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UPDATES FROM THE WATER

OCTOBER 2020

PERU SQUID

Gear Type: Squid Jig

Volume: 323, 337 MT

FIP Stage: 3 (FIP Implementation)

Progress Rating: C (Some Recent Progress)

Start Date: February 2018

The jumbo squid fishery is one of Peru's most important artisanal fisheries, employing more than 105,000 Peruvians and providing low-cost, high-quality protein to much of the population. It is also one of the largest squid export fisheries globally, generating \$860 million in exports in 2019.

The Peruvian jumbo squid FIP is the first comprehensive squid FIP in the world. WWF worked closely with Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), the Peruvian government, and the private sector to develop a comprehensive plan to help the fishery meet the MSC standard. Several exporters have formed the Peruvian National Chamber for Giant Squid (CAPECAL), which is working to become established as a legal entity but has been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The independent industry association promotes the conservation and management of giant squid in Peru, which includes leading the implementation of the Peru squid FIP through political advocacy efforts, funding, and FIP activity support.

Approximately 1,500 fishers across three cooperatives have been engaged directly in FIP efforts, mainly through piloting WWF's mobile electronic catch documentation system, TrazApp, to improve the collection and transparency of catch data, make it easier to receive fishing permits, and improve safety at sea by allowing vessels to be monitored in real-time. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, most fishing stopped in April and May. Fishing resumed in June, but because of an overproduction of squid to make up for the loss of catches in previous months, the prices dropped drastically.

WWF is working with fishers to better organize themselves and reduce overcapacity to prevent similar problems in the future. In addition, FIP activities have been delayed due to becoming lower priority during the pandemic as industry and government prioritized addressing COVID impacts. Still, the Peruvian government expressed interest in using TrazApp to help monitor the status of fishing communities during the pandemic, one advancement that has helped to gain more support from the government for the use and adoption of TrazApp across other fisheries in Peru.

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) issued its first-ever Conservation and Management Measure (CMM) for jumbo flying squid in international waters in February. The CMM, which will go into effect in January 2021, will regulate the capture of jumbo flying squid in international waters, an important first step toward addressing some of the key science and management deficiencies in the fishery. Legalization of the currently unregulated artisanal fleet is the mandatory first step toward complying with other guidelines of the CMM, including preparation of catch reports per vessel, design of a biological monitoring system for research purposes, increased observer coverage, and installation of satellite equipment for vessel monitoring systems.

To address this issue, SFP gathered industry signatures on a letter to the Peruvian government requesting the formalization of the Peru artisanal squid fleet as soon as possible. Failing to do so will put the fishery at risk to be classified as illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) by the SPRFMO, the international markets, and consumers, thus threatening the socio-economic status of thousands of Peruvian families as well as the sustainability of the fishery. The letter will be sent to Peruvian authorities by the end of October. In the meantime, WWF and SFP are continuing to work with authorities to advise on how to speed up the formalization process and grant fishers their legal fishing permits.

Priority activities expected to occur over the next several months include: continuing to advance formalization efforts working with the Peruvian government, industry, and fishers; working with authorities and key stakeholders to update the squid fishery management regulation; and scaling up the use of TrazApp with fishers, landing sites, government, processors, and importers.

Become a WWF FIP participant today by visiting:

<https://seafoodsustainability.org/fisheries/fishery-improvement-projects-signup>

Being a WWF FIP Participant provides a pre-competitive space for companies to engage with fisheries in their supply chains and leverage power across multiple companies to drive fishery improvements forward. By signing on to support a FIP, you are joining forces with other leaders in the industry that seek to help conserve marine ecosystems and advance the livelihoods for millions of people who depend on them.

WWF recognizes FIP participants on the industry website, SeafoodSustainability.org. WWF also works with FIP participants to communicate the benefits of FIPs among key buyers, sustainable business leaders, employees, environmental activists, and other key constituencies.

Together we can protect oceans and the food and livelihoods they can sustainably provide.

For more information or to partner with WWF, please visit SeafoodSustainability.org or contact us at info@seafoodsustainability.org
