

## Scoping Report of Summer Special Permitted Fishing for Japanese Flying Squid

In April 2021, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) announced that five specifically managed fisheries to be open during the summer fishing closure season. According to the announcement, all five fisheries would be under strict monitoring mechanism to ensure full transparency and compliance of gears, fishing grounds and TAC as defined by the announcement.

With a pre-defined TAC as 8,000 metric tons and covering 33 gillnet vessels and 72 purse seine vessels, the squid fishery (primarily targeting Japanese flying squid) of the Yellow Sea was included as one of the five fisheries.

In order to get a preliminary understanding of how the specifically managed summer squid fishery in the Yellow Sea perform in terms of arrangement, management, landing volume and value, during August 15-16, the TR and QMCS team went to Rongcheng (where the entire fishery is based) for a rapid scoping tour.

In the afternoon of August 15, 2021, the TR and QMCS team visited Mr. Tang, who is running an aquatic products processing and exporting business in Rongcheng. Tang's business focuses primarily on pacific of the Yellow Sea, and he knows the squid business well. The following information was provided by Mr. Tang:

There are about 100 vessels permitted in this special open season from July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup>. At this point, the average size of the JFS is about 200 grams.



JFS in local restaurant

All the JFS catch are exclusively purchased by Shandong Xinfu (鑫发) Fishery Group Co., Ltd. Xinfu also operates the port where JFS were landed.

The current landing price of JFS is about 21 Chinese Yuan (CNY) /kg, comparing to 12-16 Yuan in the past years. The price of 21 Yuan/kg is considered to be prohibitively high by most processors.

In the morning of August 16, the TR and QMCS team visited Shidao Wet market of Shidao, Rongcheng with the following findings:

Average-size JFS (around 200g/squid) costs 28 yuan/kg. Slightly larger JFS costs 36 yuan/kg. Bits and pieces of gillnets are left tangled with squids. A few vendors were also selling Argentine Shortfin Squid, which are visibly different and even larger in size. We also saw some other locally/domestically produced species of squid.



JFS in local wet market (right)



JFS with pieces of gillnet tangled

In the afternoon of August 16, the team had a phone interview with Mr. Bi, the Captain of Rongcheng Fishery Law Enforcement Team under Rongcheng Marine and Fisheries Bureau. Mr. Bi has been supervising the special permitted fishing and was introduced by Mr. Cui, the President of CAPPMA. Mr. Bi shared some information:

Almost all the registered purse seine and gill net vessels in Rongcheng are granted to

participate in this special fishing season. The vessel list is announced publicly and can be shared. The total JFS catch in this special season is about 1,300 metric tons (MT), which is well below the allocated TAC of 8,000 MT. This is due to the failure of the prediction of the squid distribution. The decision of the TAC volume was made by the research team including the experts from YanTai University, Ludong University and Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences. (5 or 6?) fishing zones and (5 or 6?) landing ports are designated. Both sea and land based monitoring is strictly carried out. All the vessels must turn on the AIS and VMS. The enforcement team of 7 vessels maintain 24-hour monitoring of the fishing activities. The transshipment vessels are used in this fishery. All the landings need to be checked, measured and recorded by the enforcement team and researchers.

Some useful links:

[http://hyyy.weihai.gov.cn/art/2021/7/26/art\\_23166\\_2628797.html](http://hyyy.weihai.gov.cn/art/2021/7/26/art_23166_2628797.html)

<https://www.msn.cn/zh-cn/news/national/%E5%B1%B1%E4%B8%9C%E8%8D%A3%E6%88%90-%E9%B1%BF%E9%B1%BC%E4%B8%93%E9%A1%B9%E6%8D%95%E6%8D%9E%E4%BD%9C%E4%B8%9A%E5%BC%80%E5%A7%8B/ar-AAMEp3Y>