



Building the Foundation for a Sustainable Jumbo Flying Squid Fishery

August 2025



Data indicates that two-thirds of commercially fished stocks in the high seas are either depleted or overexploited. The jumbo flying squid (JFS), a highly sought-after species in the global seafood market, is no exception.

Worldwide, Peru, China, and Chile account for the largest JFS catches. In the South Pacific, JFS is primarily harvested by artisanal fishers alongside a growing distant-water fleet operating within Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

In 2016, the outlook for the JFS fishery was bleak. Reversing the decline of this and other fisheries worldwide require collaborative efforts between governments and all stakeholders in the supply chain.

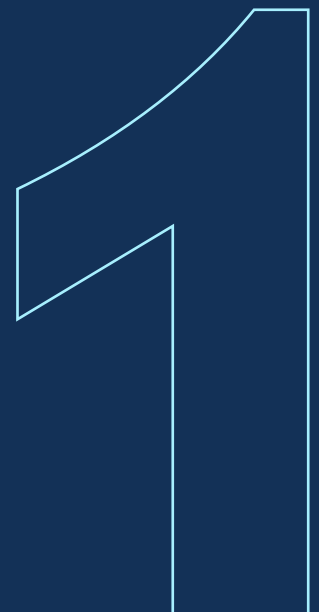
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) harnesses the power of retailers, seafood buyers, and their supply chains to protect marine ecosystems, restore depleted fish stocks, and support fishing communities globally. Below is the step-by-step process of how SFP facilitated key changes in the JFS fishery and supply chain behavior.

Step 1: Broadening Market Support

*Mobilizing major
seafood buyers
to commit to
responsible sourcing*

In the Global North, suppliers play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability initiatives. SFP engaged leading Spanish companies, paving the way for the launch of the South America Squid Supply Chain Roundtable (SR) and the JFS Fishery Improvement Project (FIP).

A FIP is a multi-stakeholder effort that incentivizes positive changes toward sustainability by harnessing the power of the private sector.



Supply Chain Roundtables (SRs) serve as a forum for processors, importers, and others that buy directly from specific fishery sectors to work pre-competitively to promote improvements throughout the supply chain.

The South American Squid Supply Chain Roundtable (SR) was launched with participation of eight companies from the EU and the US.

2016

The JFS basic FIP, focused on fleet formalization, better science for management purposes, and national industry leadership was launched, creating a pathway to change and raising interest from major corporations and Peru's national fisheries authority, the Ministerio de la Producción ([PRODUCE](#)).

2018

2014

CONGALSA, key supplier of JFS in the European market, became the first company to partner with SFP, mobilizing Peruvian exporters and other suppliers and competitors interested in sustainability and initiating a FIP in Peru.

2017

The South American Squid SR merged with the Asia Pacific Squid SR, resulting in the Global Squid Supply Chain Roundtable (GS SR), which engaged 30 companies committed to squid sustainability efforts, including JFS.

Since its establishment, in parallel with active participation at both the national and international levels, the Global Squid SR has indirectly supported improvements in the fishery through public commitments in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and by sending letters in support of the adoption of new science-based management and resource conservation measures.





Step 2: Strengthening the Supply Chain

*Developing a
unified Peruvian
private sector
vision for fisheries
improvement*



Advancing sustainable fisheries requires financing for activities such as stock assessments, data collection, and the implementation of sustainable fishing practices. SFP united Peru's national industry to ensure the long-term viability and funding of the FIP.

The primary objective of a fishery improvement project is to ensure that the fishery operates at a level that meets the **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** standards within a designated timeframe.



Based on the results of the MSC pre-assessment of the JFS FIP, a work plan is developed, and WWF joins the FIP to provide support for its implementation.

2021

CAPECAL establishes partnerships with artisanal fishing organizations to identify areas of synergy and collaboration between the entities.

2023-2024

2020

60.5% of Peruvian processors and exporters came together to establish the Cámara Peruana de Calamar Gigante (CAPECAL), taking the lead in the FIP.

2022

CAPECAL signs an agreement with Instituto del Mar del Perú (IMARPE) to promote, support, and ensure the sustainable use of the JFS fishery, as well as to develop research programs on the species with the participation of artisanal vessels.

2024-2025

CAPECAL's FIP achieves an "A" rating (Advanced Progress) on Fishery Progress and begins preparations for updating its work plan for the 2025-2028 period.

