

Table 22.7. Results of observer program special project data on condition of octopus when observed (2006-2007) and at point of discard (2010-2011).

<b>Observer Special Project Data</b>					
<b>2006-2007</b>					
<b>Gear</b>	<b>Condition Reported for Observed Octopus</b>				<b>Alive</b>
	<b>No. Alive</b>	<b>No. Dead</b>	<b>Total</b>		
<b>Bottom Trawl</b>	32	43	75		42.7%
<b>Pelagic Trawl</b>	28	161	189		14.8%
<b>Pots</b>	431	2	433		99.5%
<b>Longline</b>	132	36	168		78.6%
<b>2010-2011</b>					
<b>Gear</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Dead</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%Excellent</b>
<b>Bottom Trawl</b>	16	11	35	62	25.8%
<b>Pelagic Trawl</b>	8	7	42	58	13.8%
<b>Pots</b>	506	14	16	536	94.4%
<b>Longline</b>	122	7	16	146	83.6%

Table from Nov 2012 BSAI Octopus SAFE – Conners and Conrath  
 Note for 2006-2007 octopus originally coded as either “alive and in good condition”, “injured”, or “dead”. For table above, “injured” were included with the “dead” count  
 Criteria for condition coding for 2010 – 2011 project on next page

Criteria for viability coding for octopus  
(Observer Program Special Project 2010 – 2011)  
Octopus Condition Criteria (all gears)

**Excellent:** Octopus is alive and actively moving, with either no injuries or minor injuries.

1. Movement. Octopus moves one or all of its arms **before** being handled by observer. After handling, octopus left alone for several minutes moves on its own.
2. External Injuries. No visible injuries to the head/mantle area, eyes intact. One or two arms may be injured. An arm that has been severed prior to capture and is re-growing (base of arm is same diameter as other arms, but part or most of arm is visibly smaller and thinner than other arms) is not considered an injury.
3. Tissue. Arms are firm and muscular. Sucker discs adhere strongly to surfaces.
4. Color. Octopus is strongly colored (i.e. not white or dull grey). Giant Pacific octopus will usually be red-orange in color; other species may be red, brown or blue-gray (*Benthoctopus*). Coloration may be mottled or variable across the body. Note octopus may change colors to try to blend with background.

**Poor:** Octopus is alive, but seriously injured

1. Movement. Octopus not moving or moving only weakly when observed. Octopus may move in response to handling or prodding, but when left alone for several minutes becomes still and does not move on its own.
2. External Injuries. No visible injuries to the eyes. Any abrasions or small injuries to the mantle do not penetrate to white tissue underlying skin. Three or more arms visibly injured. An arm that has been severed prior to capture and is re-growing (base of arm is same diameter as other arms, but part or most of arm is visibly smaller and thinner than other arms) is not considered an injury.
3. Tissue. Arms are firm. Sucker discs adhere to surfaces
4. Color. Octopus is still strongly colored (i.e. not white or dull grey). Giant Pacific octopus will usually be red-orange in color; other species may be red, brown or blue-gray (*Benthoctopus*). Coloration may be mottled or variable across the body. Coloration may be less intense, or slower to change, than in healthy animals.

**Dead:** No sign of life or, if alive, likely to die from severe injuries.

1. Movement. Octopus does not respond when handled or prodded (although there may still be some movement of arms on freshly dead animals).
2. Injuries. Octopus has visible injuries to the eyes, injuries to the mantle that penetrate the skin, or severe damage to three or more legs.
3. Tissue. Arms soft and flaccid. Sucker discs do not adhere to surfaces.
4. Color. Original color fading to grey or white.