



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

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<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/>  
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## **BUTTERFISH FISHERY**

### Trip Limit Reduction

Butterfish catch limited to 5,000 lb per trip or calendar day

*Effective Date: 0001 hours, March 18, 2014*

Butterfish harvest has now reached the trip limit reduction threshold to move from phase 1 to phase 2 of the directed butterfish fishery based on the 2013 butterfish quota (2014 quotas will go into effect shortly). Since butterfish harvest has reached 50-percent of the 2013 butterfish quota, as of March 18, 2014, vessels issued a longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit are prohibited from fishing for, catching, possessing, or landing more than 5,000 lb of butterfish per trip or calendar day. The limit for permitted vessels fishing with less than 3-inch mesh remains at 2,500 lb of butterfish per trip or calendar day. The incidental trip limit for butterfish remains at 600 lb. Federally permitted dealers may not purchase more than 5,000 lb of butterfish from federally permitted vessels per trip or per day, beginning at 0001 hours, March 18, 2014.

<b>Butterfish Trip Limits as of March 18, 2013</b>		
Limited Access Trip Limit		Incidental Trip Limit
>3-inch mesh	<3-inch mesh	Any mesh size
5,000 lb	2,500 lb	600 lb

If or when butterfish harvest is projected to reach the trip limit reduction threshold to move from phase 2 to phase 3, butterfish trip limits for longfin squid/butterfish moratorium permit holders will be reduced to 500 lb (0.23 mt), regardless of mesh size used, through a subsequent action in the Federal Register. More information on the three-phase system can be found at <http://www.nero.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/msb/>

<b>Trip Limit Reduction Thresholds to Move from Phase 2 to Phase 3</b>		
<i>Months</i>	<i>Trip Limit Reduction Threshold (Percent of quota)</i>	<i>Corresponding Butterfish quota level (mt)</i>
Jan - Feb	58	1,491
Mar-Apr	64	1,645
May-Jun	71	1,825
Jul-Aug	78	2,005
Sept-Oct	85	2,185
Nov-Dec	91	2,339

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin 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, Greater Atlantic Region.*