

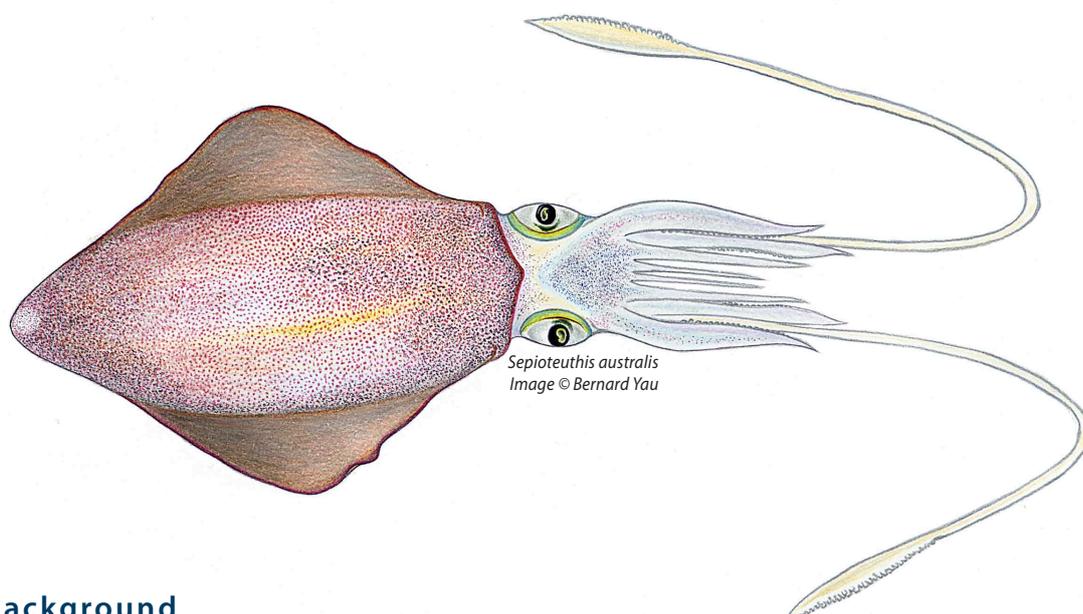
Southern Calamari

(*Sepioteuthis australis*)

EXPLOITATION STATUS UNDEFINED

Significant commercial and recreational landings. The biology of the species has not been studied in NSW, but in southern Australia calamari are known to be short-lived and fast growing.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENT
<i>Sepioteuthis australis</i>	southern calamari	



Background

Southern calamari (*Sepioteuthis australis*) are found in estuarine and near-shore coastal waters around southern Australia (including Tasmania) from about Brisbane, Queensland to Perth, WA; they are also found off northern New Zealand. The species is an important fishery resource off NSW, Tasmania, and SA.

Southern calamari are reported to be relatively fast growing, short-lived squid, with a maximum age of about 1 year. Males can reach 50 cm mantle length (ML) and females 40 cm ML in South Australian waters. Large calamari in NSW catches measure around 30-35 cm ML and weigh about 1 kg.

The biology of the species has been extensively studied off southern Australia where it was found that sexual maturity was attained at about 7-8 months of age and 15-20 cm ML. Females mate with a number of males and store the sperm before spawning in relatively shallow (3 - 5 m) depths mainly during the summer

months. They produce multiple batches of eggs (numbering up to several hundred) which are attached to seagrass, macro-algae, hard reef and even sandy substrates.

NSW landings of southern calamari have been recorded separately since 1990. Most are caught by ocean trawlers and landings have been relatively stable at around 60 to 80 t per annum, except for a period in the late 1990s when landings exceeded 100 t per annum. Recreational anglers in NSW also take significant quantities of southern calamari in estuaries and near shore ocean waters.

The species is a significant catch in fish trawls in the Sydney to Port Stephens area of NSW and extensive length-frequency and biological data are available from the Fisheries Research Vessel *Kapala* surveys. However, there has been no formal stock assessment for southern calamari in NSW.

Additional Notes

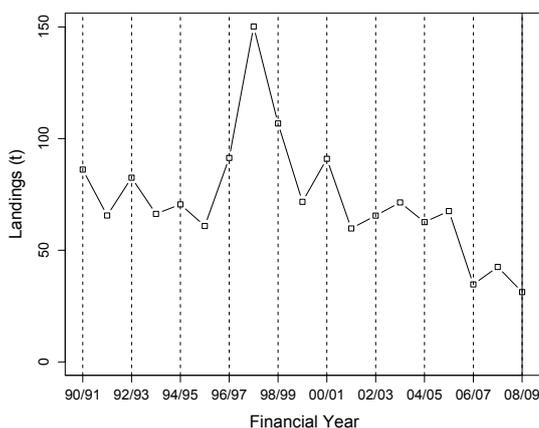
- A short lived species which is a very important component of commercial and recreational catches. Recent recreational catches are not well estimated.
- Commercial landings and catch-rates are reasonably stable, but do fluctuate (probably as a result of recruitment variability).
- Trawl gears can retain small sizes (<10 cm mantle length) but the majority of the catch is comprised of calamari larger than 10 cm mantle length.
- Local information on growth and mortality rates would assist assessment.
- There is a combined recreational bag limit of 20 for all squid and cuttlefish.

