



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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Date Issued: 4/26/2016

2016 Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Specifications

Effective Date: April 26, 2016 and May 26, 2016

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service has approved the Atlantic mackerel specifications and river herring and shad catch cap for the 2016 through 2018 fishing years, as well as additional management measures in the squid and butterfish fisheries.

A full summary of information about Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish fishery regulations is available online at

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/msb/index.html>.

Change Effective Immediately (April 26, 2016)

Vessels with a longfin squid and butterfish moratorium permit are no longer required to call into the pre-trip notification system.

All of the following changes will go into effect on May 26, 2016.

2016 Commercial and Recreational Quotas

The table below shows the 2016 quotas for each species. The quotas for *Illex* and longfin squid are unchanged from 2015. The butterfish quota is reduced by 1,488 mt from 2015. The Atlantic mackerel commercial quota is reduced by 11,695 mt from 2015, and the recreational harvest limit is reduced by 783 mt from 2015. The butterfish mortality cap is the same as it was in 2015.

Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish 2016 Quotas (mt)				
	Mackerel	Butterfish	<i>Illex</i>	Longfin
Recreational Harvest Limit	614	N/A	N/A	N/A
Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH/quota)	9,177	21,042	22,915	22,445
Tier 3 Mackerel Allocation (7% of DAH)	102	N/A	N/A	N/A
Butterfish Mortality Cap in longfin squid fishery				3,884

The longfin squid DAH is allocated into trimesters as follows:

Trimester	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Apr)	43	9,651
II (May-Aug)	17	3,816
III (Sep-Dec)	40	8,978
Total	100	22,445

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.

2016 River Herring and Shad Catch Cap in the Atlantic Mackerel Fishery

The river herring and shad catch cap is 82 mt. Once the Atlantic mackerel fishery catches 95 percent of the river herring and shad cap (77.9 mt), the directed Atlantic mackerel fishery will be closed and vessels will be limited to a 20,000-lb incidental catch trip limit for the remainder of the fishing year.

2017 and 2018 Atlantic Mackerel Specifications and River Herring and Shad Catch Cap

The Atlantic mackerel specifications will remain the same in 2017 and 2018 as those specified for the 2016 fishing year. The river herring and shad catch cap will also remain the same for the 2017 and 2018 fishing years.

Changes to Squid and Butterfish Management Controls

Vessels with a longfin squid and butterfish moratorium permit can now possess up to 5,000 lb of butterfish using a net with mesh 3 inches or smaller. It has also been clarified in the regulations that vessels are allowed to use 5-inch (square or diamond mesh) or greater net strengtheners.