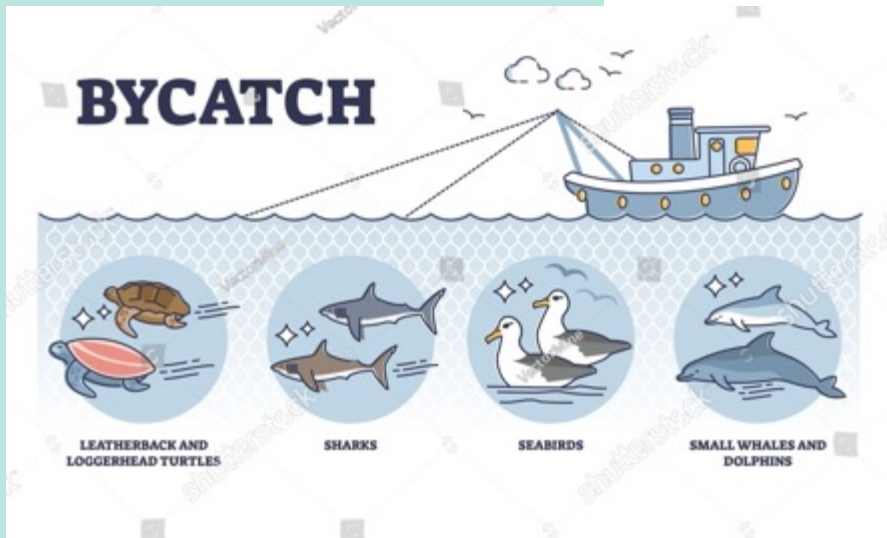
- Industry voluntary mapped the trawl footprint and implemented a ring-fencing initiative.

→ To prevent the spatial expansion of trawling operations beyond areas that had already been impacted during the development of the fishery.

BYCATCH MANAGEMENT

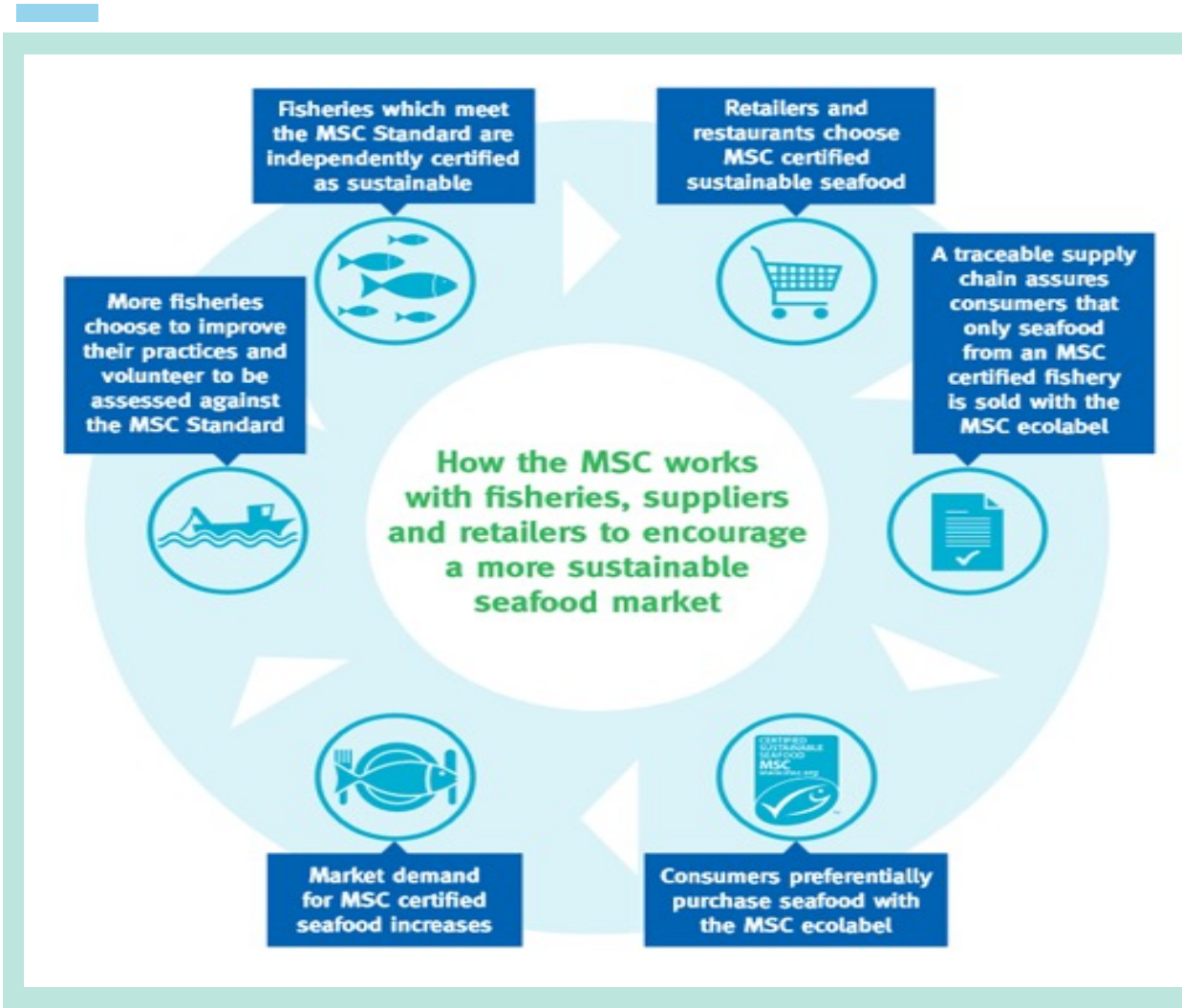
Limitation measures have been introduced:

- **Precautionary upper catch limits** (Kingklip & monk),
- **“Move-on” rules**
- **Restrictions on the proportions of by-catch species per landing.**



Credited: NOAA fisheries management

BALANCE BETWEEN ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP WITHIN SA HAKE DEEP-SEA TRAWL INDUSTRY



- Retailer and Consumer awareness initiatives are driving the demand for sustainability and traceable seafood.



MSC certification ecolabel logo

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN HAKE DEEP-SEA TRAWL FISHERY (3-MINUTES VIDEO CLIP)



CONCLUSION

A sustainable ocean economy **CAN NOT** be addressed only by one government sector or institution, **NOR** can it be approached by focusing only in commercial fishing industry and not analyzing the interrelated nature of the ocean environment.

THANK YOU

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HAKE RESOURCE