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

S.J. Johnston


“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 $P_{\text{max}}$ 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.”

“… 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”.
