

PROGRESS REPORT – CAPA FIP – Argentine Shortfin Squid Jig Fishery

**Promotion of Documentation on Agreements and Actions
Undertaken by the Argentine Government to Reduce IUU Fishing
Activities**

Por



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1. Introduction

The Argentine shortfin squid (*Illex argentinus*) fishery is characterized by its highly dynamic nature and by the presence of fleets operating both within and outside the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). In this context, the so-called “Mile 201” — the area adjacent to the EEZ in international waters — concentrates a significant number of foreign fishing vessels each season targeting the resource beyond national jurisdiction.

It is important to distinguish that fishing activities carried out outside the Argentine EEZ do not, in themselves, constitute illegal or unreported fishing, but rather largely occur within a context of unregulated fishing due to the absence of a fully operational Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) for this area. However, incursions of foreign vessels into the Argentine EEZ do constitute illegal fishing activities and are therefore subject to monitoring, control, and sanctions by the Argentine government.

Within this framework, the present FIP action seeks to document progress related to governance, control measures, and institutional coordination aimed at reducing both IUU fishing activities within the Argentine EEZ and the impacts associated with unregulated fishing in adjacent high seas areas.

2. Context: Dynamics of the Foreign Fleet in Mile 201

Each squid fishing season, a high concentration of squid jiggers and trawlers operates along the boundary of the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a phenomenon widely documented by specialized media and technical organizations. This fleet, largely composed of foreign-flagged vessels, exploits the same stock that supports the Argentine fishery, creating a scenario of interaction between fishing activities conducted within the EEZ and those taking place in international waters.

In this context, several actions have been identified that aim to improve communication and understanding regarding the dynamics of the resource beyond national jurisdiction. The article “Todos avisados en la milla 201 del cierre de la temporada de calamar” published by Revista Puerto describes situations in which management decisions adopted within the Argentine EEZ — such as the closure of the squid fishing season — are communicated to vessels operating in the adjacent high seas area.

https://revistapuerto.com.ar/2026/05/todos-avisados-en-la-milla-201-del-cierre-de-la-temporada-de-calamar/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

These types of actions contribute to increasing operational predictability for fishing fleets and promoting better alignment with the biological dynamics of the resource, even within a context where high seas fishing activities are not fully regulated by a specific regional management body.

In this regard, the current scenario reflects both the inherent complexity of a transboundary fishery and the ongoing efforts to strengthen its management through a comprehensive approach, combining management tools applied within the Argentine EEZ with initiatives aimed at improving interaction, communication, and monitoring in adjacent international waters.

3. Progress by the Argentine Government (2025–2026)

3.1 Strengthening Monitoring and Surveillance within the EEZ and Adjacent Areas

In recent years, the Argentine government has intensified monitoring, control, and surveillance actions, with a particular focus on the Mile 201 area.

According to the official information published in “Prefectura intensifica el control de pesqueros en la milla 201”, surveillance operations have been reinforced through patrol activities and technological systems capable of detecting the presence and behavior of vessels operating in the area.

- <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/prefectura-intensifica-el-control-de-pesqueros-en-la-milla-201>

Likewise, different reports highlight the incorporation of tools such as satellite monitoring, data analysis, and electronic evidence systems to improve the detection of suspicious activities:

- <https://pescare.com.ar/argentina-refuerza-el-control-sobre-la-pesca-ilegal-en-el-atlantico-sur-con-monitoreo-tecnologico-y-nueva-evidencia-electronica/>

These developments not only strengthen monitoring and enforcement capabilities within the Argentine EEZ, but also contribute to generating strategic information regarding fishing activity in adjacent international waters, improving the overall understanding of the phenomenon.

Regional media have also highlighted the country’s increased operational presence in the area, aimed at deterring illegal incursions and monitoring foreign fleet activity:

- <https://lu17.com/contenido/120476/argentina-refuerza-el-control-en-la-milla-201-para-frenar-la-pesca-ilegal-en-el->

As part of this strengthening process, regulatory developments have also been incorporated to support and consolidate operational tools. In particular, Provision No. 20/2026 issued by the Undersecretariat of Fisheries and Aquaculture, published in the Official Gazette:

- <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/338168/20260204>

establishes technical criteria and parameters for the identification of potential illegal fishing activities within the Argentine EEZ. As highlighted by specialized media, this regulation defines objective indicators based on the analysis of navigation patterns, vessel speeds, and operational behaviors, using information obtained from satellite monitoring systems and other control sources:

- <https://argenports.com/nota/argentina-fijo-parametros-para-detectar-pesca-illegal-en-su-zona-economica-exclusiva/>
- <https://revistapuerto.com.ar/2026/02/el-gobierno-refuerza-el-control-ante-la-presion-de-flotas-extranjeras-en-la-milla-200/>

From a management perspective, this provision contributes to operationalizing and standardizing the criteria used to detect illegal fishing activities, enabling authorities to rely on clear and verifiable parameters for identifying potential infringements. This facilitates real-time decision-making, improves the prioritization of surveillance operations, and strengthens inspection and sanctioning processes.

