

Squid Dissection Conservation

Why Are Squid Caught By Humans?

- In the past, squid was mostly only eaten in ethnic markets. Today squid (also known as calamari) is common in the mainstream U.S.
- Some species of squid are caught by accident. Pelagic, deeper sea squid often get caught in deep sea trawling nets. These nets are attached to rollers that roll along the ocean floor not only catching squid by accident but also destroying the habitat.

The California Squid Fishery

- The largest West Coast fishery is that of the squid. It is also the most valuable species in California.
- The species caught for the California squid market is *Loligo opalescens*. They live on average 6 months and may reach maturity as early as 3.6 months of age.
- In the 1990's the number of landing's greatly increased due to new overseas markets and higher prices paid to fishermen.
- In 2002 72,877 metric tons of squid was caught using mostly purse-seine nets. These nets catch minimal bycatch and do little habitat damage.
- Fishermen target spawning squid because they form dense aggregations near surface waters.
- The squid caught in the California fishery appear to be abundant throughout their range, but a thorough survey has not been done.
- Data that has been collected shows that the size of caught squid shows little variation between months. This data suggests that a new cohort of squid enters the fishery each month.
- Squid are known to play an important role in coastal ecosystems, but currently there is no data that indicates that the current rate of removal due to fishing has detrimental effects on the food web.
- A state management plan has been drafted to prevent overfishing and collect needed information that is currently unknown. This plan was signed into law on September 20, 2001. The plan stated that a plan must be in effect by the end of 2002. As of May 2004 the plan still had not been enacted.