

13th MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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SC13 - SQ 01

Update of Squid Datasets held by the Secretariat

Secretariat

1. Introduction

This paper provides updated information on jumbo flying squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) datasets held by the SPRFMO Secretariat as well as from annual reports submitted to the Secretariat, including recent measures of fishing effort (number of active vessels and fishing days) for the SPRFMO Area.

- *The Scientific Committee is invited to review these data and liaise with the Secretariat in cases where discrepancies are identified.*

2. Summary

- China: In 2024 China continued to operate the largest fleet with 528 jigging vessels in the SPRFMO Area and spending 114,475 fishing days (+14% more effort than 2023) while catch fell ~45% and CPUE dropped to a record low ~2.4 t/vessel-day. The 2024 annual report attributes this poor catchability to El Niño–driven warm water anomalies. CPUE dipped through September then rebounded sharply in Q4 as conditions normalized. This explains why the fishing-days curve rises while catch/CPUE slumps and why a late-year uptick is seen.
- Korea: After no jigging activity in 2021–2023, one Korean vessel resumed jigging in the SPRFMO Area in 2024, recording 53 fishing days and 128 t, with the lowest CPUE since 2015.
- Peru: Peru's jig fishery in the SPRFMO Area was very limited in 2024—two liner/artisanal jigging vessels reported 4.6 t (0.6 t in April, 4.0 t in May). No squid catch was reported in the first half of 2025.
- Chinese Taipei: The squid jigging fishery has been suspended since 2022; there was no activity in 2024 (0 vessels, 0 days).
- Panama: The squid fishing related activity of Panama was limited to logistics/transshipment, with no fishing effort or catch recorded.

3. Annual Catch Data

The annual catch data for jumbo flying squid from 2000 onwards is presented in **Annex 1** of this paper. Readers wishing to consult information prior to 2000 should refer to earlier compilations (e.g., [SC12-SQ01_rev1](#)). Where possible, reported catches are derived from Annual Catch submissions provided to the Secretariat and verified against Members' Annual Reports to the SC.

As in past years, there are a few important exceptions and clarifications:

- Japan and Ecuador (pre-2014): Following the SC8 recommendation, catch figures for these countries prior to 2014 were updated using FAO database records in the absence of alternative validated submissions.



- Peru (EEZ catches): The Secretariat does not receive formal submissions for catches taken exclusively within Peru's national waters, as they fall outside the SPRFMO Convention Area. Nevertheless, these removals are highly relevant for stock assessments. Since 2020, the Secretariat has routinely extracted Peru's EEZ catch data from the publicly available portal (<https://ogeiee.produce.gob.pe/index.php/en/tablero-bi>) and incorporated it into this series.
- High seas trawl catches: The table also includes rare and small-scale catches reported from trawl vessels operating in the high seas.

This consolidated approach ensures greater completeness of the dataset and provides a more consistent basis for analyses undertaken by the Scientific Committee.



Table 1: Annual catch weights (t) for jumbo flying squid (GIS) as submitted to the SPRFMO Secretariat (post 2000).

Values greater than 1 have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Year	CHL			CHN	ECU	EU		JPN		KOR			PAN	PER		TWN		Total
	EEZ	FAO87	HighSeas	HighSeas	FAO87	FAO87	HighSeas	EEZ	FAO87	EEZ	FAO87	HighSeas	HighSeas	EEZ	HighSeas	FAO87	HighSeas	
2000		9						32 174	1 704			20 822		53 795			0	108 504
2001		3 476		17 770				71 069	1 132	5 797	0			71 834			0	171 078
2002		5 589		50 483				26 268	33 978	13 130	8 629			146 390			12 064	296 531
2003		15 191		81 000				22 549	4 510	1 681	3 041			153 727			23 009	304 708
2004		175 134		205 600				22 385	4 615	2 026	8 761			270 368			39 450	728 339
2005		296 953		86 000					1 633	2 519	0			291 140			15 976	694 221
2006		219 800		62 000			212		323	2 048	437			434 261			18 349	737 430
2007	124 389			46 400			121			0	0			427 591		14 750		613 251
2008	145 171			79 064			668			5 971	804			533 414		31 161		796 253
2009	56 337			70 000						7 221	0			411 805		12 319		557 682
2010	200 428			142 000					498	7 764	6 742			369 822		29 206		756 460
2011	163 450		45	250 000							7 410			404 730			35 418	861 053
2012	144 956		9	261 000			91				8 310			497 462			14 177	926 005
2013	105 905		22	264 000			2				6 034			451 061			7 759	834 783
2014	176 569		0	332 523							7 203			554 882	1 274		4 795	1 077 246
2015	143 716		0	323 636	1 500						4 263			513 492	304		10 072	996 983
2016	183 123		0	223 300		0					4 388		842	322 338	999		12 989	747 979
2017	155 389		0	296 100							3 460		289	290 933	5 068		7 338	758 577
2018	145 927		0	346 200							3 651			317 000	288		3 848	816 914
2019	58 042		0	305 670	1 750						5 578			526 902	0		2 085	900 027
2020	53 967		0	358 038	157						1 003			492 363	0		2 086	907 614
2021	52 904			422 000	1 896	4								517 710			665	995 179
2022	97 013			514 500	5 907									457 364				1 074 784
2023	104 003			494 500										621 925				1 220 428
2024	139 145			273 900								128		188 345	5			601 523



4. Vessels

4.1 Number of Active Vessels

The number of active vessels participating in the squid jigging fishery in the SPRFMO Area is shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. These figures are based on Annual Reports presented to the Scientific Committee by Members and CNCPs.

