



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

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

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>  
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## **LONGFIN SQUID FISHERY**

Trimester 2 Closure

Longfin squid catch limited to 2,500 lb per trip/day  
*Effective 0001 hours, August 11, 2014*

As of 0001 hours, August 11, 2014, vessels issued Federal moratorium longfin squid permits, except as provided below, may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,500 lb of longfin per trip or calendar day until Trimester 3 begins on September 1, 2014. This trip limit reduction is required by Federal regulations because we have projected that 90 percent of the 2014 Trimester 2 longfin squid fishery is fully harvested, which means we have closed the directed fishery for longfin squid for the remainder of Trimester 2 through August 31, 2014.

Vessels may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid per trip or calendar day, beginning August 11, 2014, until September 1, 2014. Vessels with more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid must land prior to August 11, 2014.

**There is an exception to the Trimester 2 closure/possession limit for vessels directing on *Illex* squid.** Certain vessels fishing for *Illex* squid may possess up to 15,000 lb of longfin squid during the Trimester 2 directed longfin squid fishery closure provided the vessel meets the criteria specified at the end of this letter.

As of 0001 hours, August 11, 2014, federally permitted dealers may not purchase more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid per trip or per day, until the start of Trimester 3 on September 1, 2014. During the Trimester 2 directed longfin squid fishery closure, dealers may purchase up to 15,000 lb of longfin squid from vessels legally fishing for *Illex* squid (see details at the end of this letter).

### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

#### **Does this closure take into account the underharvest in Trimester 1?**

Yes. The 2014 Trimester 2 longfin squid quota was initially set at 3,708 mt. Due to an underharvest of quota in Trimester 1, the Trimester 2 quota was increased by 1,854 mt to a new quota of 5,562 mt. Ninety percent of the revised Trimester 2 quota has been projected to be harvested as of 0001 hours, August 11, 2014.

#### **Is this closure due to the butterfish mortality cap?**

No. There is a butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery, but we are required to reduce the longfin squid trip limit when 90 percent of the Trimester 2 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, Northeast Region.*

### **How will this closure affect the Trimester 3 longfin squid fishery?**

Trimester 3 of the longfin squid fishery begin on September 1, 2014. Trip limits for Trimester 3 squid fishery would be reduced when 90 percent of the annual butterfish mortality cap, or 95 percent 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, and the most up-to-date reports can be found on the web at: [www.nero.noaa.gov](http://www.nero.noaa.gov).

### **Longfin Squid Possession Limit for vessels targeting *Illex* Squid after the closure of the directed longfin squid fishery in Trimester 2**

We have increased the Trimester 2 post-closure possession limit for longfin squid from 2,500 lb to 15,000 lb for vessels targeting *Illex* squid in order to reduce regulatory discarding. If you can answer yes to all of the following questions, your vessel can possess up to 15,000 lb of longfin squid while targeting *Illex* squid after a Trimester 2 longfin squid closure:

- Does your vessel have BOTH a longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit AND an *Illex* squid moratorium permit?
- Is it Trimester 2 and has the longfin squid fishery been closed?
- Are you on a directed *Illex* squid trip (i.e., possess more 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid)?
- Are you fishing seaward of the *Illex* Exemption Line (coordinates on page 3)?

Please note that once landward of the *Illex* Exemption Line, your fishing gear must be properly stowed and unavailable for immediate use in order to possess more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid.

**Coordinates for the *Illex* Exemption Line (found in the regulations at § 648.23 (a)(3))**

Point	N. lat.	W. long.
M0	43°58.0'	[ <sup>1</sup> ]
M1	43°58.0'	67°22.0'
M2	43°50.0'	68°35.0'
M3	43°30.0'	69°40.0'
M4	43°20.0'	70°00.0'
M5	42°45.0'	70°10.0'
M6	42°13.0'	69°55.0'
M7	41°00.0'	69°00.0'
M8	41°45.0'	68°15.0'
M9	42°10.0'	67°10.0' [ <sup>2</sup> ]
M10	41°18.6'	66°24.8' [ <sup>2</sup> ]
M11	40°55.5'	66°38.0'
M12	40°45.5'	68°00.0'
M13	40°37.0'	68°00.0'
M14	40°30.0'	69°00.0'
M15	40°22.7'	69°00.0'
M16	40°18.7'	69°40.0'
M17	40°21.0'	71°03.0'
M18	39°41.0'	72°32.0'
M19	38°47.0'	73°11.0'
M20	38°04.0'	74°06.0'
M21	37°08.0'	74°46.0'
M22	36°00.0'	74°52.0'
M23	35°45.0'	74°53.0'
M24	35°28.0'	74°52.0'
M25	35°28.0'	[ <sup>3</sup> ]

[<sup>1</sup>] The intersection of 43°58.0'N. latitude and the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary.

[<sup>2</sup>] Points M9 and M10 are intended to fall along and are connected by the US-Canada Maritime Boundary.

[<sup>3</sup>] The intersection of 35°28.0'N. latitude and the outward limit of the U.S. EEZ.