



Frequently Asked Questions

Commercial Market Squid

April 7, 2020

What's required to fish for market squid off Oregon?

- To fish in state waters (inside 3 nautical miles) or to land squid in the state, Oregon commercial licenses, including for the boat, skipper and crew, are required for:
 - Any vessel fishing for squid, excluding a skiff used with purse seine gear.
 - Any vessel participating in the fishery by "lighting" for squid.
- The skipper must complete and submit a logbook, according to the instructions in the logbook. A seine logbook is required for vessels using purse seine, lampara net, brailing, or scooping.
- A commercial vessel may pump market squid onboard directly from the pursed seine of another vessel provided these squid make up no more than 20% of each landing of the receiving vessel, and the vessel receiving squid:
 - Has fished purse seine gear during the current year and pumped resultant catch onboard the same vessel for delivery in Oregon; and
 - Has legal seine gear onboard, in good working order; and
 - Documents the vessel that made the set, any other vessel pumping squid from the pursed seine, and documents catch and location in the ODFW logbook.
- No more than 10% of a squid landing may go toward reduction (e.g., fish meal, fertilizer, etc.)

What are legal fishing gears for squid?

- Legal gears include purse seine, lampara net, brail net, dip net, cast net, & hook and line.
- It is legal to use lights as an attractant for commercial squid fishing. Lights may be operated from a vessel that is independent of the catching vessel, but commercial licenses are required for the light boat, skipper and crew.
- In state waters (inside 3 nautical miles) trawl gear, such as shrimp trawl, is also legal. In federal waters (outside of 3 nautical miles) trawl gear is not legal. Market squid taken as bycatch in federal waters in shrimp or groundfish trawl fisheries must be sorted and discarded at sea or by the wholesale fish dealer when landed. Please contact ODFW Marine Resources Program at 541-867-4741 for details if you intend to use trawl gear to fish for squid.

Are there catch limits?

- There is no squid quota or fishing season. ODFW is required to hold a public meeting to evaluate the squid fishery before (or as soon after as possible) a squid harvest guideline of 4.5 million pounds are landed, with not more than 3 million pounds taken either north or south of Heceta Head.

What about bycatch?

- The catch of all species, including bycatch, is required to be reported in the logbook.
- Groundfish, salmon, halibut and crab may not be taken with purse seine, brail net, or dip net. Salmon and groundfish must be returned to the water immediately, and every effort made to dip-net salmon out before going through the pump system.
- Incidental take of smelt species is allowed, but may not exceed 1% of landing by weight.
- Sardine landings may not exceed incidental catch limits (currently 20% of a landing, by weight). Sardine incidental limits may change; check federal regulations at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/west-coast-coastal-pelagic-species> or by calling (562) 980-4034.
- This is not a complete list of species that may not be landed by these gear types; rather it is intended to provide information on species likely to be encountered in the squid fishery.

What areas are closed?

- While most of the Oregon coast is open for squid fishing, there are some closed areas, such as in marine reserves. Please check the 2020 Commercial Synopsis, available online at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/commercial/docs/2020_Commercial_Synopsis.pdf for information about each closed area and the species allowed to be commercially harvested.

What is required to buy squid from commercial vessels in Oregon?

- An Oregon wholesale fish dealer or bait dealer license is required to buy squid from a commercial fisher. Commercial fishers are required to deliver their catch to a wholesale fish dealer, a bait dealer or sell it off their vessel using a limited fish seller permit.
 - A fish buyer license is required in addition to a wholesale fish dealer license when squid are purchased away from the dealer's licensed location.
 - Fish dealers and buyers must report all fish and shellfish species landed, **including landed bycatch**, on fish tickets.
 - Fish tickets must be forwarded to the Department or submitted electronically within **five working days** of the date of landing.
 - Fish dealer licenses are issued only through the Salem office. For information about the fish dealer requirements and the application process, please contact Licensing, (503) 947-6101.
- All landed catch **must be sorted to species** or species group at the time of landing, prior to first weighing. For a list of acceptable species groups, see: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/commercial/docs/Wholesale_Fish_Dealer_Packet/Monthly%20Report%20Dealer%20Instructions.pdf or call (503) 947-6247.

Is there anything else I should know about squid fishing in Oregon?

- Interaction between seine gear and crab pots utilizing the same area has been identified as a potential conflict in Oregon's squid fishery. It is best practice to notify the local crab fleet when starting to fish in a new area, and to avoid fishing in areas with high densities of crab pots. Notification can usually be accomplished by contacting local fish dealers or the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission at (541) 267-5810.

- To minimize bycatch of demersal species such as crab, some squid fishermen utilize seine nets with a rib line inserted about 25 meshes above the bottom of the net. The Department encourages use of this or other gear modifications or fishing techniques that minimize bycatch before it ever gets to the boat.

For more information, please contact:

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