Argentine shortfin squid

**SW Atlantic**

**Fishery:** Spring spawning (SpSS) → China, High Seas, Taiwan, Province of China, Vertical Lines

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SPECIES NAME(S):** Illex argentinus

**COMMON NAMES:**
- Calamar (Spanish)

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

The Argentine shortfin squid distributes along the Argentinean coast, Uruguai and Brazil (Abril et al. 2008; Perez et al. 2008). 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), Bonaerensis/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. 2008, INIDEP 2015). The management is focused on the unit South of 44ºS: including the South Patagonian Stock (SPS) inhabiting the outer shelf and single south of 44ºS and the Summer Spawning stock unit North of 44ºS: including the Bonaerensis/North Patagonian Stock (BNPS), distributed north of 43ºS up to the Malvinas/Brazil currents convergence and the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (AUCFZ) north of 39ºS. Foreign fleets from Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and Spain legally operate in the High Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone (AUCFZ) north of 39ºS and slope south of 44ºS and the Summer Spawning stock unit North of 44ºS: including the Bonaerensis/North Patagonian Stock (BNPS). 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).

**SCORES**

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<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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**Stock Health:**

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**FIPS**

No related FIPs.

**MSC**

No related MSC fisheries.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**

- Work with scientists and regulators to implement annual pre-recruit surveys for all stock units.
- Work with managers to implement a management plan including a harvest control rule to restrict fishing during years of poor recruitment (as indicated by 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 fishery management body which could coordinate conservation measures among all harvesting nations.
- Work with managers to create monitoring, control and surveillance (MSC) measures to ensure IUU fishing is not 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.

**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 (CTFP) directly follow the recommendations made by the scientific body (REDES).
- A mandatory administrative mechanism in place to prove the legality of catches and certify that these have been legally captured within the Argentinean EEZ.
- The jigger fishery is considered as selective and the impacts on ETP species or the ecosystem are not expected to exist.

**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 Argentinean EEZ reaching 40% of the total catches in years (2012-2015) whereas estimates are highly uncertain.
- The condition of Illex argentinus as a transboundary resource and the IUU fishing in the Argentinean EEZ, results in a high fishing pressure on the resource.
- There is not yet a specific management plan in place. There are no viable contingencies plans to restrict fishing in the event of an environmental emergency.
- In the latest 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 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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**MSC**

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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.