

MONTHLY SQUID REPORT

October 2003



Monterey

Very few squid landings occurred during the first half of the month, making a few processors conclude that the Monterey squid fishery was finished for the season. However, by mid-month, several vessels found squid around Pt. Joe, Pacific Grove, Cannery Row, and Marina Beach. Squid quality was good with several males weighing 80-95 grams. Both day and night fishing occurred; however, sea lions hampered night operations. The ex-vessel price was \$500-600/ton. Pacific sardine, jack mackerel, jellyfish, and bat rays were observed as bycatch.

Ventura/Port Hueneme/Santa Barbara

Squid fishing started out very slowly with just a few, scattered landings, but by mid-month, the fishing improved substantially, and landings were occurring almost daily. Although large landings (>40 tons) were fairly infrequent, most vessels were able to land at least a few tons of squid everyday. Most light boat and purse seine vessel captains expressed their optimism that the fishing will improve in the coming months. Fishing occurred off Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands and along the mainland coast off Port Hueneme. The ex-vessel price was \$550-600/ton. Pacific sardine, northern anchovy, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, Pacific butterfish, sole, sanddabs, and kelp strands were observed as bycatch. Purse seine captains also occasionally complained about dumping good squid sets because they contained large quantities of sardine or anchovy.

San Pedro/Terminal Island

Although squid landings increased this month by approximately 480 tons, most vessels continued to target Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel. Most landings were small, averaging 13 tons. Some vessels fished locally at Santa Catalina Island, but several headed up north and fished off Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands. Squid quality was good, but squid weight varied considerably, ranging from 8.2 to 123.7 grams. The ex-vessel price was \$300-600/ton. Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, round herring, sanddabs, bonito, jumbo squid, and kelp were observed as bycatch.

Landings and Sampling Effort at the Monterey, Ventura/Port Hueneme, and San Pedro Port Areas for October.

Port Complex	Tons Landed		Samples Collected	
	2002/03**	2003/04***	2002/03	2003/04
Monterey	1,727	1,096	10	8
Ventura/Port Hueneme	5,070	2,062	30	20
San Pedro	1,798	631	21	21
	8,585	3,789	61	49

*Month covers October 1-31.

**Landings data from Dept. of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Information System (CFIS) database.

***Landings data from preliminary totals based on dockside tally of available landing receipts.