Table 2: Number of active vessels by flag and year in the SPRFMO Area, participating in the squid fishery.

Year	China	Korea	Panama	Peru	Chinese Taipei	Total
2000		14				14
2001	22	7				29
2002	43	17				60
2003	74	5				79
2004	119	8				127
2005	93	2				95
2006	43	1				44
2007	37				13	50
2008	50	1			13	64
2009	54	1			13	68
2010	104	1			20	125
2011	172	1			21	194
2012	254	6			14	274
2013	205	6			9	220
2014	264	6		14	5	289
2015	252	2		32	9	295
2016	276	4	2	98	11	391
2017	356	8	1	558	13	936
2018	435	17		44	14	510
2019	503	15			10	528
2020	557	13			5	575
2021	476				2	478
2022	464					464
2023	522					522
2024	528	1		2		531

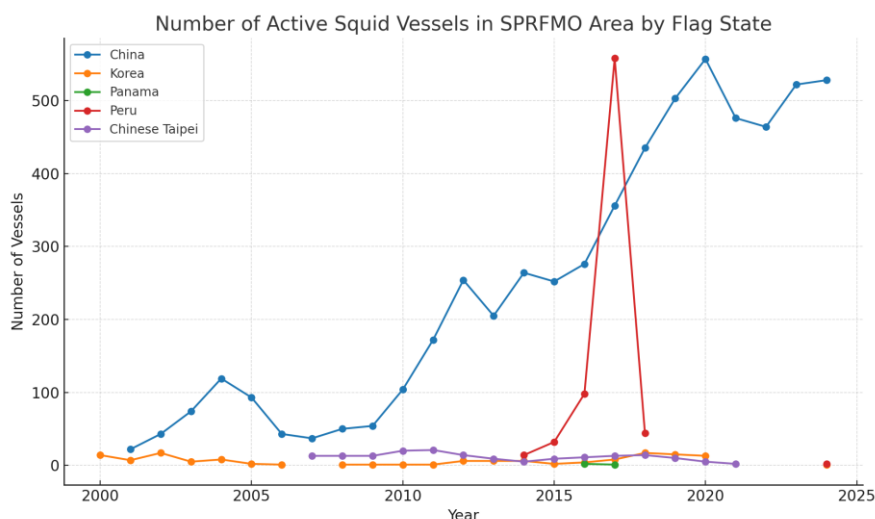


Figure 1. Number of active squid jigging vessels in the SPRFMO Area by flag State (2014–2024).

4.2 Fishing Days

Total fishing days reported for the squid jigging fishery are presented in Figure 2. Data are drawn from Annual Reports to the Scientific Committee, where available, and reflect fishing activity in the SPRFMO Area.

- China: Despite weak CPUE, fishing days climbed to 114,475 (+14% y/y). The report ties low catchability to El Niño and notes a Q4 recovery—so expect a high total days line even though catches were low.
- Korea: 53 days from the lone vessel—small but non-zero bar/line after three zero years.
- Peru: Very few days consistent with April–May only activity.
- Chinese Taipei & Panama: 0 days.

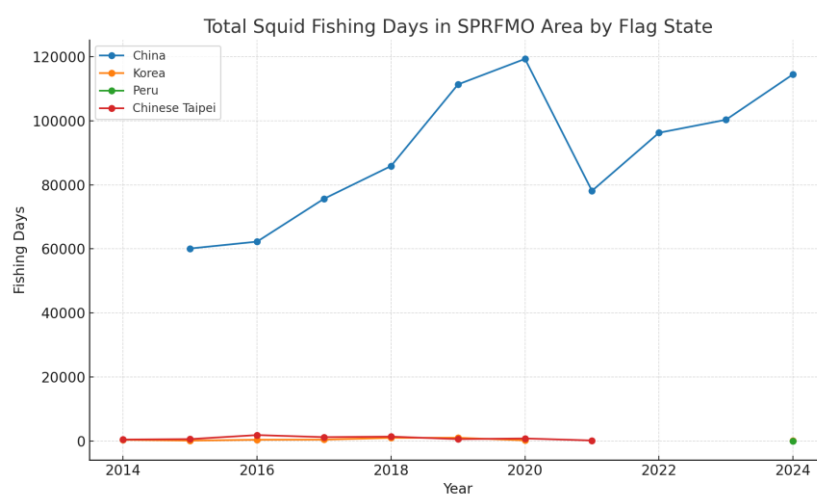


Figure 2. Total squid fishing days in the SPRFMO Area by flag State (2014–2024).



5. Analysis and Observations

Preliminary analysis of the vessel and fishing days data indicates the following trends:

- Total active vessels have shown variability over the past decade, with some fluctuations by flag State.
- Fishing days generally track the number of vessels, but changes in days per vessel suggest varying levels of fishing intensity and possible shifts in fleet deployment.
- Notably, some flag States have maintained vessel numbers but recorded fewer fishing days, which may indicate shorter trips, reduced effort, or changes in fishing grounds.