



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

January 25, 2002

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

This letter announces final initial specifications for the
2002 fishing year for Atlantic mackerel, squid, and
butterfish, as follows:

FISHING YEAR JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2002 (METRIC TONS)				
Specifica- tions	<i>Loligo</i> Squid	<i>Illex</i> Squid	Atlantic Mackerel	Butterfish
Max OY	26,000	24,000	N/A ¹	16,000
ABC	17,000	24,000	347,000	7,200
IOY	16,898 ⁵	24,000	85,000 ²	5,900
DAH	16,898	24,000	85,000 ³	5,900
DAP	16,898	24,000	50,000	5,900
JVP	0	0	20,000 ⁴	0
TALFF	0	0	0	0
RSA	102	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 30,000 mt at discretion of Regional Administrator.
- 5 Excludes 102 mt for RSA

DISTRIBUTION OF ANNUAL *LOLIGO* QUOTA

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



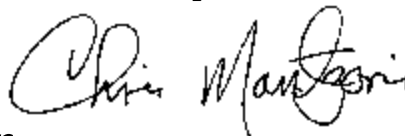
PERCENT ALLOCATIONS OF <i>LOLIGO</i> QUOTA		
Quarter	Percent	Metric Tons
I (Jan-Mar)	33.23	5,615
II (Apr-Jun)	17.61	2,976
III (Jul-Sep)	17.30	2,923
IV (Oct-Dec)	31.86	5,384
Total	100.00	16,898

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 Quarter IV.

This action also specifies a new method for carrying-over *Loligo* squid quarterly underages for the 2002 fishing year. Currently, by default, quarterly underages carry over into Quarter IV because Quarter IV does not close until 95 percent of the total annual quota has been harvested. In the event that the first quarter landings for *Loligo* squid are less than 70 percent of the first quarter allocation, the underage below 70 percent would be applied to Quarter III. Underages from Quarters II and III would continue to be added to Quarter IV by default, based on the 95-percent closure rule mentioned above.

You are encouraged to obtain further information or a copy of the regulations by calling (978) 281-9315. This letter does not contain all the regulatory provisions that pertain to these species, and consequently, has no legal force or effect. A copy of the regulations can also be obtained through a link to the Office of the Federal Register at the NMFS Northeast Regional Office's Web Site: <http://www.nero.nmfs.gov>. 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