



Northeast Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>
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Butterfish Fishery

Revisions to the Butterfish Mortality Cap Allocation and Butterfish Mortality Cap Methodology

Effective Date: March 5, 2013

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces revisions to the butterfish mortality cap that will go into effect on March 5, 2013.

Butterfish mortality cap is now a discard cap

In order to accommodate the new directed butterfish fishery, we are changing the butterfish mortality cap on the longfin squid fishery from a catch (landings and discards) to a discard only cap. This change is reflected in a revised butterfish mortality cap methodology available on our website at www.nero.noaa.gov.

Commercial Butterfish Quotas

The table below shows the 2013 allowable biological catch (ABC), annual catch limit (ACL), annual catch target (ACT), domestic annual harvest (DAH – commonly referred to as “quota”), and research set aside (RSA) for butterfish, as well as the revised butterfish mortality cap in the longfin squid fishery. Only the butterfish mortality cap allocation was revised—the number is lower than the number put in place through final 2013 specifications because it no longer caps butterfish landings on trips that land over 2,501 lb of longfin squid.

Final 2013 Butterfish Specifications (mt)	
Specifications	Butterfish
Allowable Biological Catch (ABC)	8,400
Annual Catch Limit (ACL)	8,400
Commercial Annual Catch Target (ACT)	7,560
Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH/quota)	2,570
Research Set Aside (RSA)	36
Butterfish Mortality Cap in longfin squid fishery	3,884

Allocations and Closure Thresholds for the Longfin Squid and the Butterfish Mortality Cap

The table below describes closure thresholds for longfin squid and the butterfish mortality cap (all allocations are in metric tons). Information on closure threshold and management measures

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for the directed butterfish fishery are unchanged from those presented in the permit holder letter for 2013 Specifications for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries (letter dated January 15, 2013). All of the information in both of these letters can also be found in the information sheet for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries, available on our website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/info.html>.

		Trimester I (Jan-Apr)	Trimester II (May-Aug)	Trimester III (Sep-Dec)
Longfin squid Quota 22,049 mt total	Allocation	9,481	3,748	8,820
	Closure Threshold Directed Longfin Fishery	8,532 (90%*9,481)	3,373 (90%*3,748)	20,947 (95%*22,049)
Butterfish Cap 3,884 mt total	Allocation	2,525	128	1231
	Closure Threshold Directed Longfin Fishery	2,020 (80%*2,525)	2,913 (75%*3,884)	3,496 (90%*3,884)

We will close the longfin squid fishery either if longfin landings are projected to reach the longfin closure threshold or if butterfish catch reaches the butterfish mortality cap closure threshold in any Trimester.

For longfin squid:

- During **Trimester I**, the directed longfin fishery will be closed if:
 - Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 8,532 mt (from January 1 to April 15) -OR-
 - Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 9,007 mt (from April 15 to April 30) -OR-
 - The butterfish mortality cap reaches 2,020 mt (from January 1 to April 15) -OR-
 - The butterfish mortality cap reaches 2,272 mt (from April 15 to April 30)

- During **Trimester II**, the directed longfin fishery will be closed if:
 - Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 3,373 mt (from May 1 to August 15, unless this allocation is increased due to under-harvest in Trimester I) -OR-
 - Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 3,561 mt (from August 15 to August 30, unless allocation is increased from Trimester I under-harvest) -OR-
 - The butterfish mortality cap reaches 2,913 mt (75% of the annual butterfish mortality cap allocation)

- During **Trimester III**, the directed longfin fishery will be closed if:
 - Longfin squid landings are projected to reach 20,947 mt (annual threshold) -OR-
 - The butterfish mortality cap reaches 3,496 mt (annual threshold)

How to Get More Information

Please contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division at 978-281-9315 if you have any questions on the information in this bulletin.