



20 November 2007

Argos Ltd (U.K.), Sanford Ltd (N.Z.) and New Zealand Longline Line Ltd (N.Z.) today announce their intention to seek Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of the Ross Sea (Antarctica) fishery for the fish specie Antarctic Toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*). The three companies are cooperating to seek this accreditation under a "Group Entity" arrangement.

A Group Entity is a certified body which complies with the various principles associated with a MSC certified fishery and from that, via an audited chain of custody process, those that are signed up to the Group entity can market the fish as "MSC certified".

Greg Johansson (Sanford) states that *"the Ross Sea fishery is managed very conservatively and successfully under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and in recognition of that success, the Group entity feel that a MSC certification is realistically achievable as the management structure of CCAMLR provides world leading fishery science, management policy and control measures"*.

Peter Thomson (Argos) identified that *"as various countries already operate under the CCAMLR licensing arrangement in the Ross Sea area, the Group Entity will be open to those operators / countries that wish to align to the principles of MSC and join the three mentioned companies in developing a MSC certified fishery in this area"*.

Ross Tocker (NZLL) adds that *"the extent of research work that CCAMLR has undertaken in this fishery over recent years to determine the stock size and ecosystem interaction of this fish specie has provided a very cautious approach to the development of the fishery. This will ensure that it does not develop faster than the rate that information can be collected from it, allowing it to be managed to a high standard - which naturally complements the MSC process, making the decision to seek MSC certification an easy one"*.

This international collaboration in seeking MSC certification for a high seas fishery is understood to be the first involving international companies working together and is being lead by companies already familiar with and operating within other existing MSC certified fisheries. The certification process is expected to take 12 to 14 months to complete and will begin this month with Moody Marine acting as the certifying body.

All enquiries to:

Peter Thomson
Argos Georgia Limited
+44 1635 31525
msc@argonaut.co.uk

Greg Johansson
Sanford Limited
+64 27 484 4598
gjohansson@sanford.co.nz

Ross Tocker
Sealord Group Limited
+64 21 980 144
rdi@sealord.co.nz

Background

- MSC contact detail
www.msc.org

CCAMLR website.
www.ccamlr.org