



FIFCA Common Environmental Position Statement

Version: 1.0
Date Adopted: 1st August 2013
Review Date: 31st July 2015

It should be noted that this document is a statement of the common position between the members of the FI Fishing Companies Association; it does not reflect the views or policies of any one individual member company.

1.0 What is the Falkland Islands Fishing Companies Association (FIFCA)?

FIFCA was established by the Fisheries (Conservation and Management) Ordinance 2005. The Association represents the interests of all holders of fisheries quota under the 25-year Falklands Individual Transferable Quota system ('ITQ'). We work with our members to ensure that industry views are put before relevant bodies in areas of interest to the industry, participate in a number of committees and jointly fund and provide resources for the advancement of knowledge regarding the fishery, including its biological, operational, environmental and economic aspects.

The Association aims to support the continued development of the Falkland's seafood sector.

2.0 Our environmental vision

FIFCA is committed to the principles of sustainable fishing and care for the environment. We wish to see a fishing industry that balances these principles with economic and social issues to the lasting benefit of the people of the Falkland Islands.

3.0 Where are we now?

The Falklands Fishery Management system of Individual Transferrable Quotas, with its focus on long-term sustainability helps to underpin our reputation as a world leader in sustainable fisheries management. The Falkland Islands fishery is highly regarded and has been rated as one of the best managed in the world (*Mora C et al, 2009*).

The ITQ system ensures access to the fishery is carefully controlled on the basis of best available science, with the Falkland Islands Government funding this via annual quota fees that are over 3 times the cost of administering the fishery. Additional revenues are also raised via taxation.

Fishing activity is carefully controlled on the basis of sound scientific information, managed using various measures, including a patrol vessel to protect against Illegal, Unregulated and Unlicensed (IUU) fishing.

Significant work has been done and continues in relation to minimising the environmental impact of the industry. It includes such measures as actively monitored and controlled total allowable catches, seabird mortality mitigation measures and minimisation of discards.

4.0 Where we want to go

We wish to see a fishery that continues to be well-managed and provides lasting benefits to the Falkland Islands. This involves balancing a number of different elements, including environmental, economic, social and infrastructure considerations. We see FIFCA as being heavily involved across this range of issues and accept our responsibility to lead this locally and to engage with local stakeholders.

We want to see a fishery that continues to work with the Falkland Islands Government, local conservation groups and other relevant NGOs to ensure an efficient, effective and environmentally sound fishing fleet. To achieve our vision for the fishery, FIFCA will:

- Provide a clear and coherent voice for the fishing industry as a whole in relation to environmental matters.
- Be transparent about our practices and our efforts to minimise environmental impacts.
- Ensure that we work with other industry groups that may impact the local marine environment.
- Where feasible, support scientific research that is aimed at increasing knowledge of the marine environment and the impacts of the industry upon it.
- Work with FIG to ensure that the economics of the industry are in line with international norms and are at a level that does not incentivise harmful environmental practice.

5.0 Key partners

FIFCA currently works in partnership with a wide range of organisations and we recognise that this established dialogue is a driver behind what makes the Falkland's fishery work so well. We shall look to continue and expand this as we grow as an organisation. Some of the partners include:

- The people of the Falkland Islands
- Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department
- Falkland Islands Government Environmental Planning Department
- Falkland Islands Government Policy Unit
- Falklands Conservation
- New Island Conservation Trust
- Regional ACAP Coordinator
- South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute
- Shallow Marine Survey Group

6.0 Key environmental issues facing the industry

The following section provides FIFCA's view on the major environmental issues currently facing the industry. There are broader environmental issues that will have a fundamental impact on the industry (e.g. climate change), but those listed here are the ones which the industry have some direct influence over.

Seabird Mortality

Over the past decade, considerable work has been undertaken to mitigate seabird mortality caused by fishing activity. FIFCA recognises its responsibility to continue supporting this work and to strive to further reduce incidental mortalities.

Protecting the Marine Environment

Large areas of the Falkland's marine environment are protected from fishing activity, predominantly via license conditions. These protect key spawning grounds as well as the near-shore environment of the Islands. Pairing this with the active catch management performed by the Fisheries Department means that the marine environment is already well protected.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisation

FIFCA sees the necessity of establishing an RFMO to regulate fishing in international waters in the South West Atlantic and we regret the refusal of Argentina to work with the Falkland Islands on this issue. We do not believe that political differences should prevent good environmental stewardship and we shall continue to press for the establishment of an RFMO.

7.0 References

Mora C, Myers RA, Coll M, Libralato S, Pitcher TJ, et al. (2009), Management Effectiveness of the World's Marine Fisheries. PLoS Biol 7(6).