



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 National Marine Fisheries Service
 Northeast Region
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Small Entity Compliance Guide for the 2008 Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Specifications and Management Measures

The 2008 specifications and management measures for mackerel, squid, and butterfish will be effective on May 5, 2008. Until then, 2007 quotas and management measures will be in effect.

Final 2008 Specifications for Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish				
Specifications	<i>Loligo</i> Squid (mt)	<i>Illex</i> Squid (mt)	Mackerel (mt)	Butterfish (mt)
<i>Max OY</i>	26,000	24,000	N/A ¹	12,175
<i>ABC</i>	17,000	24,000	156,000	1,500
<i>IOY</i>	16,977 ²	24,000	115,000 ³	500
<i>DAH</i>	16,977	24,000	115,000 ⁴	500
<i>DAP</i>	16,977	24,000	100,000	500
<i>JVP</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>TALFF</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>RQ</i>	23	0	0	0
<p><i>1 - Not applicable; 2 - Excludes 23 mt for RQ; 3 - IOY may be increased during the year, but the total ABC will not exceed 156,000 mt; 4 - Includes 15,000 mt of Atlantic mackerel recreational harvest</i></p> <p><i>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)</i></p>				

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will summarize Atlantic mackerel, *Loligo* squid, *Illex* squid, and butterfish landings from dealer reports on a weekly basis and post this information on the Northeast Regional Office website at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov> (Click on “Fisheries Statistics,” and then click on “Quota Monitoring and Analysis.”)

Atlantic Mackerel

If the Regional Administrator determines that 80,500 mt of mackerel will be harvested during the 2008 fishing year, the Regional Administrator will make available additional quota for a total mackerel IOY of 156,000 mt. If an inseason adjustment of the IOY is warranted, the Regional

Administrator will notify the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the inseason adjustment will be effective upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

To facilitate achieving the mackerel DAH, NMFS will close the mackerel fishery when 90 percent of the mackerel DAH is projected to be harvested.

***Loligo* Squid**

The *Loligo* squid DAH is sub-divided into trimester periods as follows: Trimester I (January - April), 43 percent or 7,090.7 mt; Trimester II (May - August), 17 percent or 2,803.3 mt; and Trimester III (September - December), 40 percent or 6,596.0 mt.

NMFS will close the *Loligo* squid fishery when 90 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested in Trimesters I and II, and when 95 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested in Trimester III. Any underage from Trimesters I and II will be applied to Trimester III, and any overage from Trimesters I and II will be subtracted from Trimester III.

To ensure gear regulations are consistent with the way the *Loligo* squid fishery operates, net strengtheners, splitting straps, and/or bull ropes or wire may be used around the entire circumference of the codend, provided they do not have a mesh opening of less than 4 1/2 inches, diamond mesh, inside stretch measure.

***Illex* Squid**

NMFS will close the *Illex* squid fishery when 95 percent of the DAH is projected to be harvested.

Butterfish

To ensure the butterfish DAH is not exceeded, NMFS will close the butterfish fishery when 80 percent of the mackerel DAH is projected to be harvested.

To prevent expansion of the butterfish fishery and protect the rebuilding stock as Amendment 10 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan is being developed, a trawl vessel possessing 1,000 lb or more of butterfish may only fish with nets having a minimum codend mesh size of 3 inches and a vessel issued a butterfish moratorium permit may not fish for, possess, or land more than 5,000 lb of butterfish per trip and/or per calendar day.

Incidental Possession Limits

During a closure of the mackerel fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 20,000 lb of mackerel per day.

For vessels that have been issued a *Loligo* squid incidental catch permit or during a closure of the fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 2,500 lb of *Loligo* squid per day.

For vessels that have been issued an *Illex* incidental catch permit or during a closure of the fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 10,000 lb of *Illex* squid per day.

For vessels that have been issued a butterfish incidental catch permit or during a closure of the butterfish fishery, vessels may not fish for, possess, or land more than 600 lb of butterfish per day, unless the butterfish fishery closes prior to October 1, in which case a 250-lb butterfish possession limit would be in effect for the remainder of the year.

Vessels may not land more than these limits and may only land once during any single calendar day, which is defined as the 24-hour period beginning at 0001 hours and ending at 2400 hours.

Additional Information

This permit holder letter summarizes changes to mackerel, squid, and butterfish specifications and management measures for the 2008 fishing year, but is not a substitute for the actual regulations. The full text of the regulations is available by visiting our website (address provided above). If you have questions about the 2008 regulations, please phone 978-281-9315.

You may also receive permit holder letters by e-mail, including closure notices, by visiting our website and clicking on “Permit Holder Letters.” This small entity compliance guide complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996.

This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.