



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 NORTHEAST REGION
 One Blackburn Drive
 Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

March 2, 2006

SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE
2006 ATLANTIC MACKEREL, SQUID AND BUTTERFISH SPECIFICATIONS

This letter announces final initial specifications for the 2006 fishing year for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish, as follows:

FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2006 (METRIC TONS)				
Specifications	<u>Loligo</u> Squid	<u>Illex</u> Squid	Atlantic Mackerel	Butterfish
Max OY	26,000	24,000	N/A¹	12,175
ABC	17,000	24,000	335,000	4,545
IOY	16,872.5⁴	24,000	115,000²	1,681
DAH	16,872.5	24,000	115,000³	1,681
DAP	16,872.5	24,000	100,000	1,681
JVP	0	0	0	0
TALFF	0	0	0	0
RQ	127.5	0	0	0

Maximum Optimum Yield (Max OY), Allowable Biological Catch (ABC), Initial Optimum Yield (IOY), Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH), Domestic Annual Processing (DAP), Joint Venture Processing (JVP), Total Allowable Levels of Foreign Fishing (TALFF), and Research Set-Asides (RQ)

- 1 Not applicable
- 2 IOY may be increased during the year, but the total ABC will not exceed 335,000 mt
- 3 Includes 15,000 mt of Atlantic mackerel recreational allocation
- 4 Excludes 127.5 mt for RQ



DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL LOLIGO SQUID QUOTA

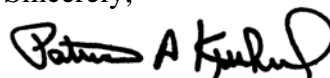
The annual Loligo squid quota (DAH) will be sub-divided into quarterly periods, as follows:

PERCENT ALLOCATIONS OF <u>LOLIGO</u> QUOTA		
Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Mar)	33.23	5,606.70
II (Apr-Jun)	17.61	2,971.30
III (Jul-Sep)	17.30	2,918.90
IV (Oct-Dec)	31.86	5,375.60
Total	100.00	16,872.50

In addition, the 2006 directed fishery will be closed in Quarters I-III when 80 percent of the period allocation is harvested, with vessels restricted to a 2,500-lb Loligo squid trip limit per day until the end of the respective quarter. The directed fishery will close when 95 percent of the total annual DAH has been harvested, with vessels restricted to a 2,500-lb Loligo squid trip limit per day for the remainder of the year. Quota overages from Quarter I will be deducted from the allocation in Quarter III, and any overages from Quarter II will be deducted from Quarter IV. By default, quarterly underages from Quarters II and III carry over into Quarter IV, because Quarter IV does not close until 95 percent of the total annual quota has been harvested. Additionally, if the Quarter I landings for Loligo squid are less than 80 percent of the Quarter I allocation, the underage below 80 percent will be applied to Quarter III.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "Permit Holder Letters" on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>; or via fax by providing a fax number through a written request to the above address, or by faxing your request to 978-281-9135. This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Kurkul
Regional Administrator