



Meeting Summary

Market Squid Advisory Panel

September 25, 2023, 1:00-3:00 pm

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) convened the fourth meeting of the Market Squid Advisory Panel (MSAP) members on September 25, 2023. Eight of 10 MSAP members attended, along with ODFW and Oregon State Police (OSP) staff, and members of the public. ODFW described the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's (Commission) March 2023 request to provide an interim report on the potential for moving the commercial market squid fishery from open access to a limited entry (LE) system. ODFW staff will present a written or oral report to the Commission in spring 2024 to lay out a cost-benefit analysis for the Commission to consider. If the Commission were to move in the direction of LE, ODFW staff anticipate it would likely be one to two years before a LE system would be implemented and public input would be taken along the way.

ODFW staff sought input from the MSAP on topics related to a potential move to a LE system that included:

- Initial qualifying criteria
- Transferability
- Renewal
- New entrants under a LE system
- Other potential considerations
- Need to conduct a fleetwide opinion survey on moving to a LE system

ODFW staff presented information on the nine state LE marine fisheries in Oregon (see presentation) and provided results from their initial analyses on the market squid fishery related to landings, participation in terms of number of years, and number of trips in the fishery prior to the control date of January 1, 2022 that was set by the Commission. Staff also presented the number of permits that would result from several different criteria (see presentation). Staff asked the MSAP for input on these initial analyses, whether other criteria should be considered, thoughts on the number of permits that should be issued, transferability of permits, and renewal criteria.

Limited Entry

Many MSAP members expressed the opinion that the fishery should remain an open access fishery at present because with the control date in place and steep costs for entry into the fishery from the purchase of gear and vessel modifications, economics would self-regulate the number of participants. Members generally agreed that LE in other fisheries had made the cost of entering commercial fishing in general so high that it is unattainable for most people. Some expressed the opinion that if the fishery is to ever move to a LE system, it would be best to do it sooner rather than later, that LE would protect the investments participants made to enter the fishery, and that it was not wise to wait too long after the control date.

MSAP members were hesitant to suggest or comment on specific criteria or numbers of permits at this point, suggesting details could be worked out if the Commission decided to move toward implementing an LE system. One member suggested that a weighted point system could potentially be explored for criteria, but details would need to be worked out. Transferability of permits was discussed with the point being made that it might be best to allocate permits to most boats that had participated, with some being transferable and some non-transferable based on participation history, because it would limit the value of transferable permits and mitigate the cost of entry. One member spoke against requiring landings to renew permits annually because it would incentivize vessels with permits to participate every year.

Similarly, there was no consensus regarding conducting a survey on this topic, with most saying the opinions likely to be expressed would be self-serving and predictable. Those in favor of conducting a survey thought such a survey should go to all commercial fishermen rather than just to those that have participated in the market squid fishery.

It was agreed that another meeting of the MSAP was needed and would be arranged before the report goes to the Commission in the spring.

New, emerging, or other issues identified by the panel

ODFW asked if members had any new issues that they would like to discuss in the future. None were identified.

Public Comment

ODFW offered members of the public an opportunity to comment at the end of the meeting and one person did so. A member of the public commented it would be better to be proactive and to move forward with LE now.