



Balance in the Bay

California Department of Fish and Game

Squid Fishing Regulations and Restrictions

(Effective 3/28/2005)

149. Commercial Taking of Market Squid.	
(a) Fishing Days.	Market squid may only be taken five days a week. They may not be taken for commercial purposes between 12:00pm (noon) on Friday and 12:00pm (noon) on Sunday of each week.
(b) Records.	Any person who possesses a valid Market Squid Vessel Permit shall complete and submit an accurate record of his/her squid fishing/lighting activities on a form (Market Squid Vessel Logbook).
(c) Maximum Wattage.	Each vessel fishing for squid or lighting for squid shall use no more than 30,000 watts of lights to attract squid at any time.
(d) Light Shields.	Each vessel fishing for squid or lighting for squid will use shields (lamp shades) to orient the illumination directly downward, or providing for the illumination to be completely below the surface of the water.
(e) Seasonal Catch Limit.	A total of not more than 118,000 tons of market squid may be taken statewide for the season starting April 1 and ending March 31 the following year.
	(1) The California Department of Fish and Game shall estimate, from the current trend in landings, when the market squid catch limit will be reached, and will publicly announce the date of closure.
	(2) Whenever the market squid catch limit has been reached, market squid may be taken for commercial purposes through March 31 only if the amount taken does not exceed two tons landed each day or if the squid taken is used for live bait.
(f) Closed Times and Areas for Seabirds.	Market squid may not be taken for commercial purposes using attracting lights in all waters of the Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.
(g) Incidental Allowance.	It is unlawful to take, land, or possess in excess of two tons of squid per trip or per calendar day except as authorized under a Market Squid Vessel Permit.
(h) Forfeiture.	Squid landed or possessed in violation of the allowance specified in subsection (g) above shall be forfeited to the Fish and Game department. The squid will then be sold or disposed of in a manner to be determined by the department. The proceeds from all sales shall be paid in the Fish and Game Preservation fund.
149.1 Market Squid Fishery Restricted Access Program.	
(b) Classifications of Permits and Permit Authorization.	A Market Squid Vessel Permit authorizes the use of round haul gear, including purse seine, drum seine, and lampara nets for commercial harvest. Use of brail gear, including dip and scoop nets, is also authorized. Lights may also be used as specified in regulation to aggregate squid for purposes of commercial harvest. No other gear is authorized under this permit to take or assist in the taking of market squid for commercial purposes.
(m) Capacity Goals.	(1) The capacity goal for transferable and non-transferable Market Squid Vessel Permits is 55 permits. (2) The capacity goal for transferable and non-transferable Market Squid Brail Permits is 18 permits. (3) The capacity goal for transferable Market Squid Light Boat Permits is 34 permits.