

ABSTRACT

ROBERTS, M.J., RODHOUSE, P., O'DOR, R.K. and SAKURAI, Y. (1998).

A global perspective of environmental research on squid.

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The distinct characteristics and short life cycle of squid are strongly linked to the environment. This is most evident in the fisheries which are well known for their highly variable recruitment and catches. With squid fisheries replacing declining traditional fisheries in parts of the world and the global market value of squid now significantly higher than finfish, understanding the squid-environment relationship is important and relevant. In this paper we undertake a literature search on squid-environment research in an attempt to gain an overview on the progress made towards this understanding. In total 243 references were located which represents a little more than 1% of the total published literature on squid. These have been included in an appended bibliography. Analysis showed that most of the squid-environment research has been undertaken on the shelf slope squids which support the largest fisheries, in particular *I. Illecebrosus* and *T. pacificus*. Of the neritic species *L. v. reynaudii* has received the most attention, followed by *L. bleekeri*, *S. lessoniana* and *L. brevis*. In only three fisheries (*I. Illecebrosus*, *O. bartrami* and *L. v. raynaudii*) have innovative methods been used to bridge the gap between ocean dynamics and squid biology. Overall, of the three main rationale for doing squid-environment research i.e. ecology, mariculture, stock-catch variability, it is the latter which has provided the primary impetus for the research. Certainly, great importance has been given to this type of research by those fisheries which experience high catch fluctuations, long-term declines in catches or threatened with potential fishery collapse. In general, however, a major impediment to squid-environment research is the lacking of basic biology and stock management procedures which continue to burden many squid fisheries.