



Commercial Squid Fishing in Washington 2019

What species can be commercially fished?

- Washington regulations classify all squid (Sepiolida or Teuthida) as shellfish. This includes Market squid (*Loligo opalescens*), also known as common market squid or California market squid.

What is required to fish for squid in Washington?

Licenses and Permits, and Logbooks

- A squid fishery license, 0-3 nautical miles (nm)
- A non-limited delivery license when fishing only in federal waters (3-200 nm) and delivering into WA
- Crew member license
- Plus, for purse seine gear only, a permit issued by the WDFW Director
- Vessel operators must obtain and accurately maintain onboard a squid harvest log provided by WDFW

What areas are open/closed to fishing for market squid?

- Pacific Ocean: Open 0-200 nm offshore the Washington coast
- Puget Sound: Open, except closed within 1/4 mile of the shoreline of an incorporated city or town

What is the season for commercial squid fishing?

- Open year-round

What are the legal fishing gears for market squid? (WAC 220-340-770)

Statewide gears
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dip bag net or brail: may not exceed 10 feet in diameter, 1 inch minimum stretch measure net mesh size • Squid jigging gear
Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, Lower Columbia River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide gears, plus: • Drag seine gear: 350 feet maximum net length, 1 ¼ inches minimum stretch measure net mesh size
Coastal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide gears, drag seine gear, plus: • Purse seine, in WA state waters (0-3 miles) by permit only • Purse seine, in federal waters (3- 200 miles)
Lighting systems, applies to all areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum combined power of 10 kilowatts • Lights of 200 watts or greater must be shielded and may not be directed to any point more than 100 feet from the vessel while fishing for or attracting squid.

Are there catch limits?

- Yes, a 2000 metric ton harvest guideline applies to catch and landings from coastal waters in the purse seine gear fishery.

What about bycatch?

- Only octopus caught incidentally to squid fishing may be retained. All other species must be returned to the water immediately.

For more information, contact:

Washington Coast: Lorna L. Wargo at 360.249.1221 or Lorna.Wargo@dfw.wa.gov

Puget Sound: Bob Sizemore at 360.302.3030 x303 or Robert.Sizemore@dfw.wa.gov