

Biodiversity mainstreaming at the Sea Harvest Group

The Sea Harvest Group is an international fishing and food business, with operations in South Africa and Australia. Cape Hake and Shark Bay Prawns make up the principal business component, as well as a number of other species (Mackerel, Pilchards and Anchovies), associated by-catch, and farmed species. The Sea Harvest Group owns and operates 42 vessels, including single and twin fish trawlers, factory freezer trawlers, along with access to in-shore trawlers. The Sea Harvest Group spans the value chain from trawling to sales ("sea to shelf") and integrates key value-added support services, such as quality control, logistics and supply chain management.

What is the business case for biodiversity at The Sea Harvest Group? Why biodiversity matters to The Sea Harvest Group.

As a responsible corporate citizen, the Sea Harvest Group believes in acting in a sustainable manner in order to preserve natural resources for future generations. At sea, total allowable catches (TACs) are strictly adhered to, as responsible fishing is a non-negotiable for the Sea Harvest Group as this underlies the future sustainability of their business. On land, the Group works tirelessly to reduce its waste to landfill and utilize its energy resources in an efficient manner.



Figure 1: Saldanha Bay

What are the Sea Harvest Group's biodiversity impacts and dependencies?

The Sea Harvest Group recognises its reliance on a natural resource, and actively participates as a champion of sustainability in industry organisations (e.g. the South African Deep Sea Trawling Industry, SADSTIA).

What strategy and action plan have the Sea Harvest Group adopted towards biodiversity?

Both Cape Hake and Shark Bay Prawn products carry the gold standard in global sustainable fishing; the blue Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) logo. This assurance shows the environmental accountability of the Sea Harvest Group to act responsibly within fisheries management. Their input into continuous research has allowed for South Africa's deep-sea trawl industry to be re-certified as a sustainable and well-managed fishery by the MSC in 2015 for another five years. This is the third consecutive time that the industry was re-certified by the MSC. The Sea Harvest Group also interacts with various NGO's and fishing companies in the Responsible Fisheries Alliance in order promulgate an ecosystems approach to fisheries which elevates wholistic fisheries management. Further, all waste (including hazardous chemicals) is controlled and disposed of in an environmentally accepted manner.

Does the Sea Harvest Group monitor and improve its biodiversity performance?

In accordance with local legislation, the Sea Harvest Group also has a well-established compliance procedure ensuring all fishing licenses and permits are complied with at all times. In addition the Group has regular internal and external audits which ensure that the company continues to maintain a robust and wholistic environmental risk framework at its production site, and together with a focus on sustainable practices is continually investigating ways and best practice to ensure that its impact on the environment is constantly reduced as it continues on its sustainability journey.

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