

RESPONSIBLE
FISHING
SINCE 1976



SYDNEY NEWELL
Ushuaia, Argentina



SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

ARGENTINE SCALLOPS

(PATAGONIAN SCALLOPS)

Zygochlamys patagonica



Sustainability is a core business value embedded in Clearwater's culture and expressed throughout our mission, strategies and values. Stewardship of our resources is not only good for business, we see it as our personal and corporate responsibility.

Learn more about the Argentine scallop fishery and our commitment to the long-term sustainability of the resource.



WHO CAN FISH

Fishing access is permitted by the Federal Fisheries Council based on advice from the National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (INIDEP), which authorizes fishing based on a total allowable catch (TAC). There are two companies operating in the Argentine offshore scallop fishery. Clearwater, through its majority owned subsidiary Glaciar Pesquera S.A., holds two of the four available licences. Each company is permitted 45% of the TAC at the opening of the season. If fishing goes well and scientific evidence supports it, the remaining 10% holdback (5% per company) of the quota is released mid-year.

PARTICIPATING IN RESEARCH

Glaciar Pesquera S.A. works closely with INIDEP to ensure a sound scientific program and sustainable management of the scallop resource. The regular biomass surveys are guided by scientists and funded by industry. Depending on the area, annual random sampling or grid sampling as well as fishery independent and fishery dependent data are incorporated into biomass assessments undertaken by scientific experts.

HARVEST AREAS & SEASONS

Fishing for scallops takes place off the coast of Argentina. Defined fishing areas are allocated a portion of the TAC and harvesting is also permitted outside the quota areas on an exploratory basis. Fishing takes place year-round allowing Clearwater to focus harvest in different areas depending on quality of the catch, weather conditions, and other important operating factors. When fishing takes place in exploratory areas, information is gathered and provided to INIDEP to be used in future decisions and management.



RESPONSIBLE HARVESTING

The scallop fishery in Argentina uses benthic otter trawl nets. To harvest scallops from the seafloor, fishing gear is deployed into depths between 80 and 160 meters. Video recordings by a Remotely Operated Tow Vehicle (ROTV) has provided data to understand the benthic habitat of the scallop. Scallop fishing takes place in a limited area of the available habitat, leaving large areas of the shelf untouched. Although there have been improvements in efficiency and selectivity, the same type of gear has been used since the interception of the fishery in 1995. Scientific monitoring has indicated there has been no change to the sea floor structure or habitat as a result of fishing gear. With the support from mapping and GIS, captains target scallop habitat while leaving other surrounding habitats undisturbed, resulting in greater efficiency, less time on bottom, and a smaller carbon footprint.

To conserve the resource, there are minimum size restrictions and no-take zones for stock conservation and research purposes.

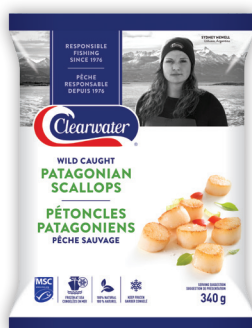
Clearwater takes an active approach to appropriately manage non-target species, also known as bycatch. Studies indicate the majority of the bycatch is made up of scallops, other benthic invertebrates, and shell debris. Once brought on board, the catch is sorted in washing drums to allow undersized scallops and other shellfish to return to the sea floor within the first 20 minutes of the haul. No reptiles, birds, or mammals have been caught and very few finfish are encountered.

Gear loss in this fishery is extremely rare and the size and value of the nets make them highly likely to be recovered if they are separated from the vessel. When nets in our fleet become worn and no longer suitable for fishing, we have partnered with Patagonia's NetPlus Program to have these materials recycled into outdoor apparel. Recycled fishing nets make up some of the materials used to make cap brims and textiles. No waste generated on board the vessel is released overboard and any debris encountered while fishing is secured. Clearwater has standard procedures for onshore disposal for any waste generated or encountered.



TRACEABILITY

Our state-of-the-art freezer vessels are capable of shucking, measuring, and freezing our scallops within an hour of harvest. Scallops are offloaded from the vessels and are delivered to land-based facilities in Argentina, the United States, and France for further processing and distribution. Data on catch area and date is entered into our traceability system upon landing and can be tracked throughout the entire Clearwater supply chain.



EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

Vessels are subject to 70-100% at-sea observer coverage and captains are required to complete logbooks that record each haul. Logbooks and observer data are cross referenced to ensure accuracy. Harvest activities are reported to the fishing authority daily. Along with the scientific surveys, these fishing data are combined to manage one of the most sophisticated wild fisheries in the world.



CERTIFICATIONS

The Argentine scallop fishery was the first scallop fishery in the world to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council. Since 2006, this fishery has had its sustainability practices evaluated and recognized by this leading sustainability program through annual surveillance audits by independent third-party auditors.



clearwater.ca



REMARKABLE SEAFOOD,
RESPONSIBLE CHOICE