



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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LONGFIN SQUID FISHERY

Trimester 2 Closure

Longfin squid catch limited to 2,500 lb per trip/day

Effective Date: 0001 hours, July 10, 2012

We have projected that 90 percent of the 2012 Trimester 2 longfin squid fishery will be harvested. Therefore, the Trimester 2 directed fishery for longfin squid is closed as of 0001 hours, July 10, 2012. Vessels issued Federal longfin squid permits may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,500 lb of longfin beginning July 10, 2012, per trip or calendar day through the start of Trimester 3 on September 1, 2012.

Federally permitted dealers may not purchase more than 2,500 lb of longfin squid from federally permitted longfin squid vessels per trip or per day, beginning at 0001 hours, July 10, 2012, until the start of Trimester 3 on September 1, 2012.

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

Yes. The 2012 Trimester 2 longfin squid quota is allocated for the period May 1 – August 31, 2012, and was initially set at 3,777 mt (8,326,860 lb). Due to an underharvest of quota in Trimester 1, the Trimester 2 quota was increased by 1,889 mt to a new quota of 5,666 mt (12,490,290 lb). Ninety percent of the revised Trimester 2 quota has been projected to be harvested as of 0001 hours, July 10, 2012.

Is this closure because of the butterfish mortality cap?

No. There is a butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery, but Trimester 2 of the longfin squid fishery is closing because 90 percent of the Trimester 2 longfin quota has been harvested.

How will this affect the Trimester 3 longfin squid fishery?

Trimester 3 of the longfin squid fishery will open on September 1, 2012. The directed Trimester 3 squid fishery would be closed when 90% of the annual butterfish mortality cap, or 95% 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. In addition, Framework 6 and the final 2012 butterfish specifications for the Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish fishery management plan are currently in development and may have some effect on the 2012 butterfish mortality cap allocation for the remainder of the fishing year. We will notify you as soon as more information is available.

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.