Likewise, by establishing a common technical framework for information analysis, the regulation reduces discretionary interpretation of data, improves the traceability of enforcement actions, and reinforces the robustness of administrative procedures. In this regard, the regulation not only provides additional tools for detection, but also strengthens the technical basis supporting fisheries control and management as a whole.

Overall, these developments consolidate an increasingly evidence- and technology-based approach, complementing surveillance activities at sea and reinforcing the State's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to illegal fishing activities within the Argentine EEZ.



Figure 1: Lights from the squid jigging fleet operating in the adjacent area (Mile 201).

3.2 Interinstitutional Coordination and Comprehensive Approach

A significant development in fisheries governance has been the promotion of coordination mechanisms among different government agencies.

The creation of an interministerial working group, mentioned in:

- <https://www.escenariomundial.com/2025/09/04/argentina-impulsa-una-mesa-interministerial-para-controlar-la-actividad-pesquera-dentro-de-la-zee/>

represents a step toward a more comprehensive fisheries control approach, enabling the coordination of policies among areas such as fisheries, defense, security, and foreign affairs.

This type of initiative is particularly relevant for addressing an issue that extends beyond fisheries management alone and also involves dimensions related to sovereignty, national security, and international policy.

3.3 Participation in International Agreements and Frameworks

Argentina has made progress in aligning with global initiatives aimed at combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, strengthening its international

positioning and contributing to the development of more robust fisheries governance frameworks.

In this regard, Argentina's accession to and ratification of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is particularly relevant. This international agreement seeks to eliminate subsidies contributing to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, as well as subsidies that promote overfishing and overcapacity.

According to official information from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- <https://cancilleria.gob.ar/es/actualidad/noticias/argentina-ratifica-un-acuerdo-clave-para-combatir-la-pesca-ilegal-en-la-milla>

the agreement establishes concrete commitments for States regarding the prohibition of subsidies granted to vessels or activities linked to IUU fishing, promoting greater transparency and control over government support provided to the fishing sector. It also includes notification and international cooperation obligations, helping improve fleet traceability and strengthening global monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Additionally, specialized media outlets have highlighted the importance of this agreement in strengthening Argentina's strategy and presence in the Mile 201 area:

- <https://www.escenariomundial.com/2025/08/08/argentina-se-suma-al-acuerdo-global-contra-la-pesca-ilegal-impulsado-por-la-omc-para-reforzar-su-presencia-en-la-milla-201/>
- <https://dataportuaria.ar/nota/22051/gobernanza-en-alta-mar-argentina-acepta-el-acuerdo-de-la-omc-y-refuerza-el-control-en-la-milla-201/>

Although these types of agreements do not directly regulate fishing activities taking place in the Mile 201 area — since it is located beyond national jurisdiction and lacks a specific RFMO — their implementation contributes to addressing the issue from a structural perspective. In particular, by restricting the economic incentives that sustain fleets operating without effective regulatory frameworks, these measures promote the progressive reduction of practices associated with IUU fishing on a global scale.

Furthermore, participation in these agreements strengthens Argentina's position within multilateral forums and facilitates cooperation with other States in pursuing joint solutions, which is especially relevant in contexts such as the Southwest Atlantic, where effective resource management necessarily requires cooperative approaches.

In this sense, participation in international frameworks constitutes a key complement to national control measures, contributing to a more comprehensive approach to the challenges associated with Mile 201.

3.4 Progress in the Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM)

Another relevant component of Argentina's strategy to address IUU fishing is the progress made in adopting and implementing Port State Measures (PSM), promoted under the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

These measures represent one of the most effective international tools for preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing, as they focus on a critical point within the supply chain: vessel access to ports. In general terms, the port State approach allows countries to:

- Control the entry of foreign vessels into their ports
- Verify the legality of catches onboard
- Deny the use of port facilities in cases of suspected illegal activities
- Exchange information with other States to strengthen international enforcement

In Argentina, this approach has increasingly become part of the national fisheries control strategy. According to official information from the Argentine Coast Guard (Prefectura Naval Argentina), the country has operational procedures and frameworks in place to exercise port State control functions in line with international standards:

- <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/prefecturanaval/estadorectordelpuerto>