Catch

Recreational Catch of Southern Calamari

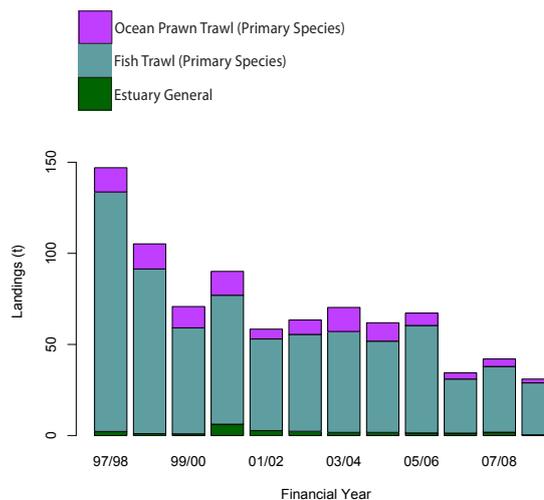
The annual recreational harvest of southern calamari in NSW is likely to lie between 10 and 40 t. This estimate is based upon the results of the offsite National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey (Henry and Lyle, 2003) and onsite surveys undertaken by I & I NSW.

Historical Landings of Southern Calamari



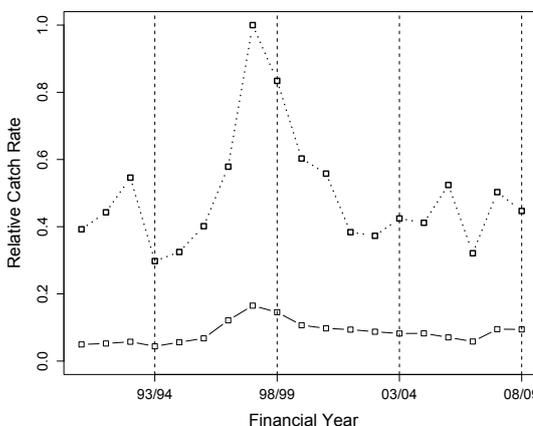
Commercial Landings (including available historical records) of southern calamari for NSW from 1997/98 to 2008/09 for all fishing methods.

Landings by Commercial Fishery of Southern Calamari



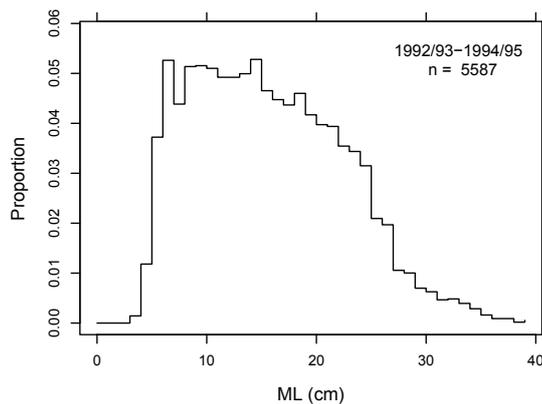
Reported landings of southern calamari by NSW commercial fisheries from 1997/98. Fisheries which contribute less than 2.5% of the landings are excluded for clarity and privacy.

Catch Per Unit Effort Information of Southern Calamari Harvested by Fish Trawling in NSW



Catch rates of southern calamari harvested using fish trawling for NSW. Two indicators are provided: (1) median catch rate (lower solid line); and (2) 90th percentile of the catch rate (upper dashed line). Note that catch rates are not a robust indicator of abundance in many cases. Caution should be applied when interpreting these results.

Length Frequency of Southern Calamari



The length distribution of southern calamari caught during trawl surveys by the Fisheries Research Vessel *Kapala* was comprised mostly of calamari between 5 and 25 cm mantle length (ML). There is no minimum legal length for calamari in NSW.

Further Reading

- Henry, G.W. and J.M. Lyle (2003). [The National Recreational and Indigenous Fishing Survey. Final Report to the Fisheries Research & Development Corporation and the Fisheries Action Program Project FRDC 1999/158. NSW Fisheries Final Report Series No. 48.](#) 188 pp. Cronulla, NSW Fisheries.
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Please visit the CSIRO website, <http://www.marine.csiro.au/caab/> and search for the species code (CAAB) 23 617005, common name or scientific name to find further information.

