



SQUID FISHERY



What are those lighted boats doing?

Squid fishing! The boats you see are seiners and light boats. Their lights attract squid making them easier to catch. The market squid, *Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*, fishery is one of the most important in the state of California in terms of landings and revenue. Unless the seasonal catch limit is caught the fishery may operate from April 1st to March 31st with a two-day per week closure.



Why is squid fishing sustainable?



- 1 Squid have a short life cycle and reproduce more frequently than other edible ocean creatures. This means there are a lot of them, and they replenish their stocks often. Each squid lays thousands of eggs.
- 2 There is a 48-hour closure starting Friday at noon. This allows squid extra time to reproduce just before dying naturally as part of their life cycle.
- 3 Marine protected areas provide protection for uninterrupted spawning year round
- 4 Squid school together. Fishermen are able to target squid and minimize bycatch.
- 5 To protect seabirds there are restrictions on how lights are used and designed.
- 6 There is a seasonal catch limit.
- 7 CDFW scientists carefully monitor and sample catch from the fishery throughout the year.



Background

Market squid have been the object of a fishery in California since the mid-1800s when Chinese immigrants fished for the species near Monterey. Annual landings of market squid remained nominal in tonnage and value until 1985 when the fishery expanded rapidly due to a growing market and declining squid catch in other parts of the world.

The fishery generates millions of dollars to the State annually from domestic and foreign sales. In addition to supporting the commercial fishery, market squid are an important forage species for seabirds, marine mammals, and other fish. It is also used by the recreational fishery as bait.



Even More Squid Information



For more information on market squid and the fishery, we recommend viewing the Enhanced Status Report on CDFW's Marine Species Portal at: marinespecies.wildlife.ca.gov/market-squid/



For seasonal and annual trends in market squid catch, see: wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Pelagic#52132543-commercial-catch



and wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Pelagic/Market-Squid-Landing

A synopsis of the Market Squid Fishery Management Plan (MSFMP) is available here: wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MSFMP

The full plan is available here: nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=33570&inline=true