Step 3: Ensuring Compliance and Good Governance

*Empowering
artisanal fishers
to promote
sustainability and
transparency*



Franco Banfi/Steve Bloom Images, via Alamy

The global demand for legal, responsible and traceable seafood continues to rise. By 2021, less than 3% of artisanal fishers held official fishing permits in Perú. At the same time, it was not easy to engage artisanal fishers into fishery improvements because they were isolated without a national fisherfolk organization which allowed them to

participate and dialogue with government and all supply chain actors equally.

The formalization process was key to empower artisanal fishers and drive a real change in the supply chain. It aimed to provide fishers with legal recognition at both national and international levels, as JFS fishing is also regulated by the

South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO). At the national level, the formalization process includes the Registration certificate, Health protocol and Fishing permit. Beyond that, the formalization gave voice to thousands of fishers in the fishery management and governance.

2018

SFP kicked off a support program for artisanal fishers to improve their capacity to directly engage with the government.

2021

With support from SFP and Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental ([SPDA](#)), PRODUCE launches [pescaformal.pe](#), a platform providing training material and expert advice to boat owners in the process of obtaining licenses and registration.

2023

- Peruvian fisher cooperatives gained the right to receive definitive fishing permits.
- Technical and legal analyses led to new regulations preventing unauthorized vessel additions, illegal vessel construction, and strengthening satellite tracking protocols to combat IUU fishing.

2025

Peru unveiled revised JFS regulation (ROP de la Pota) as a result of a successful collaboration between CAPECAL and SONAPESCAL.

2020

CAPECAL sets formalization process at the top of its priorities and becomes a crucial actor keeping formalization on the government's agenda, despite the instability Peru faced during those years. It also used its influence to leverage compliance with the regulations from fishers.

2022

The Sociedad Nacional de Pesca Artesanal del Perú ([SONAPESCAL](#)) was founded, representing six major fishing organisations that account for nearly 30% of Peru's JFS and mahi-mahi operations, involving approximately 1,300 vessels.

With the support of SFP, SONAPESCAL underwent a process of internal organization and capacity building, during which it identified its capacity gaps and developed a plan to address them, along with initiatives to strengthen leadership.

2024

Of the 3,404 registered artisanal vessels, 85% completed the formalization process, 85% complied with the health protocol, and 94% obtained the registration certificate.

CAPECAL and SONAPESCAL developed and submitted an updated regulatory framework for JFS to national authorities (the previous framework had not been updated in 15 years).

A milestone JFS regulation (Supreme Decree No. 003-2025-PRODUCE) strengthens monitoring, traceability, and sustainability while safeguarding Peru's artisanal fishers.

- Grants exclusive fishing rights to the artisanal sector.
- Designates jigging line as the only fishing gear authorized to capture JFS.
- Freezes fleet expansion to prevent overfishing.
- Implements satellite tracking and traceability.

Step 4: Addressing High Seas Fishing

*Strengthening
regional governance
with South Pacific
producers' voices*

The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) serves as the key platform for raising concerns and implementing sustainable management for JFS at the regional level. Influencing SPRFMO's policies was crucial for improving the governance of the world's largest squid fishery.