At the same time, legislative progress has also been identified with the aim of strengthening the implementation of these measures. In this regard, the discussion of initiatives related to Port State Measures within the Argentine Senate reflects an ongoing process of regulatory consolidation that could reinforce the tools available to combat IUU fishing:

- <https://pescare.com.ar/medidas-del-estado-rector-del-puerto-dictamen-favorable-en-comisiones-del-senado/>

Additionally, analyses regarding the possible expansion of Argentina's role as a port State, including within the FAO framework, demonstrate the country's intention to further integrate into international fisheries enforcement schemes:

- <https://revistapuerto.com.ar/2025/05/argentina-analiza-si-sera-puerto-rector-de-la-fao/>

Although these measures do not directly regulate fishing activities occurring in the Mile 201 area, they are highly relevant within a comprehensive strategy to address the issue. By restricting the ability of vessels involved in IUU fishing activities to land catches, trade products, or access port services, these measures help reduce the economic incentives sustaining such operations.

In this regard, strengthening Argentina's role as a port State complements at-sea monitoring and surveillance efforts, contributing to closing the control loop and reinforcing fisheries traceability throughout the entire supply chain.

3.5 Scientific Knowledge Generation in the Adjacent High Seas Area

Strengthening scientific research activities in the Mile 201 area constitutes another key area of progress.

INIDEP has carried out unprecedented research surveys in the area adjacent to the Argentine EEZ:

- <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/inidep-inicia-campana-de-investigacion-en-el-area-adyacente-la-zona-economica-exclusiva>
- <https://partedepesca.com.ar/d/el-inidep-realiza-inedita-campana-de-investigacion-en-la-milla-201/>

These initiatives contribute to generating information regarding resource distribution, interactions with foreign fleets, and oceanographic conditions, thereby strengthening the scientific basis available for fisheries management and decision-making processes.



Figure 2: Research vessel *Víctor Angelescu* – INIDEP research survey.

3.6 Discussion and Awareness-Raising Spaces

The issue of Mile 201 has gained increasing visibility within technical and political spheres.

Events and discussion forums, such as the one reflected in: <https://dataportuaria.ar/nota/20568/milla-201-expertos-abordaron-la-tematica-de-soberania-y-sostenibilidad-de-los-recursos-pesqueros/>, have highlighted the need to advance toward more robust governance frameworks for the Southwest Atlantic.

These spaces contribute to building consensus and positioning the issue within the public and political agenda.

3.7 Strengthening Operational Capacities

The Argentine government has also made progress in training and international cooperation related to fisheries control and enforcement.

Training programs for personnel and exchanges of experiences with other countries contribute to strengthening response capacities against illegal fishing activities:

- <https://pescare.com.ar/prefectura-inicio-una-capacitacion-internacional-para-reforzar-la-lucha-contra-la-pesca-ilegal/>

This is particularly relevant in a context where IUU fishing practices are becoming increasingly complex.

4. Conclusions

The analysis of the information reviewed allows for the identification of a series of concrete advances undertaken by the Argentine government aimed at strengthening the management and oversight of fishing activities in the area adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone, particularly in the so-called Mile 201.

In recent years, there has been a progressive consolidation of monitoring, control, and surveillance tools, including a stronger operational presence in the area and the incorporation of technologies that improve the detection, tracking, and analysis of fishing activities. This strengthening not only enhances the country's capacity to respond to potential illegal incursions within the EEZ, but also contributes to generating strategic information regarding activities taking place in international waters.

At the same time, interinstitutional coordination has emerged as a central component of the national strategy. Cooperation among agencies responsible for fisheries, defense, security, and scientific research enables progress toward a more comprehensive approach, which is necessary to address a dynamic that extends beyond strictly jurisdictional matters. In this same context, Argentina's participation in international agreements and fisheries-related initiatives contributes to strengthening its governance positioning and aligning national policies with global standards.

Another relevant aspect is the promotion of scientific research in the area adjacent to the EEZ, which contributes to improving knowledge regarding resource distribution, population dynamics, and interactions with fleets operating beyond national jurisdiction. The generation of this information is essential for strengthening decision-making processes and technically supporting the management measures implemented.

Likewise, advances have been identified in the development of technical discussion forums and in the strengthening of operational capacities, both nationally and through international cooperation initiatives. These processes contribute to improving institutional preparedness in the face of increasingly complex fisheries enforcement scenarios.

Overall, these actions reflect a trend toward strengthening fisheries governance and enhancing the State's capacity to progressively address the dynamics of Mile 201 through the integration of monitoring tools, scientific knowledge, and institutional coordination.

In this context, the systematization and documentation of these developments are fundamental for tracking implemented actions, increasing the visibility of ongoing efforts, and contributing to the achievement of the FIP's objectives related to sustainability and fisheries management improvement.