

Squid Inc.

Responding to the growing illegal and unreported Humboldt squid fishery in South America



Threatens local economy through loss of fishing revenue.

Contributing to overfishing and declines in squid population.

Overview

A large fleet of more than 400 Chinese fishing vessels have been observed harvesting Humboldt squid just beyond, and sometimes within, the Economic Exclusion Zones (EEZs) of four South American Countries, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador.

This fleet threatens the economic viability of local fisheries because the massive fishing effort exceeds sustainable harvest limits, leaving few fish for local fishers and threatening the long-term conservation of Humboldt squid populations in the area.

Map of Foreign Squid Fishing Vessels



Who should take action?

- Ecuadorian Ministry of Production, Investment, Foreign Trade, and Fisheries
- Peruvian Ministry of Production (responsible for fisheries)
- Chilean Ministry of Economy, Development, and Tourism

Impacts on Local Fisheries

Ecuador

Ecuador does not have a fishery for Humboldt squid but the squid provide an important food source for Tuna, Ecuador's biggest fish export worth US\$1 billion.

Peru:

Accounts for 43% of the Peruvian fishery but an estimate 50 000 tonnes are fished illegally by foreign vessels which amounts to about US\$85 million of lost revenue for Peruvian fishers;

Chile:

70% of Chile's fish stocks are already overfished/exploited and at risk of collapse. IUU fishing exasperates this issues and is estimated to cost Chile approximately USD\$397,000 per year

What Should be done?

- Peru should increase investigation of foreign vessels suspected of IUU fishing when docking at the ports of Chimbote and Callao . Peru has authority to investigate and prevent illegally caught fish from being landed at port under the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), an international treaty to prevent IUU fishing.
- Ecuador, Peru, and Chile should work with Global Fishing watch to share information on foreign vessels operating outside and inside the EEZ when suspected of illegal fishing.
- Require stricter fishery monitoring and catch reporting if landing catch at South American ports using technology such as vessel monitoring systems to ensure that all fishing activity can be actively monitored.
- Seek international fishing agreements with China and other foreign fleets to strengthen the exchange of information and ensure that shared conservation objectives are met.

Sources:

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