



Northeast Region Bulletin

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Longfin Squid/Butterfish Moratorium Permit Holders

Establishment of a Control Date in the Longfin squid fishery

Effective Date: May 16, 2013

On May 16, 2013, we published a notice setting that date as the new control for the longfin squid/butterfish fishery. The control date was set by request of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). By establishing the control date, we are notifying the public that the Council may consider an action to limit the number of participants in the fishery. We intend the notice of the control date to discourage speculative entry and investment into the longfin squid fishery.

The control date, by itself, does not affect you at this time, but the Council could use it as a reference point as it considers how to further limit the number of participants in the longfin squid/butterfish fishery. In developing a future action, the Council may choose to use qualification criteria that do not incorporate the new control date, or previous dates considered by the Council, including the May 20, 2003, control date and/or January 8, 2010, reaffirmation date. The Council may also choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the longfin squid/butterfish fishery.

Previously, on May 20, 2003, NMFS published, at the request of the Council, a notice indicating that the Council intended to consider alternatives to further control capacity in the longfin and *Illex* fisheries. The Council reaffirmed this control date on January 8, 2010. At this time, May 20, 2003, remains the control date for *Illex*/butterfish fishery.

Frequently Asked Questions

When will this control date be used?	The Council has not yet initiated an action to control excess capacity in the longfin squid/butterfish fishery, but it may choose to do so in the future.
Will this affect my limited access permit?	This control date, by itself, does not affect your permit or fishing privileges. If the Council relies on it in a future action, it may or may not affect your permit. It depends upon the measures developed by the Council and your permit’s landings history. You are encouraged to participate in the development of such actions by the Council to better understand how such measures may affect you in the future.

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.

<p>How could it affect my limited access permit?</p>	<p>If the Council limits participants in the fishery you may have to reapply for a longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit under new qualification criteria. The control date is intended to discourage speculative entry into the longfin/butterfish fishery while the Councils develop future measures.</p>
<p>What do I need to do?</p>	<p>Find and keep all documents associated with your Federal longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit, including dealer slips/receipts and logbook pages from trips that you landed longfin squid from Federal waters. The Council may use any range of fishing years in a future action, so you may want to preserve all longfin squid-related documents that you have.</p>
<p>Will this impact my incidental squid or charter party permit?</p>	<p>Control dates generally only apply to limited access permits. The Council has not yet initiated an action to change the open access permits program, but it may choose to do so in the future. A future change to the open access permits program may be independent or may be combined with changes to the limited access longfin/butterfish fishery.</p>