



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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## **Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery**

Longfin Squid Trimester II Quota Harvested  
Longfin Squid catch limited to 2,500 lb per trip or day  
*Effective Date: 00:01 hr, June 27, 2016*

NMFS announces that it has determined that the trimester II seasonal quota for longfin squid has been harvested. As of 0001 hours, June 27, 2016, through August 31, 2016, vessels issued a Federal Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium permit may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid per trip and land such squid more than once per calendar day, except that vessels that have entered port before the effective date may offload and sell, from that trip, more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid.

In addition to this prohibition other measures are now in effect. Federally permitted vessels possessing a Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium permit and possessing over 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid that are fishing in the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area as defined at § 648.23(a)(5) may possess up to 15,000 lb of longfin squid. Vessels possessing less than 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid are limited to the 2,500 lb longfin squid possession limit regardless of where fishing takes place. Once landward of coordinates specified in § 648.23(a)(5), such vessels must stow all fishing gear, and render it not available for immediate use as defined in § 648.2, in order to possess more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid.

Federally permitted dealers may not receive more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid per vessel, per trip or calendar day during the restricted period, unless it is from a trip landed by a vessel that entered port before the effective date, except that they may purchase up to 15,000 lb of longfin squid from these vessels on declared *Illex* squid trips fishing in the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area.

### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

#### **Does this action take into account the underharvest in Trimester I?**

Yes. The 2016 Trimester II longfin squid quota is allocated for the period May 1 – August 31, 2016, and was initially set at 3,816 mt. Due to an underharvest of quota in Trimester I, the Trimester II quota was increased by 1,908 mt to 5,724 mt (12,619,260 lb). We project that 90% of the revised Trimester II quota will be harvested as of 0001 hours, June 27, 2016.

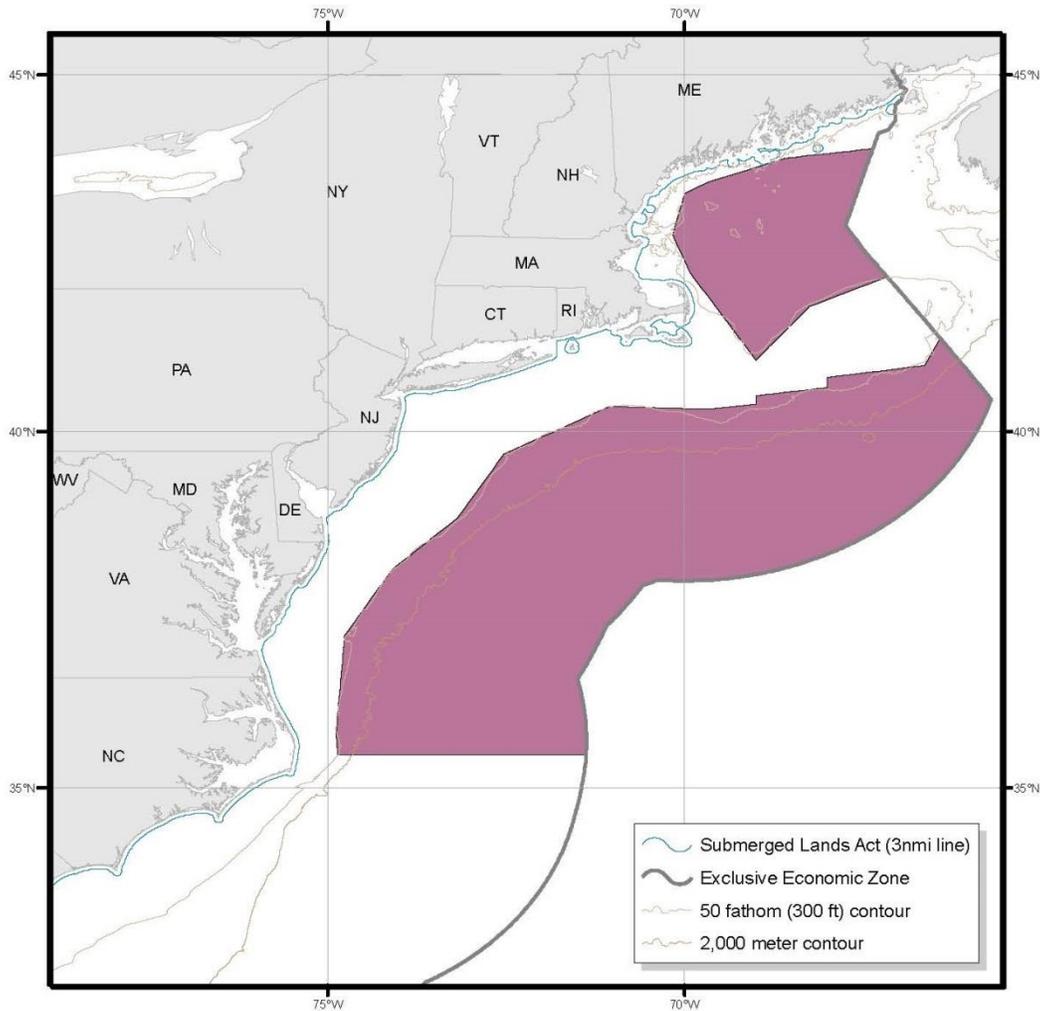
#### **Is this action because of the butterfish mortality cap?**

No. There is a butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery, but Trimester II of the longfin squid fishery is closing because 90 % of the Trimester II longfin quota has been harvested.

*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, Greater Atlantic Region.*

### Where is the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area?

The purple shaded area of the map below encompasses the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area. For more information, including coordinates, please contact NOAA Sustainable Fisheries.



### How will this affect the Trimester III longfin squid fishery?

Trimester III of the longfin squid fishery will open on September 1, 2016. The directed Trimester III squid fishery will close when 90% of the annual butterfish mortality cap, or 95% of the annual longfin squid quota, is projected to be harvested. We are continuously monitoring both the butterfish mortality cap and the longfin squid quota. The most up-to-date reports can be found on the web at: <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>.