

Part II

SYMPOSIUM OF THE CALCOFI CONFERENCE

Lake Arrowhead, California
28–29 October 1997

MARKET SQUID: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT¹

Market squid has been harvested in California waters by a variety of methods including hooks and jigs, dip nets, lampara nets, and purse seines. Squid are fished by attracting spawning aggregations to the surface with lights when squid are present in nearshore waters. These techniques have produced commercially viable landings from fishing grounds in Monterey Bay and around Santa Catalina Island for nearly a century. Recently, global markets expanded for California's market squid, and purse seine catches increased dramatically until 1997, when market squid became the largest California fishery by volume landed and by dollar value.

Because of this rapid expansion, mainly at the Channel Islands off southern California, with fishing vessels from as far away as Alaska, the fishing community became concerned about overfishing and overcapitalization. The California state legislature was notified; legislation was prepared and signed into law with significant input from the fishing community working with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). During this process, it became apparent that little was known about the biology or population dynamics of market squid. Consequently, the limited-entry legislation that was passed required CDFG to perform necessary research and provide the legislature with recommendations for managing the market squid resource based on scientific data and input from the fishing community.

¹Supported by the California Seafood Council.



Participants in the 1997 Symposium of the CalCOFI Conference: Market Squid: What We Know and What We Need to Know for Effective Management. Left to right, Denise Reichow, Johann Augustyn, Emma Hatfield, Marija Vojkovich, Sophie des Clers, George Jackson, Caroline Pomeroy, Roger Hanlon, Jon Brodziak, and Mark Lowry.

This symposium, sponsored by CDFG and supported by the California Seafood Council, was an initial step in the process of identifying research and management needs for this fishery. Additionally, two evening workshops were held during the conference. They were sponsored by the California Seafood Council and the NOAA Channel Islands Sanctuary to provide an opportunity for conference attendees to participate in dialogue on the topics indicated in the symposium's title.

We sincerely thank the participants for their verbal presentations at the symposium, written papers for the volume, and enthusiastic contributions to the evening

workshops. We thank George Hemingway and Mary Olivarria for coordinating logistic support for the symposium and workshops. We thank the anonymous manuscript reviewers and CalCOFI managing editor Julie Olfe for production of the symposium volume. We thank Sean Hastings and Ed Cassano of the Channel Islands Sanctuary for organizing and facilitating the second evening workshop. Finally, we thank Diane Pelshner and the California Seafood Council for providing travel funds for the symposium participants and funds for publishing the symposium.

Doyle Hanan