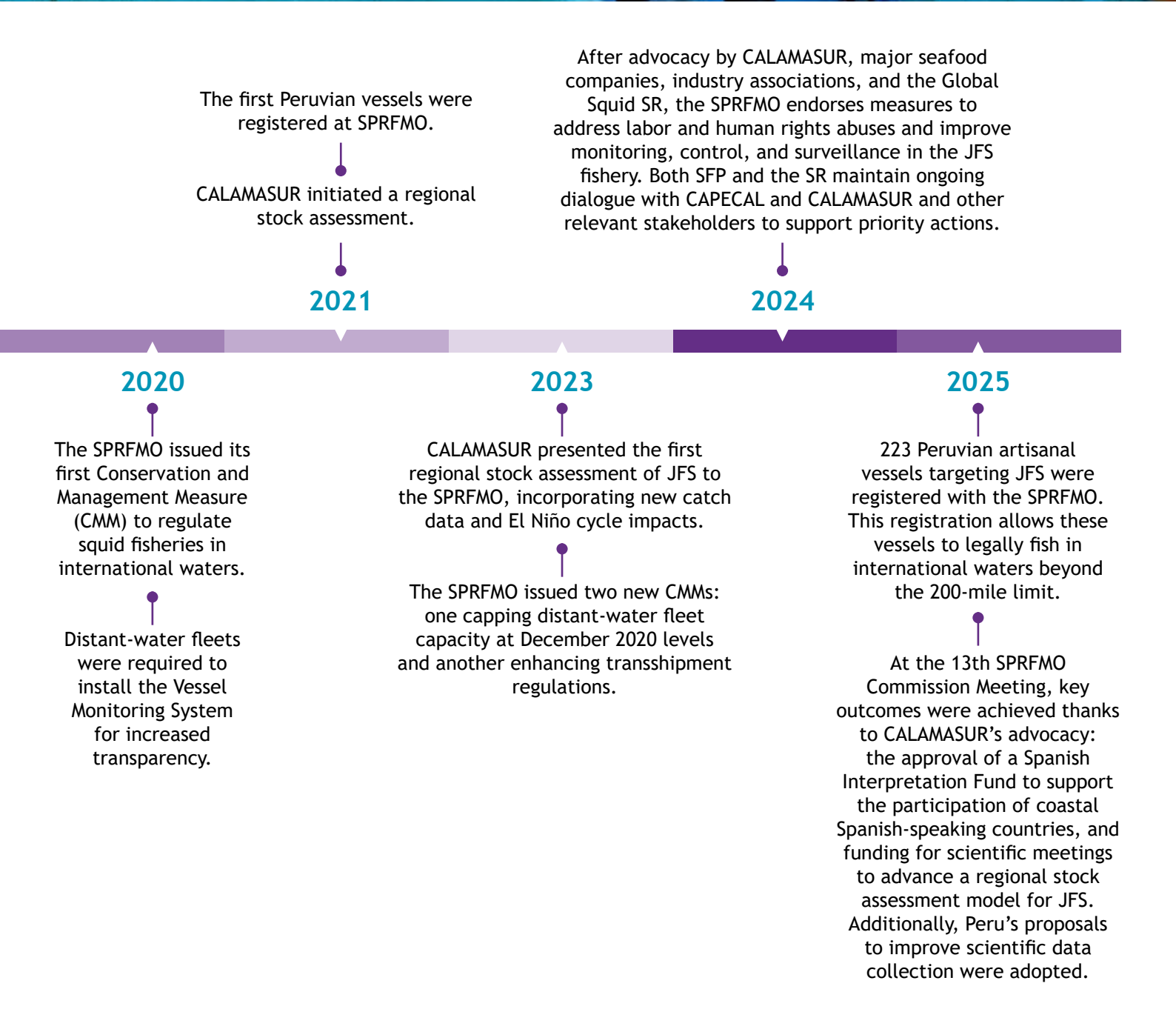
CALAMASUR attained Observer status at SPRFMO, enabling participation in decision-making through position papers and policy recommendations.

2019

2018

Artisanal fishers and processors from Chile, Peru, and Ecuador (later joined by Mexican fishers) established CALAMASUR to advocate for JFS sustainability.

A determinant change came along with CALAMASUR's creation: with SFP's support, its members went from being unaware of the existence of a regional fisheries management organization that governs their fishery, to attending and influencing the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) agenda by achieving policy improvements and the issuance of conservation and management measures.





Step 5: Advancing Science-Based Fisheries Management

Ensuring long-term sustainability through research and policy

SONAPESCAL and CAPECAL played a critical role not only in maintaining fishery formalization as a priority amid Peru's shifting political landscape, but also to facilitate better science for fishery management. Their collaboration with the government fostered scientific research on JFS and the development of a robust public agenda for sustainable fisheries management.

A collaboration agreement is signed between CAPECAL, SONAPESCAL, and IMARPE to support research activities aimed at improving the scientific understanding of the JFS fishery.

Under the CAPECAL-SONAPESCAL-IMARPE agreement, a fishing survey named Operation Giant Squid II was conducted, with the participation of eight SONAPESCAL artisanal vessels, to enhance scientific knowledge about JFS.

2024

2023

An institutional agreement is signed between CAPECAL, the Asociación de Armadores Pesqueros Artesanales Mar de Paita (APAMARPA), and IMARPE to conduct a research survey on JFS named "Dosidicus I".



*If you'd like to learn more about SFP's work with the Jumbo
Flying Squid Fishery in Latin America, please email
info@sustainablefish.org.*