



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Butterfish Fishery and Trimester III Longfin Squid Fishery

Final 2012 Commercial Quota and Management Measures for Butterfish
And Trimester III Longfin Squid Fishery
Effective Date: August 24, 2012

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces final 2012 quotas for the butterfish fishery. These quotas replace those that were previously in place for the 2012 fishing year, and are effective from August 24, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

Trimester III Longfin Squid Fishery

The Trimester III longfin squid fishery will open to permitted longfin squid vessels at 0001 hours on September 1, 2012.

Commercial Butterfish and Longfin Squid Quotas

The table below shows the 2012 allowable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), annual catch target (ACT), domestic annual harvest (DAH – commonly referred to as “quota”), and research set aside (RSA) for butterfish, as well as the butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery.

Final 2012 Butterfish Specifications (mt)		
Specifications	Butterfish	Longfin
Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)	3,622	23,400
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	3,622	N/A
Commercial Annual Catch Target (ACT)	3,260	N/A
Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH/quota)	1,072	22,220
Research Set Aside (RSA)	15	N/A
Butterfish Mortality Cap in longfin squid	2,445	1,436

Changes to Butterfish Minimum Mesh Size to Possess over 2,000 lb of Butterfish

Effective immediately, longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit holders may now use a less than 3-inch mesh to possess up to 2,000 lb butterfish. A 3-inch (76-mm) minimum codend mesh size is still required to possess more than 2,000 lb of butterfish (up from 1,000 lb). Additional information on permit categories and trip limits for open and limited access longfin squid and butterfish permit holders is available at www.nero.noaa.gov.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

Trimester III Allocations and Closure Thresholds for the Longfin Squid, Butterfish, and the Butterfish Mortality Cap

The table below describes Trimester III closure thresholds for longfin squid, butterfish, and the butterfish mortality cap (all allocations are in metric tons).

The longfin squid fishery may be closed either if longfin landings are projected to reach the longfin closure threshold or if butterfish catch reaches the butterfish mortality cap closure threshold in any Trimester. During Trimester III, the directed longfin fishery is closed if:

- Longfin landings are projected to reach 21,109 mt -OR-
- Butterfish catch reaches 2,200.5 mt

	Trimester III (Sep-Dec)	
Longfin Quota 22,220 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Longfin Fishery	21,109 (95%*22,220)
Butterfish Cap 2,445 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Longfin Fishery	2,200.5 (90%*2,445)
Butterfish Quota 1,072 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Butterfish Fishery	857.6 (80%*1,072)

Fishing Limits When the Quota Has Been Harvested

We will announce closures of the directed fisheries longfin squid and butterfish fisheries before the quotas have been fully harvested. We will publish closures in the Federal Register, and announce them via USCG and National Weather Service Radio.

	When this percent of the quota is reached...	The possession limit will be reduced to this amount for the remainder of the fishing year or Trimester...
Butterfish	80% before October 1	250 lb
Butterfish	80% after October 1	600 lb
Longfin Squid	95% in Trimester III	2,500 lb
Butterfish Mortality Cap	90% in Trimester III	2,500 lb of longfin squid

Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 with questions on the information in this bulletin.