

Feeding global seafood markets through cephalopods: current and future trends

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Abstract text

With capture fishery production relatively static since the late 1980s, while assessed cephalopod landings have seen an increase over the past two decades, although the biological status of these populations is still in large part unassessed. The socio-economic impacts related to the increase in cephalopod landings are still largely unknown. The role of cephalopods in global seafood markets are also poorly characterized and this limits the ability to generalize or predict responses to institutional, economic, and environmental changes.

To cover this research gap, we analyse the value chain of selected cephalopod fisheries in the Iberian Peninsula by identifying the key players of cephalopod production and consumption. To do this, we combine data collected from in-depth interviews with producers and wholesalers to selected value chains and data from official databases (FAO and UN Comtrade) to map patterns and flows of production and final consumption of cephalopods at global and local scales.

We discuss the expansion of the cephalopod harvest industry and observed shifts in the trade of these species between marine areas, markets and consumers over time, using the Iberian fisheries as a case-study. The results have the potential to identify potential risks and opportunities for European producers and consumers of cephalopods, informing policy for responding to changes and thus building resilience in the global seafood system.

Keywords: Cephalopods, globalization, economics, seafood markets, value chain, Europe, Iberian Peninsula

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