New illegal fishing threat for Southern Ocean

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Illegal fishing boats have moved their focus in the Southern Ocean to stocks of Antarctic Toothfish.

International efforts to stem illegal Patagonian Toothfish have been successful in recent years.

Ten years ago up to 50,000 tonnes of Patagonian Toothfish were being taken, the estimate is now about 100 tonnes.

It is being put down to better surveillance, arrests and catch documentation.

The win is being celebrated by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CAMLR).

But now Antarctic Toothfish is being targetted.

CAMLR's Hobart meeting is now considering new international measures.

The European Union wants tighter enforcement at certain African and South-East Asian ports where the fish is taken.

James Barnes from the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition says this could have a major impact.

"If it were possible to close out the ports where they can take this illegal..."
fish and offload it then we'd have a way to stop this," he said.

Decisions on illegal fishing, as well as proposed marine parks for Antarctica, will be made public when the meeting ends on Thursday.

**Topics:** illegal-fishing, australia, tas, hobart-7000