

Super-area 7 (Dassen Island): Expected Situation regarding Exceptional Circumstances for the Next Two Seasons

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A time series of the “*J* index” for rock lobster abundance in Super-area 7, which is calculated to determine whether Exceptional Circumstances are to be declared, is shown in Figure 1. If this “*J* index” falls below a threshold value of 0.80, then Exceptional Circumstances are declared for this Super-area.

Figure 1 also illustrates scenarios for which the 2014¹ and 2015 Trap CPUE and FIMS values remain at either the same as their 2013 values, or both double those values, to provide some guidance on the situations likely to arise when recommending TACs for the 2015 and 2016 seasons.

From these projections it is evident that for Exceptional Circumstances to be lifted for the 2015 season for Super-area 7, the Trap CPUE and FIMS indices would essentially have to double their values compared to last season. If last season’s values are maintained for both the 2014 and 2015 seasons, one may anticipate Exceptional Circumstances being lifted for the 2016 season.

¹ Note the convention that 2014 refers to the 2014/15 season.

Figure 1: The “J index” value for Dassen island (Super-area 7) for the current data (available up to the 2014 season). Predicted trends are indicated under the assumption that the 2014 and 2015 seasons’ Trap CPUE and FIMS index remain at the **same** levels as for the 2013 season, and also for the assumption that these indices are **double** their 2013 levels for these two seasons. The horizontal line on the bottom plot shows the Exceptional Circumstances threshold level of 0.80 for this Super-area.

