

Some references relating to the previous choice of a 500 MT poaching level and the perception that poaching levels are “high”

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(1) Taken from PhD thesis (Johnston, S.J. 1998. The development of an operational management procedure for west coast rock lobster. PhD thesis, UCT.)

“Poaching is estimated to be in the region of 500-2000 MT per annum (Patterson-Jones 1993).”

“Poaching (at a non-negligible level) is assumed to start in 1991 and increase linearly to a value P_{max} in the year 1990 (these assumptions are based on anecdotal evidence from the industry).”

(2) Quote (Anon.) from South African Commercial Marine, Nov 1992: “A substantial allowance has been made for poaching of South African lobsters when formulating the TAC for 1993. Poaching is estimated at 500 tons, nearly a quarter of the official TAC of 2200 tons for the season.”

(3) Patterson-Jones (1993). Where have all the lobster gone? Africa Environment and Wildlife. Vol 1. No.2.

“... West coast rock lobsters are heavily poached. Although no-one is prepared to put a precise figure on the extent of illegal fishing, estimates of 500-2000 tonnes or more a year have been published.” (Article unfortunately does not detail these publications, but acknowledges information provided by Roger Krohn, Mike Bergh, Amos Barkai, Dave Pollock and Roy Melville-Smith).

(4) Letter from Donald Grant (7 April 2009) to the Director General, DEA.

“The OMP for WCRL resource assumes a total poaching mortality of 500 tons p.a. This is currently about 25% of the total estimated annual fishing mortality – but this percentage will increase should commercial cuts continue...”

“The poaching problem has been exacerbated by three separate period of interim relief..”

“M&CM are therefore unable to monitor illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the WCRL sector”.