



Northeast Region Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
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(978) 281 – 9315

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Butterfish Fishery

Revised 2012 Butterfish Mortality Cap and Commercial Quota

Effective Date: November 8, 2012

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces revised final 2012 quotas for the butterfish fishery. These quotas replace those that were previously in place for the 2012 fishing year, and are effective from November 8, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

How to comment

Comments on the revised butterfish specifications are due no later than 5 pm, Eastern Standard Time, November 23, 2012. Comments will be addressed in the final rule for 2013 MSB specifications, and can be submitted in the following ways:

- 1) **By electronic submission** through the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “Submit a Comment” icon, then enter NMFS-NOAA-2012-0209 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list, and click the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.
- 2) **By fax** to (978) 281-9135, Attn: Comments on Revised 2012 Butterfish Specifications.
- 3) **By mail and hand delivery** to John K. Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope: “Comments on Revised 2012 Butterfish Specifications.”

Commercial Butterfish and Longfin Squid Quotas

The table below shows the revised 2012 allowable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), annual catch target (ACT), domestic annual harvest (DAH – commonly referred to as “quota”), and research set aside (RSA) for butterfish, as well as the butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery.

Final 2012 Butterfish Specifications (mt)	
Specifications	Butterfish
Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)	4,200
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	4,200
Commercial Annual Catch Target (ACT)	3,780
Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH/quota)	872
Research Set Aside (RSA)	15
Butterfish Mortality Cap in longfin squid fishery**	3,165

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.

Trimester III Allocations and Closure Thresholds for the Longfin Squid, Butterfish, and the Butterfish Mortality Cap

The table below describes Trimester III (September 1 – December 31) closure thresholds for longfin squid, butterfish, and the butterfish mortality cap (all allocations are in metric tons).

The longfin squid fishery may be closed either if longfin landings are projected to reach the longfin closure threshold or if butterfish catch reaches the butterfish mortality cap closure threshold in any Trimester. During Trimester III, the directed longfin fishery is closed if:

- Longfin landings are projected to reach 21,109 mt -OR-
- Butterfish catch reaches 2,848.5 mt

	Trimester III (Sep-Dec)	
Longfin Quota 22,220 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Longfin Fishery	21,109 (95%*22,220)
Butterfish Cap 3,165 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Longfin Fishery	2,848.5 (90%*3,165)
Butterfish Quota 872 mt total	Closure Threshold in the Directed Butterfish Fishery	697.6 (80%*872)

Fishing Limits When the Quota Has Been Harvested

We will announce closures of the directed fisheries longfin squid and butterfish fisheries before the quotas have been fully harvested. We will publish closures in the Federal Register, and announce them via USCG and National Weather Service Radio.

	When this percent of the quota is reached...	The possession limit will be reduced to this amount for the remainder of the fishing year or Trimester...
Butterfish	80% after October 1	600 lb of butterfish
Longfin Squid	95% in Trimester III	2,500 lb of longfin squid
Butterfish Mortality Cap	90% in Trimester III	2,500 lb of longfin squid

How to Get More Information

Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 with questions on the information in this bulletin.