



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

January 2, 2003

## SMALL ENTITY COMPLIANCE GUIDE

### 2003 ATLANTIC MACKEREL, SQUID AND BUTTERFISH SPECIFICATIONS

Dear Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and/or  
Butterfish Permit Holder:

This letter announces final initial specifications for the 2003 fishing year for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish, as follows:

FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2003 (METRIC TONS)				
Specifications	<i>Loligo</i> Squid	<i>Illex</i> Squid	Atlantic Mackerel	Butterfish
Max OY	26,000	24,000	N/A <sup>1</sup>	16,000
ABC	17,000	24,000	347,000	7,200
IOY	16,872.5 <sup>5</sup>	24,000	175,000 <sup>2</sup>	5,900
DAH	16,872.5	24,000	175,000 <sup>3</sup>	5,900
DAP	16,872.5	24,000	150,000	5,900
JVP	0	0	10,000 <sup>4</sup>	0
TALFF	0	0	0	0
RSA	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 (RSA)

- 1 Not applicable
- 2 OY may be increased during the year, but the total ABC will not exceed 347,000 mt
- 3 Includes 15,000 mt of Atlantic mackerel recreational allocation
- 4 JVP may be increased up to 20,000 mt at discretion of Regional Administrator.
- 5 Excludes 127.5 mt for RSA



## DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL *LOLIGO* QUOTA

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

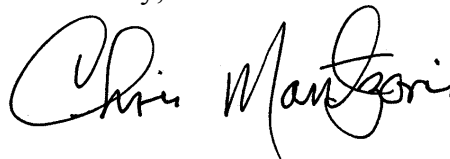
PERCENT ALLOCATIONS OF <i>LOLIGO</i> QUOTA		
Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Mar)	33.23	5,606.7
II (Apr-Jun)	17.61	2,971.3
III (Jul-Sep)	17.30	2,918.9
IV (Oct-Dec)	31.86	5,375.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>16,872.5</b>

In addition, the directed fishery will be closed in Quarters I-III when 80 percent of the period's allocation is harvested, with vessels restricted to a 2,500-lb *Loligo* trip limit until the end of the respective quarter. Additionally, when 95 percent of the total annual DAH has been harvested, the trip limit will be reduced to 2,500 lb of *Loligo* for the remainder of the year. **In both cases where the 2,500-lb trip limit has been triggered, vessels will be prohibited from possessing or landing more than 2,500 lb in a single day.** Any quota overage in Quarter I will be deducted from the allocation in Quarter III, and any overage in Quarter II will be deducted from the allocation in Quarter IV.

This action also specifies a new method for carrying-over *Loligo* squid quarterly underages for the 2003 fishing year. By default, quarterly underages from Quarter II and Quarter III will 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 added to the Quarter III allocation.

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.nmfs.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,



for Patricia A. Kurkul  
Regional Administrator