



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, June 27, 2016

NMFS announces that 90% of the Trimester II seasonal quota for longfin squid will be caught. As a result, we will be implementing measures prohibiting federally permitted vessels issued a Federal Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium permit from fishing for, catching, possessing or landing more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid per trip and landing more than once per calendar day. We anticipate that these measures will go into effect, beginning on 0001 hr, June 27, 2016, through August 31, 2016, once we file them in the *Federal Register*. We will notify you when this prohibition becomes effective. Once the prohibition is in place, 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 will go into effect. Federally permitted vessels possessing a Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium permit and possessing over 10,000 lb of *Illex* 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 fishing trips 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.

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.

Is this action because of the butterfly mortality cap?

No. There is a butterfly 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.

Where is the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area?

The coordinates for the *Illex* Squid Exemption Area are as follows:

North Latitude	West Longitude
43°58.0'	67°22.0'
43°50.0'	68°35.0'
43°30.0'	69°40.0'
43°20.0'	70°00.0'
42°45.0'	70°10.0'
42°13.0'	69°55.0'
41°00.0'	69°00.0'
41°45.0'	68°15.0'
42°10.0'	67°10.0'
41°18.6'	66°24.8'
40°55.5'	66°38.0'
40°45.5'	68°00.0'
40°37.0'	68°00.0'
40°30.0'	69°00.0'
40°22.7'	69°00.0'
40°18.7'	69°40.0'
40°21.0'	71°03.0'
39°41.0'	72°32.0'
38°47.0'	73°11.0'
38°04.0'	74°06.0'
37°08.0'	74°46.0'
36°00.0'	74°52.0'
35°45.0'	74°53.0'
35°28.0'	74°52.0'

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 butterfly mortality cap, or 95% of the annual longfin squid quota, is projected to be harvested. We are continuously monitoring both the butterfly 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/>.