



Frequently Asked Questions Commercial Market Squid

March 1, 2022

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 or lampara net. A light boat and brail logbook is required for any vessel that attracts squid by light for a separate catcher vessel or takes squid by brailing. Vessels that hold spots for day sets are also asked to submit a logbook.
 - Seine logbooks are preprinted and may be requested from ODFW offices in Astoria, Newport, Charleston, or Brookings (phone numbers below). If using a light boat, please record the name of the light boat in the comments section for each set where one was used.
 - Light boat and brail logbooks are not preprinted, but can be downloaded to print here: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/regulations/commercial_fishing/index.asp, or printouts can be requested from ODFW by calling the Newport office.
- 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.)

When is the market squid fishery open?

- Squid fishing is open year-round in Oregon
- The fishery is **closed** to purse seine (including lampara net), trawl, and brail net gear from **noon Friday through noon Sunday** each week. This closure includes attracting squid by light, for both independent light boats and catcher vessels.

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 if landings approach the squid harvest guideline of 4.5 million pounds taken coastwide, or more than 3 million pounds taken either north or south of Heceta Head.

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 unlawful to take market squid for commercial purposes using a purse seine net that:
 - Exceeds 1,800 feet (300 fathoms) in length
 - Exceeds 2,600 meshes in depth, excluding chaffing strip and corkline strip
 - Exceeds 1 ¾ inch mesh size, excluding chaffing strip and corkline strip;
 - Has a chaffing strip or a corkline strip that is more than 25 meshes wide;
 - Has purse rings or a purse ring bridle attached less than 36 inches above the lead line
 - Is not pursed using a rib line that is a minimum of 36 inches above the lead line
 - Is pursed using a steel cable purse 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 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.

What about bycatch?

- The catch of all species, including bycatch, is required to be reported in the logbook. Bycatch includes both retained and discarded bycatch.
- 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 waters off the coast of Oregon are open for squid fishing, there are some closed areas, such as in Marine Reserves and most Marine Protected Areas. Please check the Commercial Synopsis, available online at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/commercial/docs/2021_Commercial_Synopsis.pdf for information about each closed area and the species allowed to be commercially harvested.

- Attracting squid by light is considered “take” and is prohibited in all Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas where take of squid is prohibited.
- No fishing gear can be deployed at any time in a closed area where that gear is prohibited. For example, a vessel with a pursed seine is not allowed to drift into a closed area while pumping catch on board the vessel.

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.

What can I do about crab pots on the squid grounds?

- 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.
- It is **illegal** to possess on a vessel, use, or control any non-derelict Dungeness crab gear that doesn’t belong to that vessel. This includes wrapping seine nets around crab pots or buoys, unintentionally snagging them, or moving them in any manner, even if they are reset afterward.

For more information, please contact:

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ODFW Marine Resources Program Offices

Astoria: (503) 325-2462

Newport: (541) 867-4741

Charleston: (541) 888-5515

Brookings: (541) 412-7364