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

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SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE
2005 ATLANTIC MACKEREL, SQUID AND BUTTERFISH SPECIFICATIONS

This letter announces final initial specifications for the 2005 fishing year for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish, as follows:

FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2005 (METRIC TONS)				
Specifications	Loligo Squid	Illex Squid	Atlantic Mackerel	Butterfish
Max OY	26,000	24,000	N/A[1]	12,175
ABC	17,000	24,000	335,000	4,545
IOY	16,744.9 [4]	24,000	115,000 [2]	1,681
DAH	16,744.9	24,000	115,000 [3]	1,681
DAP	16,744.9	24,000	100,000	1,681
JVP	0	0	0	0
TALFF	0	0	0	0
RSA	255.1	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 (RSA)

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 255.1 mt for RSA

DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL LOLIGO SQUID QUOTA

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

PERCENT ALLOCATIONS OF LOLIGO QUOTA		
Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Mar)	33.23	5,564.3
II (Apr-Jun)	17.61	2,948.8
III (Jul-Sep)	17.30	2,896.9
IV (Oct-Dec)	31.86	5,334.9
Total	100.00	16,744.9

In addition, the 2005 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.

BUTTERFISH GEAR RESTRICTION

The final rule also implements a 3.0-inch minimum codend mesh size requirement for butterfish otter trawl trips greater than 5,000 lb, the level that would qualify as a directed butterfish trip. The requirement states that, owners or operators of otter trawl vessels possessing 5,000 lb or more of butterfish harvested in or from the EEZ may only fish with nets having a minimum codend mesh of 3 inches diamond mesh, inside stretch measure, applied throughout the codend for at least 100 continuous meshes forward of the terminus of the net, or for codends with less than 100 meshes, the minimum mesh size codend shall be a minimum of one-third of the net measured from the terminus of the codend to the head rope. The purpose of this minimum mesh size requirement is to allow for escapement of unmarketable sized butterfish and fish below the size at which 50 percent of the butterfish are sexually mature.

You may also receive permit holder letters, including closure notices, by e-mail by clicking on "NOAA Fisheries News Releases" 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