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Footprint of Chinese squid fishing 2003-2025 (Update)

Delegation of China

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Abstract	<p>China's squid fishing in the SIOFA Area started in 2003 and were conducted until 2016. After a hiatus, squid fishing resumed in 2023 and 2024. After updating the footprint regarding the squid jigging in SIOFA Area, the fishing footprint spans all subareas. This version is an update for the previous squid footprint in SC10.</p>

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² Documents available only to members invited to closed sessions.

Recommendations

- consider the updated footprint of China squid fishing 2003-2025;
- confirm the updated area of squid in Annex 1 of CMM 17(2025) according to the new footprint.
- note the highly migratory nature of squid populations and their broader spatial distribution patterns in the Indian Ocean compared to most of demersal fish species.
- recommend MoP to reconsider the operational scope of squid fisheries.

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Footprint of Chinese squid fishing 2003-2025 (Update)

After the SC10 and MoP13, SIOFA has updated the footprint regarding the squid jigging fishery on the subareas 1,4,7,8. According to the CMM-17(2025), China has found more squid jigging operations in SIOFA Area in 2003-2025 from the paper logbooks, and submit the data on this in SC11.

Introduction

China started squid jigging in SIOFA Area at 2003 (Chen et al., 2007) and continued this operation in SIOFA until 2016. China had no squid jigging activities in SIOFA but had the squid catch in northward of SIOFA during 2017 to 2022. In 2023, China resumed squid jigging in the Convention Area again.

Since 2014, China has conducted light purse-seining (not tuna purse-seining) in the Indian Ocean, with operations primarily concentrated in the northwestern Indian Ocean (excluding the SIOFA Area). The main target species include squid, mackerel, and sardines, which all belong to the pelagic species. From 2014 to 2017, Chinese light purse seiners carried out some mackerel-dominated fishing activities within the SIOFA Area but did not catch squid. Currently, there is no light purse seiners operating within the SIOFA Area.

In 2025, China didn't have any squid jigging operations in SIOFA Area.

Squid Fishery Footprint of China

From 2003 to 2024, China conducted squid fishing in all subareas of the SIOFA Area (Update). The detailed fishing footprint is as follows (Figure 1; Table1):

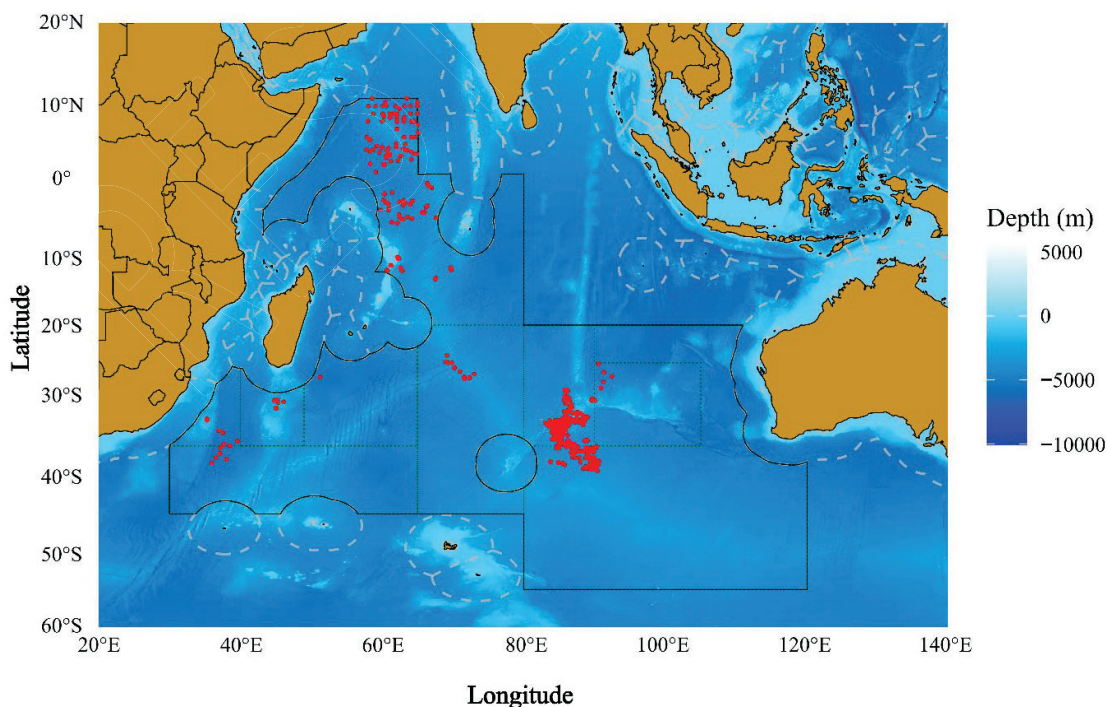


Fig.1 Footprint of Chinese squid fishing from 2003 to 2025 (Update)

Table 1 Existing area for Chinese squid fishing

Year	Number of fishing vessel	Subarea									
		1	2	3a	3b	4	5	6	7	8	
2003	2									√	
2004	0										
2005	0										
2006	0										
2007	2						√			√	
2008	2				√					√	
2009	0										
2010	3	√	√							√	
2011	1									√	
2012	0										
2013	0										
2014	4	√						√		√	
2015	11					√	√		√	√	
2016	1			√							
2017	0										
2018	0										
2019	0										
2020	0										
2021	0										
2022	0										
2023	1									√	
2024	2									√	
2025	0										

Suggestions

After updating the footprint for squid jigging in SIOFA Area, we advise SC to recommend MoP to amend the area exists.

And China will do more regarding research in squid in SIOFA Area and will share the results in the coming SC.