



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

## **Butterfish Fishery**

### **Closure of the Directed Fishery**

*Effective July 6, 2011*

This is to let you know that 80 percent of the butterfish quota for the 2011 fishing year has been harvested. Therefore, effective July 6, 2011, vessels issued Federal butterfish permits may not possess or land more than 250 lb of butterfish per trip or per calendar day. Federally permitted dealers may not purchase more than 250 lb of butterfish per vessel per day.

The directed fishery will reopen at 0001 hours, January 1, 2012, when the 2012 butterfish quota will become available.

#### *Frequently Asked Questions:*

##### **Why am I receiving this letter?**

You have been issued a *Loligo*/butterfish Moratorium or a Squid/Mackerel/Butterfish Incidental Catch Permit for the 2011 fishing year. Therefore, we are letting you know that you cannot possess or land more than 250 lb of butterfish per trip or calendar day for the rest of the fishing year.

##### **Does this closure affect the 2011 *Loligo* squid fishery?**

No, there is a butterfish mortality cap in the *Loligo* fishery, but it is separate from the annual butterfish quota. The *Loligo* fishery remains open and, as of June 25, 2011, 1,010,731 lb, or 32 percent of the 3,165,838 lb annual butterfish mortality cap quota has been harvested. This means that 2,155,107 lb or 68 percent of the butterfish mortality cap will be available for the rest of the fishing year.

##### **Will the Trimester 2 *Loligo* fishery be closed if the Trimester 2 butterfish mortality cap quota is harvested or exceeded?**

No, during Trimester 2, the directed *Loligo* fishery will only be closed if *Loligo* landings are projected to reach 10,071,598 lb (90% of the Trimester II quota). The *Loligo* fishery will not be closed because of the butterfish mortality cap in Trimester II. The mortality cap will be monitored during Trimester II, and any overages or underages will be applied to Trimester III.

We will notify you if there are any other changes in this fishery you need to know about. If you have any questions, please contact Sustainable Fisheries at 978-281-9315.