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Fisheries

Research explores how international policy can best impact cephalopods

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

Study from the University of Santiago de Compostela highlights importance of seafood sector in regard to biodiversity

A **study** (https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pan3.10442) from the University of Santiago de Compostela sought to identify how international policy can increase the sustainability of the global cephalopod food system. It concluded that food systems policies should match ambitions relating to biodiversity conservation such as the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Using the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the authors' study, published in *People and Nature*, highlighted how critical the seafood sector is in addressing efforts to reverse biodiversity loss with more sustainable food systems.

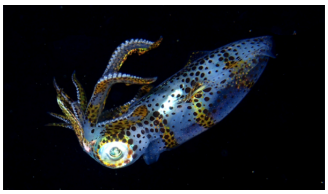
Cephalopods – cuttlefish, octopus and squid – are vital predators within marine ecosystems and a crucial source of nutrition that can support human food security. This study sought to explore the link between ecosystems that cephalopods inhabit, food system policies and human well-being.

The researchers conducted a global literature review, analyzing scientific studies related to market drivers that influence three market sectors of the cephalopod food system: catch, trade and

A new study identified how international policy can increase the sustainability of the global cephalopod food system. Shutterstock image.

consumption. Their findings revealed nine dynamic traits and 29 market drivers that link the cephalopods' ecosystems to the catch, trade and consumption of cephalopod products.

Could squid aquaculture fill the gap from declining cephalopod stocks in Japan?



With declining squid populations, researchers in Japan have developed the first aquaculture system with potential for commercialization.

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The researchers also identified important value chain actors; supply chain components; cultural, provisioning and supporting services provided by cephalopods (like material and non-material indicators of human well-being) and key policies and market interventions affecting cephalopod food system dynamics.

The IPBES framework is a socioecological model of the complex interactions between human society and the natural world. It contains six interlinked elements: nature's contributions to people, anthropogenic assets, institutions, governance (and other indirect drivers of change), direct drivers of change and good quality of life. The authors linked each of the nine food system traits identified in the study to a corresponding interlinked element of the IPBES.

Read the full study here. (https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pan3.10442)

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