



A.E. EST 9 / 26

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia – Department for NATO and Transatlantic Relations – and has the honour to inform of the decision adopted by the Argentine Republic regarding the closure of the squid (*Illex argentinus*) fishing season throughout the Argentine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), effective from 22 April 2026 at 08:00 hours. This measure was ratified by the Federal Fisheries Council through Act No. 11/26, point 3.2.

The *Illex argentinus* squid is an oceanic cephalopod mollusc inhabiting the waters of the Southwestern Atlantic, from southern Brazil to Tierra del Fuego and the Malvinas Islands, particularly in continental shelf and slope waters at depths ranging from 50 to 1,000 metres. Its populations present an annual life cycle with a single reproductive event, after which the squids die in the following weeks.

During 2026, the two annual recruitment estimation surveys for the South Patagonian and Bonaerense-North Patagonian stocks showed low levels regarding total biomass.

In particular, the following aspects were highlighted:

- Low performance in the Northern Area: north of parallel 44°, the Bonaerense-North Patagonian Stock (SBNP) showed average catches of only 1 ton per day.
- Research results: the research campaign VA-2026/03 evidenced low squid densities and poor recruitment for the 2026 cohort.
- Situation in the Southern Area: no activity of the jigger fleet has been registered since 15 April, together with equally low estimated recruitment for the South Patagonian Stock (SSP).

In light of the above, it was recommended to cease fishing activities in order to facilitate the escape of spawning squid and thereby contribute to the sustainability of the species. Given that each squid stock is composed essentially of a single annual cohort, the continuity of the species depends directly on the successful spawning of those individuals that manage to escape capture by the jigger and trawler fleets operating on the resource.

In this regard, the Embassy wishes to bring this measure adopted by the Argentine Republic to the attention of the government of Estonia in order to evaluate of an equivalent conservation measure applicable to vessels flying the Estonian flag operating in the aforementioned area.

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia – Department for NATO and Transatlantic Relations – the assurances of its highest and most distinguished consideration.

Helsinki, 7th May 2026

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia
Department for NATO and Transatlantic Relations

c/c Ministry of General Affairs and Agriculture
Transport Administration

TALLINN

