



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Northeast Region
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Small Entity Compliance Guide for the 2010 Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Specifications and Management Measures February 18, 2010

The 2010 specifications and management measures for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish will be effective on March 5, 2010.

Final 2010 Specifications for Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish				
Specifications	<i>Loligo</i> Squid (mt)	<i>Illex</i> Squid (mt)	Mackerel (mt)	Butterfish (mt)
Max OY	32,000	24,000	N/A ¹	12,175
ABC	19,000	24,000	156,000	1,500
IOY	18,667 ²	24,000	115,000 ³	485 ⁴
DAH	18,667	24,000	115,000 ⁵	485
DAP	18,667	24,000	100,000	485
<i>1 - Not applicable; 2 - Excludes 333 mt for research; 3 - IOY may be increased during the year, but the total ABC will not exceed 156,000 mt; 4 - Excludes 15 mt for research; 5 - Includes 15,000 mt of Atlantic mackerel recreational harvest</i>				
<i>Maximum Optimum Yield (Max OY), Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), Initial Optimum Yield (IOY), Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH), and Domestic Annual Processing (DAP)</i>				

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will summarize Atlantic mackerel, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, and butterfish landings from dealer reports on a weekly basis and post this information on the Northeast Regional Office website (<http://www.nero.noaa.gov>).

Atlantic Mackerel

If the Regional Administrator determines that 80,500 mt of mackerel will be harvested during the 2010 fishing year, the Regional Administrator will make available additional quota for a total mackerel IOY of 156,000 mt. If an inseason adjustment of the IOY is warranted, the Regional Administrator will notify the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the inseason adjustment will be effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

NMFS will close the mackerel fishery when 90 percent of the mackerel DAH is projected to be harvested.

During a closure of the mackerel fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 20,000 lb of mackerel per day (defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours), unless the fishery closes on or after June 1, in which case a 50,000-lb per day mackerel possession limit would be in effect for the remainder of the year.

***Loligo* Squid**

The *Loligo* squid DAH is sub-divided into trimester periods as follows: Trimester I (January - April), 43 percent or 8,027 mt; Trimester II (May - August), 17 percent or 3,173 mt; and Trimester III (September - December), 40 percent or 7,467 mt.

NMFS will close the *Loligo* squid fishery when 90 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested in Trimesters I and II, and when 95 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested in Trimester III.

Quota underages from Trimester I will be applied equally to the quotas for Trimesters II and III, provided the underage is greater than 2,007 mt (25% of the Trimester I quota). If the underage is less than 2,007 mt, the underage will be applied to the Trimester III quota. Quota overages from Trimesters I and II will be subtracted from the Trimester III quota.

Trawl vessels possessing *Loligo* squid may only fish with nets having a minimum mesh size of 1 7/8 inches. Trawl vessels possessing *Loligo* squid may also use net strengtheners, splitting straps, and/or bull ropes or wire around the entire circumference of the codend, provided they do not have a mesh opening of less than 4.5 inches. Effective August 3, 2010, this minimum mesh requirement for net strengtheners will increase from 4.5 inches to 5 inches.

For vessels that have been issued a *Loligo* squid incidental catch permit, or during a closure of the fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 2,500 lb of *Loligo* squid per day (defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours).

***Illex* Squid**

NMFS will close the *Illex* squid fishery when 95 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested.

For vessels that have been issued an *Illex* squid incidental catch permit, or during a closure of the fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid per day (defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours).

Butterfish

NMFS will close the butterfish fishery when 80 percent of the butterfish DAH is projected to be harvested.

Trawl vessels possessing 1,000 lb or more of butterfish may only fish with nets having a minimum codend mesh size of 3 inches, and a vessel issued a butterfish moratorium permit may not fish for, possess, or land more than 5,000 lb of butterfish per trip and/or per calendar day.

For vessels that have been issued a butterfish incidental catch permit, or during a closure of the fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 600 lb of butterfish per day (defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours), unless the butterfish fishery closes prior to October 1, in which case a 250-lb per day butterfish possession limit would be in effect for the remainder of the year.

Additional Information

This permit holder letter summarizes mackerel, squid, and butterfish specifications and management measures for the 2010 fishing year, but is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available by visiting our website (address provided on the first page). If you have questions about the 2010 regulations, please phone 978-281-9315.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on “Permit Holder Letters.” This small entity compliance guide 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.