Argentina shortfin squid - jig (CAPA)

Overview

FIP Description

Shortfin squid is distributed in the Southwest Atlantic, from Brazil to southern Argentina, the Falkland Islands, and east to the high seas. The shortfin squid fishery is one of the largest squid fisheries in the world and one of the four most relevant to Argentina.

Shortfin squid has a short lifespan, of about one year. The adults tend to be associated with the sea bottom and are commonly found between 100 and 600 meters deep. Several seasonal spawning populations exist, resulting in reproduction that occurs throughout the entire year.

Because shortfin squid is an annual species, its abundance is difficult to determine and varies greatly from year to year.

In Argentine waters, the fishery is focused on a single population that is divided into four sub-units for evaluation purposes: South Patagonian, Bonaerensis/North Patagonian, Summer Spawning, and Spring Spawning. Only the two first units are targeted for fishing, and they are assessed as separate units.

The fishing fleet, which operates throughout the EEZ, is the only western fleet that uses jigs for catching shortfin squid. Jigger vessels normally fish at night, concentrating the shoals with light from strong lamps located on the decks of the vessels, often complemented by underwater lamps.

The fishing season for vessels authorized to fish for squid (established by Resolution 973/97 of the Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, y Pesca) runs between February 1 and August 31, when the species is migrating over the continental shelf. A designated closure is applied between September and January to protect juveniles. Between February 1 and June 30, fishing is allowed south of 44° S and is carried out on two subpopulations: Summer Spawning (reproductive concentrations) at the beginning of the season and South Patagonian (pre-reproductive concentrations) during the whole period. The fishing season north of 44° S begins on May 1 and closes on August 31. The subpopulation of Bonaerensis/North Patagonian (pre-reproductive concentrations) is captured during this period, as is the Spring Spawning subpopulation, though to a lesser extent and at the end of the season.

As other cephalopod fisheries, the Argentine squid fishery is largely affected by a number of factors. Recruitment and abundance may be highly variable on annual time scales, which makes very difficult to set rebuilding

timeframes. It is unclear if the decrease in abundance of the SPS is due to overfishing, unfavorable environmental conditions or other external circumstances. However, no information has been found about the necessity of rebuilding the SPS stock, no rebuilding timeframe has been specified for the stock and there is no evidence that the current rebuilding strategies are rebuilding it. Also, there are not specific harvest control rules or tools for the Argentine shortfin squid fishery that adjust exploitation levels or rates in response to stock status indicators. These ultimately need to be developed in concert with the INIDEP and the management system.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

0%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track,completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating

A - Advanced Progress

FIP Objective(s)

The general goal of the Argentina shortfin squid FIP is to achieve, for early 2028, a consolidated management system needed to reach a minimum score of 80 for the main the MSC Fisheries Standard performance indicators, and eventually transition to the full assessment process for the fishery certification.

A series of the specific goals has been designed in relation with the status of the stocks, the harvest strategy, ecosystemic and environmental challenge and the governance system:

In order to introduce ecological rationality in relation to the squid stocks:

- Establish biological reference points for the stocks (timeframe: January 2028)
- Elaborate a harvest strategy with explicit and clear harvest control rules (timeframe: January 2028)

In order to protect the environment and to understanding the resilience of marine ecosystems to fisheries:

- Collect information about the impact of fishing activities over the seabirds (timeframe: January 2026)
- Identification and evaluation of ecosystem indicators that account for the fishery-ecosystem relationship (timeframe: July 2025)
- Identify the key elements of the ecosystem structure and function. (timeframe: January 2026)
- Describe the ecosystem management strategies implemented (timeframe: January 2027)

In relation with the management system:

- Elaborate a draft management plan containing explicit specific objectives of the fishery, harvest strategy and knowledge about the impacts of the fishery on the ecosystem in the fishing areas for the squid in the Argentine Sea ecosystemic (timeframe: January 2028)
- Establish a permanent review of the management procedures (timeframe: January 2028)

FIP Type
Comprehensive

FIP Stage
Stage 4: Improvements in Fishing Practices or Fishery Management

Start and Projected End Dates
February, 2023 -
January, 2028

Species

Common Name
Argentine Shortfin Squid
Scientific Name
Illex argentinus

Gear Type

Jig

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

Area 41 (Atlantic, Southwest)

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country
Argentina

Geographic Scope
Entire Country

Country Flag of Vessel
Argentina

Estimated Total FIP Landings
108339 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name
Cámara de Armadores de Poteros de Argentina (C.A.P.A)

Organization Type
Industry

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