

WORKING PAPER

CURRENT STATUS OF THE JUMBO FLYING SQUID (*Dosidicus gigas*) IN SOUTHERN PACIFIC

In light of the current status of the Jumbo Flying Squid in the Southern Pacific region, there has been a notable decline in landings due to its reduced availability to all fishing fleets. This trend has been observed since 2023, coinciding with the development of the strong El Niño event of 2023-2024 (ERFEN, 2023).

The prevailing environmental hypothesis posits that this category of environmental warming events exerts a deleterious influence on the survival of early-life stages and subsequent recruitment. El Niño 2023-2024 event was notable for its intensity and duration, with high positive temperature anomalies. Laboratory experiments have demonstrated that beyond 25 °C, the hatching of Jumbo Flying Squid's eggs is not successful (Yatsu et al. 1999; Staaf et al. 2011). This has a lagging negative impact on recruitment to the population, as evidenced by the low levels of landings observed during the El Niño 1997-1998 Niño, not only in Peru but also in the California ecosystem (Waluda and Rodhouse 2006; Waluda et al. 2006). As was the case of the El Niño 1997-1998 event, a gradual recovery of the population is expected in the Southern Pacific region in next months.

In view of this scenario, we encourage all countries that catch Jumbo Flying Squid to maintain caution during the population recovery process after the effects of the El Niño 2023-2024 event, in order to contribute to the sustainability of the fishery of this resource.

After the effects of El Niño 2023-2024, it is recommended: "Strengthen studies on Jumbo Flying Squid, taking into account the resource-environment relationship".

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