Argentine shortfin squid

**Scientific Name:** Illex argentinus

**Common Names:** Argentine shortfin squid

**Fishery Profile**

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**Identification**

**Scientific Name:** Illex argentinus

**Common Name:** Calamar (Spanish)

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

Illex argentinus (Argentine shortfin squid) distributes along the Argentinean coast, Uruguayan and Brazilian (Abril et al. 2008; Perez et al. 2009) . A unique population is considered to exist by Crespi-Abril and Barón (2012) and Crespi-Abril et al. (2013) in Argentine waters, while four distinct sub-units for assessment purposes are identified: South Patagonian Stock (SPS), Bonaerense/North Patagonian (BNPS), Summer Spawning (SSS) and Spring Spawning (SpSS). Only the two first units are targeted and are assessed as separate units. (Abril et al. 2010; INIDEP 2016; INIDEP 2017).

**Assessment and management within Falkland Islands’ waters are considered separately.** (Falkland Islands Government 2018). The map shown refers to the full geographic distribution of Illex argentinus (Abril and Barón, 2012).

Assessment and management within Falkland Islands’ waters are considered separately. (Falkland Islands Government 2018).

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**Assessment**

**Strengths**

- The management measures in place, including spatial and seasonal restrictions, are considering the resource biology conditions and are in accordance to other squid fisheries management.
- The scientific body has a pre-defined survey program to assess the stock, and onboard observers allowing a real-time monitoring of the resource.
- The resolutions of the management body (FIP) directly follow the recommendations made by the scientific body (INIDEP).
- A mandatory administrative mechanism in place to prove the legality of catches and certify that these have been legally captured within the Argentine EEZ.

**Weaknesses**

- The stock is subject to fishing exploitation outside the Argentine EEZ, added to the lack of a functioning regional fisheries management body to discuss the management of the resources in the common areas (around Malvinas/Falkland Islands) and coordinated conservation measures. Generating some uncertainty about the stock status and its sustainability.
- A high level of IUU fishing is known to exist by the foreign fleet in the Argentine EEZ reaching 40% of the total catches in ink years (2012-2015). 2016 estimates are highly uncertain.
- The condition of Illex argentinus as a transboundary resource and the IUU fishing in the Argentine EEZ, results in a high fishing pressure on the resource.
- There is not yet a specific management plan in place. There are novisiblecontingency plans to restrict fishing in the event of an environmental emergency.
- In the last years the pre-recruit survey (that determines the initial abundance estimation) was not conducted in several opportunities affecting the estimations of spawners and biomass of birth stock units.
- The escapement estimations of the latest years has been below the threshold set as the management objective (40%).
- The impact of the fishery and the interaction with protected or endangered species is unknown and no interaction, bycatch data or discards are recorded.

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**Scores**

**Management Quality**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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**Stock Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<td>&lt; 6</td>
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**FIPS**

No related FIPs.

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries.

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**Recommendations**

**Retailers & Supply Chain**

- Work with scientists and regulators to implement annual pre-recruit surveys for all stock units.
- Work with managers to create and implement a management plan including a harvest control rule to restrict fishing during years of poor recruitment (as indicated by the pre-recruit surveys) in a timely manner.
- This management plan should be sensitive to the transboundary nature of these stocks and ideally would be implemented in a coordinated way with other jurisdictions or by a regional fisheries management body which should coordinate conservation measures amongst all harvesting nations.
- Work with managers to institute monitoring, control and surveillance (MSC) measures to resolve IUU fishing in and around the Argentine EEZ.
- Expand the existing observer onboard program to include data collection on bycatch and discards, and specially on interactions with seabirds and endangered species or the ecosystem are not expected to exist.
Ensure your supply chain is represented in SFP's Global Squid Supply Chain Roundtable to review improvement needs in this and other similar fisheries, catalyze fishery improvement projects, and monitor progress in improvement efforts.