

Overview of cephalopod fisheries in Chilean waters

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This paper describes the history of cephalopod fisheries in Chile over the past 40 years. Continuous monitoring of three species was undertaken between 1978 and 1999: *Loligo gahi*, *Dosidicus gigas* and *Octopus mimus*. Total cephalopod catches increased from 69 tonnes in 1978 (0.13% total mollusc catch) to 3503 tonnes in 1996 (3.64%). A maximum haul of 15,169 tonnes was taken in 1992 (11.27% total mollusc catch). Small-scale fisheries accounted for the majority of cephalopod captures and industrial catches were rare. *L. gahi* is caught year-round mainly in the south of Chile, with maximum catches in summer and autumn. Catches of *D. gigas* are also year-round, mainly concentrated in central Chile. *O. mimus* has been fished since 1978, although recorded as *Octopus vulgaris* until the 1990s. The *O. mimus* fishery is located on the north coast of Chile, and catches are made for the most of the year. *Octopus* has been landed in the south of Chile since 1991, and is considered as *O. mimus* in capture s